

8th Annual EW/Cyber Convergence Conference

The Palmetto Roost Chapter of the AOC hosted their 8th Annual CLASSIFIED Electronic Warfare/Cyber Convergence Conference June 6th through the 8th in the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) Systems Center Atlantic's Cooper River Landing Conference Center. The Wando High School AFJROTC Color Guard opened the conference by posting the Colors and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. SPAWARSYSCEN-ATLANTIC's Commanding Officer, CAPT Scott Heller, welcomed the 170+ military members, government employees, and contractors in attendance.

This year's theme focused on cyber and EW successes as well as capability gaps across the Services. The master of ceremonies was Mr. Rich Nelson, President of the Palmetto Roost Chapter - facilitating sessions that categorized the operational concepts of combining EW capabilities with cyber warfare tactics, techniques, and procedures, and enabling the rapid deployment of new and improved capabilities. Mr. Gaylord "Joker" McFalls, AOC Southern Regional Director, provided welcoming remarks from AOC International.

Keynote speakers included Brigadier General Ryan Heritage, USMC Deputy Director, Future Operations, J3, USCYBERCOM; Ms. Margaret G. Palmieri, SES, Director, Digital Warfare Office; Mr. Greg Shaffer, SES, Assistant Chief Engineer Mission Architecture and System Engineering National Competency Lead ISR/IO; and Major General Burke E "Ed" Wilson, USAF, Deputy Principal Cyber Advisor to the Secretary of Defense and Senior Military, Advisor for Cyber, OUSD(P). We also had notable speakers from Navy Cyber Warfare Development Group (NCWDG), Navy Cyber Defense Operations Command (NCDOC), U.S. Fleet Cyber Command / U.S. Tenth Fleet (FCC/C10F), Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), National Air & Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), 24th Air Force – AFCYBER, 25th Air Force, MARFORCYBER, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A highlight of this year's conference was the SPAWAR Command CLASSIFIED brief presented by Ms. Jessica Reno, SPAWAR Intelligence Oversight Program Manager. There is a considerable amount of cyber and EW work that goes on in the Charleston area centered at SPAWARSYSCEN-ATLANTIC. Much of it goes unannounced and unnoticed; however, having a CLASSIFIED conference allows SPAWAR employees a great opportunity for collaboration on a much higher level with others throughout the EW/cyber community. It assists in allowing all of those who attend the ability to provide the best support possible to those carrying on the fight across the electromagnetic spectrum. We believe this conference makes a significant impact for SPAWAR, for the EW/Cyber industry, as well as for our National Security, and most importantly for our Warfighters.

A special thanks to our Conference Sponsors! Title Sponsor: Scientific Research Corporation (SRC); Platinum Sponsors: Norseman Defense Technologies and BAE Systems; Gold Sponsor: SAIC; Silver Sponsors: COLSA Corporation, Mercury Systems, and LGS Innovations; and Bronze Sponsors: Sentar, Boeing, and milsource.