



ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

March 9, 2021

AOC Discussions | EMSO Leadership Series Wraps up With NATO's Sir Stuart Peach

Last week, AOC hosted the **final session** of its AOC Discussions | EMSO Leadership series by welcoming Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Sir Stuart Peach, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, NATO Headquarters. While his central theme was the continuing need for interoperability, he emphasized that military advantage depends on how we fight in the EMS. His remarks echoed those of a few other AOC Discussions guests in that electronic warfare is not merely an enabling capability. Electronic warfare is essential for military advantage in the EMS, which in turn empowers every military activity. We can “communicate with confidence, navigate with certainty . . . and engage with accuracy.”

To read all the post-event reports from the series, visit crows.org/advocacy. All AOC Discussions reports will be available until March 30.

Capitol Hill: Defense Budget Taking Shape and Defense Committees Heating Up

According to Bloomberg Government, the FY 2022 defense budget request will come in around \$704 billion, representing essentially no increase over FY 2021. The Trump Administration was on track to propose approximately \$722 billion in budget spending. Still, that number did not take into account likely adjustments from COVID relief and other fiscal constraints that ballooned this past year. Details about how the Pentagon will divide that \$704 billion or what Congress might recommend in response are still unclear. Still, given the prevailing uncertainty surrounding the economy and COVID recovery, a flat budget is a reasonable, if not optimistic, starting point. The new administration is scrubbing the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP), so further adjustments to slow growth are likely to come in FY 2023 and beyond.

With that said, both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees (HASC and SASC, respectively) are ramping up their annual defense budget hearing season, if not a little later than usual. The newly designated HASC Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems (CITI), with oversight over numerous future electromagnetic warfare (EW) and electromagnetic spectrum operations (EMSO) programs, will convene a hearing on March 12 to review the final recommendations of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence. Witnesses include Dr. Eric Schmidt, the Chairman of the Commission, and the

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Honorable Robert Work, the former Deputy Secretary of Defense under President Obama, a leader in advancing EW and establishing the EW Executive Committee. In the Senate, the SASC will convene a closed hearing on the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) with its Commander, Admiral Philip Davidson, USN.

Secretary of Defense General Lloyd Austin III Message to the Force

On March 4, Secretary of Defense Austin released a [Message to the Force](#) that outlines his three priorities moving forward as he leads the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). His first priority – Defend the Nation – addresses three focus areas: (1) Prioritize China as the Pacing Challenge; (2) Address Advanced and Persistent Threats; and (3) Innovate and Modernize the DOD. While not addressing electromagnetic spectrum (EMS) superiority directly, he identifies a few goals that cannot be achieved without a comprehensive and resourced pursuit of EMS advantage. One goal specifically mentioned was imposing a higher cost on competitors, responding to “challenges below the level of armed conflict,” also known as the grey zone, and ensuring “freedom of action in contested, complex operating environments.”

On the Horizon: AOC to Launch Two New Podcasts

Coming soon, AOC will be launching two new podcasts. The first, *From the Crows' Nest*, will feature interviews and discussions with subject matter experts and leaders across our community. The second podcast, *The History of Crows*, chronicles the rich global history of electronic warfare and electromagnetic spectrum operations from the life and times of James Clerk Maxwell to modern military operations around the world. Both podcasts will be available on the AOC website and all major podcast platforms. Stay tuned for more information on release dates and how to subscribe!

ICYMI: Bletchley Park and the History of the US-UK Intelligence Relationship

In a timely article with AOC's EMSO history podcast on the horizon, the BBC reported last week on newly released diary entries that reveal the origins of the US-UK intelligence relationship formed during World War II, including at Bletchley Park, the base for Allied code-breakers. The released material helped commemorate 75 years of intelligence cooperation

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between the two countries. This partnership formed the basis known today as the “Five Eyes,” which also includes Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. According to the report, the diary belongs to Alastair Denniston, the head of Bletchley Park at the time. It details his meetings with an American intelligence delegation and Alan Turing, a pioneer in theoretical computing and artificial intelligence. A dynamic story and one that AOC is slated to discuss in a future episode of its forthcoming podcast, *The History of Crows*.

Business Opportunities

U.S. Army to Expand Innovative Survivability Technologies

On March 3, the Army Contracting Command released a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit technologies from private industry, government research and development (R&D) organizations, and academia for inclusion in a future capability demonstration and experimentation event focused on improving soldier survivability. Anticipated technologies that enhance soldier survivability include advancements in training methods, sensors that enhance situational awareness, soldier and personal protective equipment (SPE/PPE), and soldier signature management. The event, called Thunderstorm 20-3, provides the industry the opportunity to showcase a range of innovative technologies real-time collection of position, navigation, and timing (PNT) information, multi-user training technologies, microwave protective equipment, radar cross-section reduction, and more. Pre-RFP responses are due March 15, and RFP release is set for late March or early April.

USAF pursues Next-Generation Multi-Role Unmanned Aerial System Family of Systems

On March 5, the U.S. Air Force released a Request for Information (RFI) to inform the establishment of a new capability development pipeline for integration on current and Next-Generation (Next-Gen) Multi-Role Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Family of Systems (FoS) with reduced operating costs and greater persistence, survivability, and range. These Next-Gen Multi-Role UAS FoS may comprise attributable, expendable, survivable, and reusable attributes, which can attain desired effects in various operating environments. Specifically, Future Next-Gen Multi-Role UAS FoS technologies must hold a different role than they do today and address capabilities beyond traditional UAS mission sets, such as air-to-air, two base defense, electronic warfare, moving target indicator (air and ground) capabilities, and be designed for native integration into JADC2. The plan for this approach includes investment in military-specific systems, as well as the commercial market. Bloomberg Government estimates this opportunity to be up to \$100 million. Pre-RFP responses are due April 9, 2021.

For questions, comments, or additional information on any of the above topics, please contact Ken Miller, AOC Director of Advocacy and Outreach, at kmiller@crows.org.
