

June 2020

JED Tribute to John Clifford OBE

You will all remember the incredibly sad news I had to pass on to UK Chapter members in the May newsletter; that our President, Wing Commander John Clifford OBE, passed away on Wednesday 6 May 2020. Many of us will of course have our own memories of John's life, or at least snapshots of it, all depending on how or when you knew him. Some of us worked with him in uniform and/or after his Royal Air Force career. However, for those members who perhaps never had the opportunity to meet John, or indeed anyone for that matter, the next issue of JED features a Tribute to John and covers many parts of his professional journey through the ever changing world of Electronic Warfare over the past few decades. I do believe you will be enlightened by what you will learn about John and how the world of EW, certainly in the UK but also globally, was influenced by his efforts and successes in many areas. John Clifford OBE was indeed a true advocate of our profession.

Note: For your convenience, a copy of the JED tribute can be found at the end of this newsletter.

AOC HQ Awards - 2020

Further to the tribute for John, it has also just today been made official that John is an award winner in this years AOC HQ Awards. John has been awarded the Anton D. Tony Brees Lifetime Service Award. John was nominated earlier in the year but sadly, John will not have known he was selected to receive this award which is considered as the ultimate recognition of a lifetime service to Electronic Warfare and the AOC in general. As you will read in the JED tribute to John, he is so deserving to be recognised by his friends and colleagues within the global EW community in this way. BZ John

(extract for announcement below, direct from AOC website awards page. Checkout other award winners for 2020)

<https://www.crows.org/page/awardwinners2020>

Anton D. "Tony" Brees Lifetime Service Award

The Anton D. "Tony" Brees Lifetime Service Award (LSA) recognizes AOC members who have rendered exemplary sustained service to the AOC on a national or local level.

- **John Clifford, OBE Wg Cdr (Retd)**

Army Yeoman of Signals (EW) Course Top Student

2020 Recipient: The latest presentation of this UK Chapter award, a certificate of Commendation and a cheque for £200, was made during a recent visit to the Army Royal Corps of Signals EW at Blandford Camp. The presentation was made by UK Chapter Board member Richie Canale on Monday 8 June 2020 to SSgt Y of S(EW) Paul Tough. BZ to Paul and we wish him well in his future posting.



Communication

As we all know good communication is essential and in this current lockdown period communication has become vitally important to be maintained and we are all finding new ways to maintain this healthy contact, 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. To that end the UK Chapter Board has also been taking advantage of this by using Zoom for our Board meetings, thus far it has proved to be very useful and allows us to meet virtually face to face 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. Thank you.

UK Chapter President Vacancy – Call for Candidates

As you are all aware, with the 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 Trial Membership

A new 3-month trial membership is currently available. By using the code 3MON directly on the AOC HQ website, all of us can perhaps encourage new members to take advantage of this offer. It is available to anyone and after the 90-day trial the membership can be converted to a paid one for just \$25. So why not spread the word amongst the EW community you work or socialise in.

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 a previous newsletter, 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 21st Century including A2/AD, Multi-Domain Warfare, Hybrid Warfare and so on. AOC membership provides all the benefits list above. Please contact Membership Director Ian Fish for more information piscene1@gmail.com.

Events/Visits:

AOC EW Europe 2020 – Liverpool 25th AOC Europe conference. Has currently been re-scheduled for 16 -18 November, owing to the Covid-19 lockdown. Please refer to <https://www.eweurope.com/#/> for more details. If the conference goes ahead, albeit with Social Distancing rules in place, and if you feel it is safe to do so, do come and join us for the Silver Jubilee of AOC Europe events.

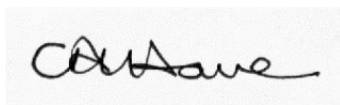
Proposed Visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn in Plymouth. Dr Sue Robertson has arranged a visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn RM on Friday 10th July 2020. However, due to the Covid-19 Lockdown it is now unlikely to go ahead as planned. Once the current situation is resolved a future date will be agreed.

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

Finally

I have once again listed a few tentative dates below and depending on where we are with the Corvid-19 lockdown, where you might consider joining us and the wider AOC community in 2020. Do remember, the UK Chapter is all about you, so please stay engaged and let the Board know what you want. Feedback is always welcome; otherwise we operate in a vacuum. We need more diverse and young members to become actively involved in what the Chapter does – any ideas are most welcome. 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. Please send ideas about recognising suitable individuals or organisations for AOC and/or UK Chapter awards. We are particularly keen to encourage apprentices in industry, academics and serving personnel learning new EW-related skills.

Take care out there everyone and please stay safe



Chris Howe MBE
UK Chapter - Acting President

SUMMARY OF FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR 2020 DIARY

AOC EW Liverpool, 16 – 18 November, Liverpool Exhibition Centre

Visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn Stonehouse Barracks Plymouth new date to be arranged

UK Chapter Christmas/Awards Dinner, Friday 11 Dec 2020, RAF Club, Piccadilly

Check out the UK Chapter website at www.ukaoc.org

Remembering a Pillar of Our EW Community: John Clifford OBE, AOC UK Chapter President



John receives his Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) medal from Queen Elizabeth II in 2006.

John Clifford OBE, retired RAF Wing Commander and Association of Old Crows (AOC) UK Chapter president, passed away May 6. John will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege to know him, and his contributions to the electronic warfare (EW) community will be felt for years to come.

John worked tirelessly to advance our community's conversation surrounding EW strategy and operations at every stage of his career, from the RAF to the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), and later as an EW consultant and active leader within the AOC. In 2006, John was awarded an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his EW work, and in 2013, he wrote the UK MOD's EW Policy, which is still used to this day.

John graduated from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in 1972 with a BSc (with honors) and achieved an MSc (with distinction) in Computer Aided Engineering from Nottingham Trent University. He was also a Chartered Engineer (CEng) and Chartered IT Professional (CITP) with the British Computer Society, The Chartered Institute for IT, a professional society for those working in engineering and IT.

In the late 1970s, John became the first and only Navigator EW Instructor on the RAF V-Force and was recognized as a leader in advancing EW training and practices. John graduated from the Aerosystems course at RAF College Cranwell in 1981 before serving as Senior Avionics Specialist at No. 6 Flying Training School at RAF Finningley, where he was responsible for all RAF Navigator EW training. John was later promoted to Deputy Squadron Commander of Radar Research Squadron at Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) Bedford before leading EW systems and flight tests for the Tornado GR1 and GR4 at Tornado Management Agency in Munich.

After graduating from the Joint Service Defence College in 1992, John continued to specialize in EW, becoming the Wing Commander of the Joint Warfare Staff at Royal Marines Poole (RM Poole) Naval base.



John at an AOC UK Chapter awards ceremony. John served as Chapter President beginning in 2009.

From 1996 to 2008, John was recognized as an EW expert within the UK MOD, serving as the lead desk officer in joint and air EW for five successive operational tours with the MOD. In this role, he truly became a pioneer in EW, helping to stand up the UK's first Information Warfare/Operations (IW/IO) directorate, which included EW and cyber, and leading the way in EW operations and training, policy, doctrine, and strategy with NATO and the UK MOD.

After retiring from the RAF in 2008, John worked from 2009 to the time of his passing both as a consultant with ESP (Engineering Support Personnel), Inc. and as the director of his own international defense consultancy company, JMC Defense Ltd, providing EW and EM Domain operations consultancy services to the UK MOD, the US Army and NATO. In 2013, John simultaneously worked on the UK Electromagnetic Environment (EME) Review while helping to write the UK MOD's current joint EW Policy.

John first joined the AOC in 1996 as a UK Chapter Air member and senior military officer, and he went on to serve as the UK Chapter president from 2009 to the time of his passing. During his tenure, John worked to increase chapter membership and engage new, young members. Through his efforts, the UK Chapter has successfully partnered with 20 UK universities in the EM Special Interest Group (EMSIG) and EMSIG Focus Group, participating in lecture series and enhancing STEM outreach efforts. Under John's stewardship, the UK Chapter was awarded Chapter of the Year in the large chapter category for eight years straight.

John also served as the AOC Global Conferences and Global Operations Director beginning in 2011, organizing and speaking at conferences in Europe and Southeast Asia, including DSEI (Defence and Security Equipment International) in London. John's background in directing conferences served him well in this role with AOC, drawing from years of experience organizing conferences all over the world during his time in the RAF and as an EW consultant. In recognition of his commitment to EW, John received two AOC awards – the International Achievement Award in 2002 and the Board of Directors Award in 2018.

John is survived by his wife, Jane, their four children, and their grandchildren, including the newest member of the family, Bella Jane, born in March of this year.

John's legacy in the EW community will continue to be honored by his friends across the globe, and he is ever revered by his fellow AOC presidents:

"John was a pillar in the EW community and played a significant role in the common transatlantic work of protecting our soldiers from harm's way through EW measures. He also gave a helping hand to many European chapters to achieve influence in the AOC."

"He will be remembered by his many friends from all over the world in the AOC family. His passion for our organization and his unstinting enthusiasm for the UK chapter and the wider AOC community will not be forgotten." – Contributed by the AOC UK Chapter and edited by *H. Swedeen and J. Knowles*