

16 December 2019



The President and Board of Directors of the UK Chapter extend their Season's Greetings to our members and their families and wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2020

Review 2019 has been another excellent year for the UK Chapter. We were recognized again as the AOC Large Chapter of the Year, making it an unprecedented 8-in-a-row. Success as a Chapter depends on an energetic Board and on members who support the Chapter. So thanks are due to the hard working Board and to all the enthusiastic members who provide support. This year we have also seen an increase in membership to 566 with 82 under 26, which bodes well for the future – please help encourage more members whenever you can. This means that we are one of the largest Chapters in the world, and the largest country-wide Chapter – maybe 1 or 2 US Chapters are bigger but they are based in one city (like DC) or a military base or university. Particularly encouraging is the fact that more young members are joining us, taking up the complimentary 3-year full membership offer for young adults under 26. I know that some companies are widely advertising the scheme to their staff and apprentices. Please encourage your teams to do the same. And I personally ask you to become more involved with the Chapter, do what you can to spread the word about EW and related Electromagnetic operations and capability, and specifically to encourage new members, specially focusing on the young. A long-term UK Chapter initiative has been to provide a 1-year complimentary membership to any serving military personnel. I am delighted to be able to let you know that at the 56th AOC Annual International Symposium the AOC BOD confirmed their support for this initiative.

Christmas Awards Dinner The Christmas Dinner on Friday 13 December was great fun and gave us a chance to recognise the achievements of some of our members. Kathy Hastings read Grace and I talked about the history of the Defence EW Centre / Joint EW Operational Support Centre where our guest of honour and award winner, Cdr Dave Hewitt MBE worked, and our newest BOD member, Darren Nichols read the award citation. We honoured Commander Dave Hewitt MBE in recognition of Outstanding Lifetime Achievement in EW, as the doyen of EW at the UK Joint EW Centre and latterly Joint EW Operational Support Centre, at RAF Waddington. Dave Hewitt then made an outstanding response.



We want it to make the event bigger and even better next December so please book as early as possible and nominate individuals and units for awards (the deadline is 15 March 2020 for

major international AOC awards). Please make an effort to join us; even bring some friends in 2020. They are assured of a warm welcome and a great evening in the beautiful RAF Club. As I write this newsletter the UK BOD are investigating holding it earlier, possibly in mid-late November, as the Club, and many members, are extremely busy in mid-December. We are also considering changing the format so please let us know if you have any views, by emailing me (jonclif@oal.com) or Ian Fish, our outstanding membership secretary.

DEHS Conference on Security & Intelligence was held on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at the Smith Centre, Science Museum in Exhibition Road, London. Many thanks are due to our Treasurer John Stubbington for this article. DEHS, in close conjunction with the Science Museum (Dr Liz Bruton, Curator of Technology & Engineering), created and managed an excellent Conference which attracted about 80 attendees, mostly from DEHS and about ten from the UK Chapter, AOC. The site was ideal and there was an interestingly wide range of topics. The programme included:

- Opening remarks by Dr Elizabeth Bruton and Keith Thrower, DEHS President.
- Keynote address by Tony Comer, GCHQ Historian: Reflections at the Start of our Second Century.
- Prof John Ferris: A Socio-Historical Analysis of British Signals Intelligence, 1914-1992.
- Keith Thrower: The Fullerphone in two World Wars
- Dr Olga Topol: Enigma Relay – A Story in One Object.
- Dr David Kenyon: The Intelligence Factory -Bletchley Park and GC & CS 1938-1946
- Dr Helen Fry: ‘Listening-in’: What was discovered from captured senior German officers.
- Jacqui Chard, Deputy Director, National Cyber Security Centre: Present day cyber threat.
- After the presentations there was a guided tour of the new Top Secret exhibition, which is open until February 2020.

The speakers gave good presentations and worked remarkably well to the programme timescale. One particular observation, from Roger Blackburn, was that historians make better presenters than most engineers. Another impression from Ian Fish was that he really enjoyed the day; his greatest enjoyment was of the two most sociologically inclined presentations - John Ferris and Helen Fry. John Ferris referred to a classic principle stated by Auguste Kerckhoff in 1883, as follows: “It can be understood that the security of a cryptosystem must depend only on the key and not on the secrecy of any other part of the system.” Tony Comer from GCHQ made a wonderful comment in answer to a question about the historical accuracy of ‘The Imitation Game’ – his comment was that the film correctly recognised that WW2 happened and that Turing’s first name was Alan.



Dr Liz Bruton - Introduction



Tony Comer – GCHQ Historian



DSTL “Operation in Future of EME Symposium” was held 19/20 November 2019 in London at the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Professor David Stupples gave an excellent presentation about how “Emerging Radar and Communications Technologies present a growing Challenge to ELINT & COMINT Technical Collection”. I talked about “Operational EME Evolution – Past to Future”.

Viking Roost 30th Anniversary The Swedish AOC Chapter, aka the Viking Roost, invited the UK and Norwegian Chapters to join them for their 30th Anniversary on Tuesday 3 November in Stockholm. I attended and presented a UK Chapter plaque suitably inscribed and a certificate congratulating them on their anniversary. The Air Marshal who is their Air Force Chief welcomed me and invited me to join him at the Dinner. We discussed lots of issues including STEM and maintaining EW impetus. With reference to my experience of running a conference in Brasil I mention that SAAB were doing a good job of both selling aircraft and other systems and in teaching local industry and students, including bringing the best to Sweden to complete post-graduate student qualifications. I remarked that although bending metal was expensive it was relatively easy, while instilling expertise and developing mind-sets was relatively cheap but hard. When he gave his valedictory speech he apparently referred to my remarks (it was in Swedish☺) but some old Swedish friends rushed over after he finished, thanking me. All in a day's work as the saying goes.

Finally, that's all folks. I've listed a few dates below, when you might consider joining us and the wider AOC community in 2020. 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/EME - related skills to join the AOC; specifically the UK Chapter. Please remember that feedback is always welcome.



John Clifford OBE
UK Chapter President

SOME DATES FOR YOUR 2020 DIARY

AGM 17 March 2020, RAF Club

AOC EW Europe – Liverpool 16-18 June 2020

57th AOC Annual International Symposium 8-10 December in DC

Visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn Stonehouse Barracks Plymouth Date TBD 2020

**Check out our website at
www.ukaoc.org**

You can also check out career opportunities there too, by clicking on the

Home Page “EW Job Vacancies” button

Cyber and Information Systems at [dstl] are now participating in advertising on the UK Chapter website with an excellent site with great graphics, lots of thought-provoking material and there's even a Cyber & Information Systems challenge. Check out the link to dstl on the UK Chapter Homepage.