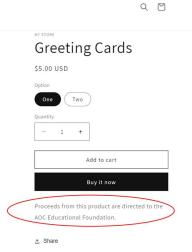
History Committee Update



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December 10, 2024





2024 AOC Ad Hoc History Committee

Committee Chair

Wayne Shaw

Members:

Glenn Carlson

Ken Mathiasmeier

Sam Roberts

Bob Simmen

Paul Westcott

AOC Staff:

Shelley Frost, Executive Director Ken Miller, Director of Advocacy & Outreach Heather Thomas, Admin Assistant, Advocacy & Outreach

Current & Planned Activities



- **Current:** CMTE authored history columns for *JED*
 - CMTE authored columns for March to December 2024 issues
 - John Knowles wants it to continue; quarterly history column in 2025
 - History Table for Convention: centerpiece is actual SR-71 jammer (thanks Bob Simmen), a B-52C Signal Analyzer (thanks Powder!), and a Vietnam "Party Suit" (thanks Sam Roberts!)
- Long-term Plan (for <u>the 2025</u> History CMTE):
 - Multiple inputs vetted by the CMTE and provided to Shelley for the 2025 Annual Operating Plan; a few highlights ...(see slide notes for more)
 - History of EW: Volume 4, 25 years since Volume 3 ... lots of EW history will be lost if an author is not contracted soon to author Volume 4
 - Make the Ad Hoc CMTE a Standing CMTE ... if AOC/EW History is important
 - Collaboration with Chapters' History Chairs to capture more AOC history



AOC Convention History Table (Be on the lookout for these meter boards)



AN/APA-11: Panoramic Radio Receiving Set (Pulse Analyzer)

Type: Radar Pulse Analyzer Manufacturer: Rembert Wurlitzer Company Purpose: Electronic Warfare and Radar Signal Analysis

The AN/APA-11 was a radar pulse analyzer used with AN/APR-9 and AN/APR-14 systems, primarily for electronic warfare and signal analysis. Employed in B-52B & C reconnaissance pods, RC-12IC, P2V-5, and PBM-55, this device was crucial during the Cold War for detecting and interpreting radar pulses from enemy installations. Its ability to track multiple targets enhanced situational awareness, providing an edge in both defensive and offensive operations, and helped shape strategic decisions.

Of the B-52B and C models, 27 of 50 B-52Bs and 35 B-52Cs were configured as reconnaissance bombers, equipped with a pressurized electronic intelligence and photographic reconnaissance capsule for a two-man crew in the bomb bay.







SR-71 Jammer The Need for Speed (and a little EW)

The CFAX-1, a defensive electronic countermeasures (DECM) device from an SR-71 Blackbird, is on special loan from the Moffett Field Museum for the AOC's 60th Anniversary History Display.

Although the SR-71 flew at Mach 3+ and 70,000 feet, reconnaissance missions required flying straight and level, exposing it to enemy SAMs. The CFAX-1 protected it with deceptive jamming techniques.

Thanks to the AOC History Committee and Moffett Field Museum, attendees can learn about a rarely seen part of this iconic aircraft's defense system.





The Party (Flight) Suit A Vietnam War Tradition That Lives On

Party suits originated in 1967 with the USAF 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Tahkli Royal Thai Air Base and spread to other USAF units in Thailand and South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Worn mainly by aviators and support personnel for social occasions, these suits—often called "Sawadees"—were colorful, featuring unit patches and local embroidery, unlike the sanitized flight suits used in combat.

This tradition continues in the U.S. Navy, where aviators typically own at least one embroidered "CAG" flight suit. These party suits were highly valued, including one on display that belonged to Sam Roberts, who flew EB-66Es during the Vietnam War and served as the Billy Mitchell Chapter President and on the AOC Board of Directors until 2021.



Party Suit Display at the National Museum of the Air Force, Dayton, Ohi