

ALMANACS: THE USERS' PERSPECTIVES

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The session entitled “Connections” highlights the connection between the Nautical Almanac Office and the users of our publications, which we publish jointly with Her Majesty’s Nautical Almanac Office. To begin, we invited four distinguished speakers to give their own perspectives of the *Nautical Almanac*, the *Air Almanac*, and the *Astronomical Almanac*. The speakers represent diverse backgrounds, both civilian and military, and have expertise ranging from navigation to astronomical research. These speakers have all relied on our publications to conduct research or carry out their duty. Their perspectives of our publications are very important to us in the Nautical Almanac Office, since feedback from regular users allows the publications to evolve along with advances in research and technology.

It is always interesting to us to learn where one of our publications has been spotted. For instance, our publications may be found aboard a yacht, an aircraft carrier, a submarine, or a cruise ship; on an aerospace engineer’s or architect’s desk; in a public or law library; in an observatory, an air squadron ready room, or a military aircraft. In fact, you can even find a copy of our *Air Almanac* aboard Canadian, New Zealand, Australian, and Norwegian military aircraft. The users of our publications are a very eclectic group, although these four speakers are representative of the majority of our users: military and civilian surface navigators, air navigators, and astronomers.

The session will be completed with three more presentations to highlight the connections between our office and the international scientific community, and then the relationship between the Astronomical Applications Department, which contains the Nautical Almanac Office, and the other departments at the Naval Observatory, time and astrometry.