

AOC Gold Medal Award

Authors

- James Utt

Submission

Introduction and Instructions

Nominator's Details

Nominator's Name:

James Utt

Nominator's Rank/Title:

Mr.

Nominator's Chapter Affiliation:

Kittyhawk

Nominator's Company:

Defense Engineering Corporation

Nominator's Job Title:

President & CEO

Nominator's Address:

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Nominator's City:

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Nominee's Information

Nominee's Name:

David Hime

Nominee's Rank/Title:

Mr.

Nominee's AOC Member Number:

52293658

Nominee's Chapter Affiliation:

Kittyhawk

Nominee's Company:

1407 Streamside Dr

Nominee's Job Title:
CEO

Nominee's Address:
1407 Streamside Dr

Nominee's City:
Centerville

Nominee's State/Province/County:
Ohio

Nominee's Postal Code:
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Nominee's Country:
United States

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Eligibility and Qualifications

Nominee's Job Title and Organizational Level:

Mr. Hime is CEO of the company he founded after retiring from 40 years of distinguished service to the United States Air Force.

Leadership Requirements

Leadership Contributions:

Mr. Hime played a foundational role in redefining the strategic direction of U.S. Air Force and Department of Defense EW S&T. Recognizing the limitations of legacy, platform-centric self-protection paradigms, he led a transformative pivot toward a bold new vision centered on adaptive, distributed, proactive, and offensive EW. Between 2005 and 2010, he initiated AFRL's "Distributed Electronic Attack" program—one of the first internal research efforts to embody this forward-thinking strategy. Mr. Hime was instrumental in bringing this vision to the broader defense community, presenting it to U.S. services, a key AOC Congressional staffer event, and Five-Eyes partners. His advocacy led to the establishment of the Electronic Warfare Priority Steering Council (PSC) within the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) in 2010—marking the first time EW was elevated to a formal, department-wide investment priority. He was selected as the PSC's inaugural chairman. Under his leadership, the PSC evolved into the enduring Electronic Warfare Community of Interest (EW COI), which remains central to DoD and allied EW research planning to this day.

Leadership Role Impact:

As chair or Air Force principal representative to every major service and international EW S&T coordination body during this pivotal period, Mr. Hime was a driving force behind strategic realignment across the U.S. and allied technology base. He directly led the development of EW roadmaps, investment strategies, and technical challenge frameworks that: Realigned internal service laboratory research programs Influenced international MOD priorities Reshaped independent research and development (IRAD) efforts across the defense industrial base Through persistence and professional leadership, he transformed initial skepticism into broad consensus, enabling the widespread adoption of a future-focused EW vision now echoed across military and industry portfolios.

Systemic or Long-term Impact:

Mr. Hime's leadership sparked a fundamental transformation in the scientific and strategic underpinnings of EW. His efforts catalyzed a shift from a static, self-protection model to a dynamic, networked, and offensive approach to EMS warfare operations. The foundational concepts he championed—cognitive, adaptive, distributed, and autonomous EW—now drive virtually every major EW development effort, from Autonomous Collaborative Platforms to EM Battle Management to non-kinetic multi-domain operations. His work established enduring principles that continue to shape strategic planning, concept development, and acquisition across the DoD and allied defense communities.

Influence on Policies and Doctrine:

Mr. Hime's persistent engagement with senior leaders across OSD, service laboratories, and acquisition agencies enabled the integration of this new conceptual framework into formal policy and doctrine. He introduced modern EW concepts — such as "distributed," "cognitive," and "EM Battle Management"—integral parts of the DoD and USAF EW/EMS Superiority Strategies. Through influential briefings at AOC, NDIA, and international symposia, Mr. Hime ensured this vision permeated from the research community to the operational forces and across industry.

Additional Comments:

The above comments capture Mr. Hime's leadership.

EW Community Awareness**Magnitude of Contributions:**

The ongoing success of the EW Community of Interest (COI) remains the most visible and lasting testament to Mr. Hime's contributions. The frameworks and priorities he established continue to drive collaborative investment strategies across the services. Today, major AFRL and Five Eyes initiatives are explicitly grounded in concepts he introduced, including cognitive EW, distributed architectures, and EW Battle Management. The financial magnitude of this impact is profound—measured in hundreds of millions of dollars in research and experimentation—and continues to shape the future of EMS operations on a global scale.

Community Recognition:

Mr. Hime's accomplishments have been widely recognized by the EW community. In 2014, he was awarded the TTCP Distinguished Service Award by OUSD(R&E) in a Pentagon ceremony, specifically citing his transformative vision and leadership. In 2015, he was elected President of the AOC—an honor reflecting his deep influence, credibility, and dedication across the global EW community. Across more than a decade of keynote and technical presentations, Mr. Hime has remained one of the most visible and respected voices advancing the science, art, and operational effectiveness of EW.

Proposed Award Citation**Proposed Award Citation:**

For visionary leadership that transformed EW from legacy self-protection to adaptive, distributed, cognitive EW, thus impacting global strategy, research, and doctrine across DoD, industry, and international partners for enduring EMS superiority.

Additional Documentation**Sign-Off**

Link to submission: <https://aoc.slayte.com/calls/detail/060b1ae4-63b9-11ef-90f4-0e0ce905385c/submissions/51e714c0-3b6b-4587-a691-65730aac8706>