



## **UK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

### **June 2022**

### **UK Chapter Celebrates 50 Years in 2022**

As mentioned in the April newsletter, the UK Chapter is 50 years of age this year, so to mark this occasion we are now in the process of arranging a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in celebration. It is now confirmed the dinner will be held on the evening of Friday 4 November 2022 at the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) Lincoln, which is situated on the southern approach to the city of Lincoln. Thanks to a very large contribution from Chapter funds, the dinner, including a welcome drink, wine and port, a visit to the IBCC exhibition, will be available to members and partners for the amazing price of £25 each. There is plenty of hotel accommodation in the area and lots of interesting places to visit should anyone wish to make a full weekend of it. Please consider joining us at this very special event marking an important milestone in the history of the AOC UK Chapter. Full details can be found in the calling notice at the end of this newsletter. Please consider joining your UK Chapter colleagues in November.

The following story was also featured in the previous April newsletter but provided once more to inspire members to consider joining us at our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner.

#### **Early Days of the UK Chapter by Wg Cdr Roger Hannaford – UK Chapter Secretary**

The UK Chapter, of what was then the Association of Old Crows, was formed in the summer of 1972, led by Americans working in the UK. Key instigators were Lt Col Stanley Marker, USAF, who had retired in the UK and was a representative for a US EW company (I think Raytheon), Maj Roger Cyganek, USAF, who was an exchange officer on the EW Studies Team at HQ 90 (Signals) Group at RAF Medmenham, and Maj Roger Hermeling, USAF, who was the EWO at HQ 3rd Air Force, Ruislip. Founder members included Wg Cdr Mike Thurbon (EW Studies Team) and me (Ops EW, looking after the EW Canberras), also from HQ 90 Gp. From a transatlantic misinterpretation of the traditional English crimson hunting clothes (which are called 'pink' after the name of the tailor that made them), the Chapter was originally called 'The Red Coat Roost', and the logo showed a huntsman.

Although new members did join, the Chapter probably was not too active by the late 70s and was re-launched by senior officers from MOD. In about 78/79, when I was the EWO at HQ 1 Group, I received two letters in the same week. One was from the Gp Capt head of RAF Police at HQ Strike Command, not knowing that I was also a Crow. It said that



the AOC was a security risk and that we should not be associated with it. The other was from the Ministry of Defence, I think from the Air Commodore Director Air Offensive, saying that we really should get the Old Crows up and running again for all the invaluable interchange of information it offered, to promote EW awareness etc. I phoned to ask the policeman concerned whether he wanted to take this up with the one star. Ah, well, he said, just be careful not to let out secrets. And so, his letter stayed on file. The plod's concerns were finally put to rest when, a couple of years later, the Commander-in-Chief himself hosted a classified UK Chapter visit to HQ Strike Command, since when the Chapter has gone from strength to strength.

After Medmenham, I had been posted to Cyprus and then Lincolnshire and Germany and was unable to be much involved. I did keep up my membership which, in the days before credit cards, meant finding a tame American every year, giving him the 5 US\$ or equivalent and getting him to write a cheque for me to send. Mike Thurbon, however, was very active and was considered the dean of the Chapter, although he joined a little after me. Stanley Marker died in 1990 but, for some years afterwards, the Chapter held an annual dinner in his memory – a fitting tribute to the man who got us going.

## Latest EW News Roundup

(Kindly supplied by Dr Thomas Withington – Writer and analyst, editor of the Armada International EW webpage and newsletter)

### **A Chinese Spy Ship Makes First Appearance Near Australian Submarine Communications Base**

While the war in Ukraine continues to make headlines, it is clear the tense strategic situation *vis-à-vis* the People's Republic of China (PRC) is not diminishing. As this article in *The War Zone* illustrates, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) is adopting an increasingly muscular posture in the Asia-Pacific. This includes the deployment of Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) ships close to Australia's coastline. The PLAN is canny enough to remain in international waters during its intelligence gathering activities. Nonetheless, this does not make the deployment of such vessels in proximity to a US ally like Australia any less worrying.

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/chinese-spy-ship-makes-first-appearance-near-australian-submarine-communications-base>

### **US Navy Looks to Electronic Warfare and Cyber to Enhance Ship Defences**

The loss of the Russian Navy's 'Atlant' class cruiser *Moskva* to Ukrainian Anti-Ship Missiles (AShM) on 14th April has refocused attention on the threat posed to large surface combatants by such weapons. An article in *The National Interest* detailed the steps the US Navy is taking to enhance ship protection. Alongside traditional electronic warfare capabilities, cyber and directed energy effects are in the offing. Efforts like the Naval



Integrated Fire Control-Counter Air programme are taking an innovative approach. NIFC-CA, which has been introduced into naval service, integrates several onboard and offboard sensors to improve ASHM protection.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/us-navy-looks-electronic-warfare-and-cyber-enhance-ship-defenses-202558>

### **How AI would – and wouldn't – factor into a US-Chinese War**

The US Department of Defence will receive a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy by the end of the summer. This is particularly relevant given the tense relationship existing between the United States and the PRC. An article on the *warontherocks.com* website looks at the influence of AI in Chinese and US military doctrines, and the importance it could play in any future conflict. The piece examines not only how the People's Liberation Army might use AI during a war, but also before hostilities. What is particularly noteworthy is the depth and breadth of Chinese strategic AI discussion in open sources. Is this perhaps a tacit means of warning the US and her allies of Chinese AI capabilities?

<https://warontherocks.com/2022/05/how-ai-would-and-wouldnt-factor-into-a-u-s-chinese-war/>

### **Explained: How Starlink Prevented Russian Electromagnetic Attack In Ukraine**

In late April the Starlink satellite-based wideband internet service operating in Ukraine suffered a cyberattack believed to have been launched by Russian hackers. Space-X, which owns the Starlink service, had sent scores of its terminals to Ukraine following Russia's invasion on 24th February. The move was intended to ensure the Ukrainian population and military retained internet access despite the hostilities. Russia's move was clearly an attempt to deprive the country of internet coverage, yet the move was, by and large, unsuccessful. Starlink was able to devise and rapidly disseminate a software patch which greatly reduced the attack's effectiveness. The rapidity of the response earned SpaceX plaudits from the US Department of Defence.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/international/spacex-counter-russia-s-electromagnetic-warfare-in-ukraine-faster-than-us-military-pentagon-news-192868>

### **Opinion - Russia is losing on the electronic battlefield**

A consensus is emerging that the Russian Army's electronic warfare capabilities are underperforming in its ongoing combat operations in Ukraine. The exact reasons as to why this maybe the case is, as yet, unknown. Nonetheless, deficiencies in the quality of EW equipment maybe a factor, alongside training shortcomings, inadequate doctrine and difficulties in integrating army EW with the wider manoeuvre force. David Ignatius' article in *The Washington Post* provides a succinct summary of Russian Army EW failings so far and what these might mean for the rest of the conflict.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/05/03/russia-ukraine-electronic-warfare/>

### Don't Believe the Hype

Staying about Ukraine, the spotlight has fallen on several distinct EW systems the Russian Army has deployed into the theatre of operations. These include the force's Repellent-1 counter uninhabited aerial vehicles system. Using MASS' BattleEye EW Mission Support Tool it is possible to simulate the performance of the Repellent-1 based on system specifications available in the public domain. The result is that the Repellent-1 appears to fall short of its advertised capabilities. This inevitably invites the question as to which other Russian EW systems may have overblown capabilities?

<https://www.armadainternational.com/2022/05/exaggerated-russian-electronic-warfare-capabilities/#:~:text=The%20Repellent%2D1%20detects%20Uninhabited,the%20UAV%20to%20be%20shared>

### Latest UK Chapter Awards

The latest Joint Operational Electronic Warfare Operation Support Centre (JEWOSC) award evening took place at the Double Tree Hilton hotel, Lincoln on Thursday 19 May 2022. This annual event, aptly named the JOSCA's, whilst being an opportunity for the UK EW Industry to recognise deserving members of the JEWOSC community, also facilitated the UK Chapter the chance to commence and present a 'new award'. This new award is titled "*The AOC Award for Distinguished Service to Electronic Warfare by a Junior Rank*" and was presented by UK Chapter President, Chris Howe MBE to Cpl Sam Harman. The award comprised both an AOC certificate of Distinguished Service to Electronic Warfare and a cheque for £250 plus a JEWOSC trophy. **BZ** to Sam.



## **EW Job Advertising on UK Chapter Website**

<https://www.ukaoc.org/ew-job-vacancies>

I would like to continue to make all aware of the initiative to provide a low-cost EW Job Advertising section on the UK Chapter website which has continued to be popular with UK EW Industry. Why not take a moment to see what your next challenging role in EW might be in 2022?

Any companies/organisations interested in taking advantage of this low-cost job advertising facility, simply contact the UK Chapter President Chris Howe MBE for more information [cahowe500@gmail.com](mailto:cahowe500@gmail.com)

## **Letters to the Editor**

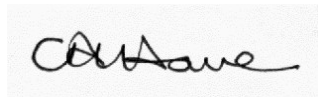
Once again, I invite any UK Chapter member to consider sending any feedback you may have on any aspect of this Newsletter, the UK Chapter, or indeed the AOC. If you have a comment, a suggestion or observation to make, (hopefully positive) then please contact me direct at [cahowe500@gmail.com](mailto:cahowe500@gmail.com) when I will be only too pleased to respond and consider your thoughts for change or indeed items of interest for future newsletters. Thank you.

## **Future Events/Visits**

**AOC Region 1 Chapters' Virtual Presentations** – This series of presentations has proved to be very popular, and it is hoped to continue in 2022. The next presentation will be announced in due course. To take part you simply need to register with the AOC Region 1 Director, Dr Sue Robertson @ [sue@gpl.co.uk](mailto:sue@gpl.co.uk)

**AOC 59<sup>th</sup> Convention/Symposium 2022** – Washington, USA, 25 – 27 October 2022  
Full details here: <https://www.crows.org/page/annualsymposium>

**UK Chapter 50th Anniversary Dinner** – IBCC, Lincoln, Friday 4 Nov 2022 (see below)



Chris Howe MBE  
AOC UK Chapter - President

**Keep Checking out the UK Chapter website at:**

**[www.ukaoc.org](http://www.ukaoc.org)**



## AOC UK 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

**International Bomber Command Centre  
Canwick Avenue, Lincoln, LN4 2HQ**

**Friday 4 November 2022**

The AOC UK Chapter Board is very pleased to announce that the **AOC UK Chapter 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner** will be held at the **International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC)** Canwick Avenue, Lincoln on **Friday 4 November 2022**. All UK Chapter members, their partners and guests will be most welcome at this special event. Let's make this a grand occasion with as many as possible attending, as we will also recognise the achievements of Chapter members and units. The IBCC is a world-class facility which serves as a focal point for recognition, remembrance, and reconciliation for Bomber Command. The command was instrumental in introducing modern Electronic Warfare into the air environment in WW2. It provides the most comprehensive record of Bomber Command in the world and will be a unique venue for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. More information about the IBCC can be found here: <https://internationalbcc.co.uk/>

The outline programme for the evening is:

**1800: Pre-dinner drinks + Access to IBCC exhibition, Spire, and grounds**

**1930: AOC UK 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

**Dress: Gentlemen, Black Tie & Miniatures preferred; Ladies, as appropriate.**

The Dinner will cost **£25 per head** (for UK Chapter members + first guest), including a welcome drink, wine, and port at the table, and will also be supported by a substantial subsidy from Chapter funds. The cost for non-members and additional guests will be **£50 per head**. Those wishing to attend should complete the proforma below and send it, or just the information, to Phil Davies at [phildavie@aol.com](mailto:phildavie@aol.com) Early notification is essential for planning purposes as places will be limited. Priority will be given to those members who register and have supported UK Chapter dinners in the past 3 years, and then first come first served. (A reserve waiting list will be utilised if oversubscribed). The preferred method of payment is by bank transfer to the UK Chapter account. Payment details will be provided on confirmation of attendance, as will a menu choice (including vegetarian). All payments and menu choices must then be made no later than Friday 7 October 22. Having made a commitment to the IBCC, we regret that payment for the dinner will still be due in the event of a late cancellation after Thurs 20 October 2022. Please provide the following information direct to Phil Davies.

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To: Phil Davies

E-mail: [phildavie@aol.com](mailto:phildavie@aol.com)

Mobile: 07387 200554

I wish to attend the AOC UK 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the IBCC on **Friday 4 November 2022**.

Name:

AOC Membership No:

Guest(s):

Telephone:

E-mail:

Any special dietary requirements?