

AOC EW Europe Lausanne Switzerland

The AOC's 23rd Europe conference and exhibition was held 5-7 June in the Congrès Beulieu Lausanne on the shore of Lake Geneva in Switzerland – Lausanne proved to be a terrific location in a beautiful setting. The event was a resounding success with 100% satisfaction across all elements being recorded in the on-site snapshot survey. In fact, all of those who responded thought the event was good or better, with 60% stating that it was excellent across the board. Eighty exhibitors (up 18% on London 2017) participated and 60% of them booked an equivalent or bigger full shell stand for the event for Stockholm in 2019. There were a lot of useful testimonials from conference delegates and exhibitors.



This photograph is of AOC President Lisa Frugé-Cirilli during her opening address. Dr Sue Robertson, International Region 1 Director and Richard Morva, President of the Swiss Chapter joined Lisa in greeting delegates and exhibitors and welcoming them to the conference, exhibition, Lausanne and Switzerland. The Plenary and operational track Chairman, a UK Chapter member and military consultant Air Marshal Philip Sturley is

also in the photograph.

The conference began with an Intelligence workshop, organised and sponsored by Plath GmbH, the AOC's long-term partner at AOC Europe conferences, and took place while the splendid exhibition shell stands were set up. The workshop comprised 12 presentations and panels and was judged to be a remarkable success. The two-day EW conference covered the entire AOC Mission Area and included around 50 presentations and panels in Plenary sessions and an operational track Chaired by Air Marshal Sturley with parallel technical track, chaired by Dr Sue Robertson and Dr Bob Andrews MBE, AOC Foundation adjunct Governor,

Colonel Charles Cosnowski USAF, Director, Joint EW Center, USSTRATCOM, was one of the many excellent speakers in Lausanne.



Some of the many delegates from 45 Nations in Lausanne for AOC EW Europe 2018.

The Plenary, operational and technical tracks include many outstanding presentations from international speaker from around the Globe. The keynote was given by Divisionär (Major General) Thomas Süssli, Chief of Armed Forces Command Support, Switzerland who gave an outstanding presentation which established the standard for the conference; the General stayed for much of the first day and made some excellent points about the importance of EW and the other AOC Mission Areas such as SIGINT, Cyber and C4ISR. It isn't possible to spell out all the other excellent presentations but given the continuous Russia intervention in the Ukraine (and formerly the Crimea), across the entire AOC Mission Area of information warfare, information operations (disinformation ops too) and especially EW, it was inevitable that the Lausanne conference would cover them, and thanks to several truly exceptional speakers, we surely did. Professor David Stupples (UK Chapter Director and AOC At-Large Director) covered Russia's 21st Century Warfare Paradigm – Advances in Electromagnetic & Cyberspace Operations and Information Warfare; Roger McDermott, visiting senior fellow at the Department of War Studies at King's College London spoke about Russia's EW Capabilities to 2015 and Colonel (Retd) Laurie Buckhout (former AOC President) gave a stand-out closing address with a Commander's perspective on Challenges in Countering Near-Peer Regional Threats in the EM Warfare Manoeuvre Space. Although they were not rehearsed, the 3 presentations dovetailed beautifully and provided great coherence to the conference. It would be very beneficial to have Professor Stupples and Colonel Buckhout speak on similar subjects at a future AOC International Annual Symposium.

Besides many industry members who gave sterling presentations other AOC members also spoke. Lt Gen Bob Elder USAF (Retd) (former AOC President) opened the final Plenary session with a Keynote Address on EW-Cyber Control and Exploitation Challenges. Judge Bourke managed to fit a highly detailed presentation on "Generating Warfighting Advantages via the Electromagnetic Domain" into 25 minutes. Chapter President Dr LEE Kar Heng (Singapore Chapter) spoke in great technical detail about the Impact of Commercial High-Resolution Radars on the EM Environment. Captain (Brasil Navy, Retd) Dr Antonio Dias de Macedo Filho, (EVP "Wild Parrots Roost" Brasil Chapter) gave a most entertaining and thought-provoking talk on Evolution of EW and IW Mindsets with the South Atlantic as an Example covering several centuries.

The conference included a very productive Chapter President meeting with the AOC President and International Region 1 Director.

Be sure to join the AOC in Stockholm, Sweden, 13-15 May 2019 for another great European and Global EW event, the 24th to take place on the European continent. There will be even more networking and exhibition time and the same huge programme covering the AOC's Mission Area.

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