

**August 2020**

## **UK Chapter Newsletter – Changes to Issue Schedule**

Many of you will know that the UK Chapter newsletter has routinely been issued on a monthly basis for many years; however, in an attempt to prevent repetition of reported issues, items and facts, the Board has decided to move to an issue schedule of every 2 months commencing with this issue. As always, all registered UK Chapter members will continue to receive the newsletter by email. The website will also continue to have copies posted at the same time. However, in order to 'help us to help you', please remember to inform the UK Chapter Membership Director (Ian Fish who sent you this newsletter) should your email details change.

Also, just as a gentle reminder, any UK Chapter member can, and is encouraged to, submit suitable items or notices for consideration of inclusion to future newsletters. So, please remember that if you are aware of, or working on, something that is felt worthy of interest to your fellow UK Chapter members, send it directly to myself or indeed any member of the UK Chapter Board. All contributions will be most welcome input for a newsletter.

## **UK Chapter Awards Update**

A relatively new award now being presented to part of the RAF Training programme:

The WSOp (ISR) courses will now be recognised with an AOC UK Chapter 'top student' award. Latest courses in 2019, where the top performing students on both courses received this new AOC RAF WSOp EW Award, were Sgt Wallace and Sgt Elliott. Both are destined for frontline flying tours and demonstrated excellent EW knowledge and application throughout their respective courses. BZ to both winners.

## **Army Yeoman of Signals (EW) Course Top Student**

In the June 2020 newsletter we had the pleasure of reporting the top student of this year's Yeoman of Signals (Electronic Warfare) (YofS(EW)) course run by WO1(YofS(EW)) Ben Cowley R Signals. We presented the top student with our Commendation in recognition of excellence in Electronic Warfare Studies.

Further to that award, the students have now been tasked with various projects to support the needs of Defence. To that end, the newly qualified Yeoman are now embarking on this important follow on task. With permission having been granted, the students would like to take the opportunity to share the subject of these various projects with UK Chapter

members in order to seek assistance wherever possible. The subjects are as follows:

- Investigate into a light role ECM EOD solution
- Investigate into a non-comms training package
- Analyse the Russian EW capabilities
- Future Land EWSI capability; what should it be?
- Investigate into a virtual linguist using AI / ML

This is a great opportunity for any UK Chapter members to interact with the Army user community and maintain a supporting role for those in the MoD/Military throughout their career. Should you wish to support the students in any of these subjects, please contact Richie Canale (UK Chapter Board Member for Army) [Richard.canale@solutions-ew.com](mailto:Richard.canale@solutions-ew.com) and he will facilitate the support or advice that you wish to offer.

## **AOC EW Awards in General**

You will be aware the AOC run a comprehensive awards program covering many different subjects and issues. However, the awards will not be presented if suitable nominations are not made, and you the members can of course make these nominations across the whole range of award categories. If you believe a person, group or unit, are worthy to be considered for an appropriate category then please do not hesitate to make the submission. If you need help or advice on how to achieve this, then contact either myself or any member of the UK Chapter Board when we will be only too pleased to advise and assist. We are all encouraged to look around us and see who is going that extra mile and is deserving of recognition, so 'be active not passive'!

## **Communication**

We all appreciate that good communication is essential and in this prolonged lockdown period routine communication has become vitally important. The media tells us we are all finding new ways to maintain this healthy contact and with good results. Many of us have been introduced to otherwise 'alien' technology that can achieve this and the use of conferencing software has become extremely popular, not only in business but also within family and social groups. As previously reported in the last newsletter, the UK Chapter Board has continued to take advantage of using Zoom for our Board meetings; thus far it has proved to be very useful and allows us to meet virtually in order to conduct our regular business. Albeit, due to the prevailing circumstances, UK Chapter business is exceptionally light right now, nonetheless it has been especially useful to keep connected and talking.

If any member feels they have something of interest to disseminate to the wider UK Chapter EW community, e.g. a new Technical Briefing, then why not consider setting up a Zoom call to share ideas/suggestions. Interested? Then please contact me or one of the Board members to discuss.

## **UK Chapter President – Call for Candidates**

Due to the recent and incredibly sad passing of our President, John Clifford OBE, the position of AOC UK Chapter President is now vacant. The Board have now opened the election process in accordance with our Constitution.

Procedure: Nominations for the position of President must be supported in writing by at least six members of the UK Chapter; all nominations must be validated by the nominee's agreement, in writing, to stand. Elections will use proforma issued by the Elections Volunteer and the Membership Director, online.

For your consideration, a summary of top-level duties:

- Lead the UK Chapter members in the field of EW.
- Determine the various needs of the UK Chapter members.
- Maintain the relationship between the UK Chapter, AOC HQ and AOC BOD.
- Preside over the UK Chapter AGM and Board meetings.
- Submit UK Chapter candidates for AOC awards.
- Liaise with defence organisations, industry, and Government departments.
- Oversee preparation of the annual submission for Chapter of the Year.
- Write Chapter newsletters with support from the Board and members.

Note: Any UK Chapter member is eligible for nomination, so if you or anyone you know would be interested in being considered for this position please approach either myself or one of the UK Chapter Board members. Thank you.

## **AOC Membership Benefits**

AOC membership provides an outstanding monthly magazine (JED) written by passionate world-renowned experts, exclusive on-line access to frequent Webinars with over 90 hours or so of content from world leading academics and military specialists, career advice, CPD at some events, and much more.

## **Serving Military 1-Year Complimentary Membership**

As mentioned in previous newsletters but worthy of a reminder, the AOC has agreed to offer 1-year complimentary membership to serving military. The UK Chapter has been working with the AOC to develop a straightforward practical scheme for individuals, units, stations, etc, who might benefit themselves, the military and the UK from knowing more about EW, EM Operations including SIGINT, CEMA, IW/IO, cyber, etc. in the warfare contexts of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century including A2/AD, Multi-Domain Warfare, Hybrid Warfare and so on. AOC membership provides all the benefits listed above. Please contact Membership Director Ian Fish for more information [piscene1@gmail.com](mailto:piscene1@gmail.com).

## Future Events/Visits

**AOC EW Europe 2020 – Liverpool 25<sup>th</sup> AOC Europe conference.** Has currently been re-scheduled for 16 -18 November, owing to the Covid-19 lockdown. Please refer to <https://www.eweuropa.com/#/> for more details. If the conference goes ahead, which is looking more positive now, do come and join us for what has always been the largest of Europe based EW events.

**UK Chapter Christmas Dinner** – RAF Club, Piccadilly, Friday 11, Dec 2020 (flyer tbn) Please make every effort to set aside this date and join fellow UK Chapter members and their wives/partners at what has always been a very festive social occasion.

**Proposed Visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn in Plymouth.** Dr Sue Robertson had arranged a visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn RM on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020. However, due to the Covid-19 Lockdown it was cancelled. Once the current situation is resolved a future date will be agreed.

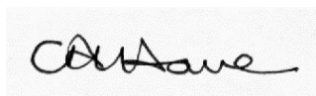
**Possible Visit to Josef Pilsudski Institute in London** Visit has been put on hold for the time being.

## Finally

Do remember, the UK Chapter is all about you, so please stay engaged and let the Board know what you want. Feedback is always most welcome; otherwise we are in danger of operating in a vacuum. We need more diverse and young members to become actively involved in what the UK Chapter does – any ideas will be greatly appreciated

The 3-year young adult complimentary membership is a great initiative and one the UK Chapter has worked towards for many years – please think about it and use it wisely, for example let your apprentice and training teams know about it. We are particularly keen to encourage apprentices in industry, academics and serving military personnel learning new EW-related skills.

Take care out there everyone and please stay safe



Chris Howe MBE  
AOC UK Chapter - Acting President

**Check out the UK Chapter website at [www.ukaoc.org](http://www.ukaoc.org)**