

Paul “Heywood” Vavra

A retired US Air Force officer, Paul has been a lifelong leader. Completing USAF basic training at age 16 and enlisting on his 17th birthday, he earned his commission at 18 and has 25 total years of military experience. This includes operational flying; command at the crew, unit, and joint levels; theater and global command and control; and rapid system development and acquisition. During OIF and OEF, he was a pioneer in QRC evaluation and fielding of numerous critical UAV EW payloads. He is a fully qualified Instructor and Evaluator EWO, Mission Commander, Electronic Combat Coordinator, Intelligence Officer and Foreign Area Officer, and he was named Air Force Intelligence Officer of the Year in 1992. Paul flew 261 combat, combat support and Cold War reconnaissance missions in 7 different conflicts in the RC-135 and EP-3. Paul's military career was followed by more than 20 years as a defense industry executive and consultant – all EW-related and focusing on manned and unmanned systems, payloads and air combat training systems. He consults regularly on multinational joint venture establishment, air combat training systems and ranges, reconnaissance payloads and with hedge funds on investment in the defense marketplace.

He is a 40-year AOC member with experience at the chapter, national and international levels and co-chair of AOCAsia25. A strong proponent for international cooperation in the EMS, and he is especially proud of his key role in bringing this event back to Asia for the first time since the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Paul states, "I am committed to ensuring that the AOC is the predominant global EMS organization, with special emphasis on advocacy, education and multinational cooperation. My primary goal is to ensure that our warfighters worldwide have the knowledge, tools, and training necessary to maintain the national security of their respective nations."