

### **A Tribute to Dr. Jim Wickes**

Dr. Jim Wickes, consulting fellow for survivability at Dstl, UK, and friend to many in the AOC, passed away on Thursday October 22 after a long battle with cancer.

During a lifetime in EW, Jim made huge advances in EW for platform survivability, benefitting the whole free world and saving numerous lives and assets. He had especially close relations with many teams and individuals in the US and 5-Eyes Community, and throughout NATO's science and technology organizations.

After gaining a PhD in Atomic Physics, Dr Wickes joined the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a research scientist in 1972. By 1988, he had become assistant director in the UK's Defence Intelligence staff, leading a Branch focused on advanced EW systems and directed energy weapons. In 1991, he worked closely with US colleagues in the run-up to the first Gulf War, thereby establishing an enduring relationship with the US.

In 1992, he returned to the research establishment as the head of Novel Weapons Systems, and following a major reorganization, he became head of the EO/IR CM Division. A highlight of his career was the initiation of the world's first DIRCM program to meet an urgent operational requirement (UOR). Jim ensured that a powerful EW capability was maintained in the UK Defence Science & Technology Laboratory (Dstl) when he became Chief Technologist Survivability at its formation in 2001.

Jim was central to all the UK's military operations, and his role expanded significantly as he became the trusted source of advice to the MOD key stakeholders across Defence. The UK Chief Scientific Advisor commended Jim for his work, and he received many accolades throughout his career from the highest level in the UK, from the US and 5-Eyes community and from NATO. Jim was tireless in promoting EW and platform protection, and his enthusiasm continued unabated with numerous cooperative initiatives and innovative solutions, along with close links to the US Army, USAF, USN, USMC and SOCOM/SOAR.

Jim was instrumental in setting up the UK EW SME Working Group in 2005, working closely with primes and UK Dstl and MOD frameworks, ensuring that EW was championed at all levels in industry as well as in the military domains. The opportunities offered to the group members have certainly led to an enhancement of the overall EW capability in the UK, which would be unlikely to have existed without Jim's initial influence.

Jim was a great supporter of the AOC, encouraging his staff to join the association and to attend AOC events. He spoke at AOC UK and International events and took part in the annual symposium for many years. Jim enabled many UK chapter visits to UK research facilities and provided expert personnel to brief at AOC events. He was on the editorial advisory board for the *Journal of Electromagnetic Dominance (JED)*, and in 2016, Jim received the Joseph W. Kearney pioneer award.

Jim is survived by his wife, Pam, and will be sadly missed by his many AOC friends from around the globe.