



Education/Professional Development Committee Summary
Report date: September 24, 2025

- **Courses offered/planned since January 2025**
 - Webinars: 10 offered; Four (4) scheduled, one scheduled for 2026, with more being added regularly
 - Acquired new webinar sponsor
 - [Liquid Instruments](#) – Gold level
 - Onsite – Upcoming
 - SwRI Institute Workshop
 - Southwest Research Institute - (SwRI) - Classified three (3)-day collateral SECRET with breakout at Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) course presented by Dr. Karen Haigh at SwRI San Antonio location, January 20-22, 2026
 - SwRI has already expressed interest co-hosting the course again at the Atlanta facility should the San Antonio workshop be successful.
 - West Virginia University (WVU) and AOC - [Threat Assets for Test and Evaluation \(TATE\) Workshop](#)
 - Unclassified four (4)-day workshop at the West Virginia University Campus, June 9-12, 2026
 - AOC is handling all development and execution of the event including registration, marcomm deliverables, onsite logistics, etc.
 - [CEMA 2025](#) – One (1) unclassified session on Monday, October 27 at Water's Edge Events Center, 4687 Millennium Drive Belcamp, MD
 - Session: [United Army Forces, Dominating the Spectrum: Advancing EW Through Innovation and Integration](#), presented by Christelle Ward
 - Due to the postponement of the original CEMA Summit, only one pre-summit course could be offered due to space availability.
 - [AOC 2025 Pre-Con Courses](#) – Two (2), full-day, four (4) half-day courses to be held on Monday, December 8 at AOC 2025, Gaylord Convention Center and Resort, National Harbor, MD.
 - Full-day (8 AM – 5 PM): [Principles of Metasurface-Driven Electronic Warfare](#), presented by Dr. Rafael Licursi
 - Full-day (8 AM – 5 PM): [Counter-C5ISR Tabletop Exercise](#), presented by Bryan Clark and David Byrd of the Hudson Institute
 - Half-day (8 AM – 12 PM): [Antenna Theory for EW Professionals: A Quick But Thorough "Crash Course"](#), presented by Major Timothy Wolfe, PhD
 - Half-day (1 PM – 5 PM): [Microelectronics 101 for EW Professionals: A Quick But Thorough "Crash Course"](#), presented by Major Timothy Wolfe, PhD

- Half-day Session I (8 AM – 12 PM): [Global Conflict and Emerging Technologies: Lessons from the Russia-Ukraine War](#), presented by Dr. Shawana P. Johnson, GISP
 - Half-day Session II (1 PM – 5 PM): [Global Conflict and Emerging Technologies: Lessons from the Russia-Ukraine War](#), presented by Dr. Shawana P. Johnson, GISP
- On-Demand purchases: 94 (as of 9/22/25; more than doubled since February 2025)
- **Strategic Partnerships in Development**
 - Southwest Research Institute - (SwRI)
 - West Virginia University (WVU) - [Threat Assets for Test and Evaluation \(TATE\) Workshop](#) - Unclassified four (4)-day workshop at the West Virginia University Campus, October 7-10. AOC to oversee event logistics and be marketed as the official workshop partner. AOC staff will be onsite to engage with event attendees, including having a membership booth/table for recruitment purposes. WVU will treat AOC as a contractor, providing compensation for all work completed by the AOC team. Capacity: 140
 - [Military Cyber Professionals Association \(MCPA\)](#) – Introductory meeting was held, and requests/deliverables were communicated. The AOC Prof. Dev. Team is now outlining a draft agreement and will circulate it with the other directors. AOC will benefit from having access to the MCPA's membership as well as subject matter experts.
 - [Catalyst Campus](#) – Introduced and being led by Michael Powell of the Mile High Crows Chapter, this partnership will potentially allow AOC to offer trainings/educational sessions at the Catalyst Campus. This is in early development and will be Chapter led with support from AOC International.
- **Deployable Education Program**
 - Ken Miller and Lauren Schoener-Gaynor will be working closely to bring operational and functional training/programs to locations throughout the U.S. such as military bases, government offices, institutions, and others who request the resources that AOC has to offer.
 - Ex. Nellis Air Force Base (NV) has requested specific training for approximately 50 people
- **AOC Certificate Program**
 - During a recent Professional Development Committee meeting, the AOC Certificate Course was discussed since the AOC has been involved with Stevens Institute regarding the institute potentially offering the AOC Certificate Program. It had been a goal to launch the program before EOY 2025, but recent feedback from members, nonmembers, and partners has promoted the Committee to review the Program and determine which of the following needs to occur:
 - Review of current program curriculum and its relevancy to potential participants.
 - Recreate the Certificate Program to an AOC Certification Program to enhance its importance in the eyes of participants as well as their respective organizations, institutions, etc.
 - Table the AOC Certificate Program entirely, and focus on other educational opportunities and courses, revisiting its revitalization and/or enhancement to Certification Program in late 2026, early 2027.

- **AOC Certificate Program (cont'd)**
 - Regardless of the decision related to the next steps/course of action related to the program, a dedicated group of subject matter experts
 - There is a relationship although not a formal “dependency” between the Stevens and potentially other ***certificate*** program offerings, and the dormant AOC EW/EMSO ***certification*** program.
 - The original certification program, while dormant, resulted in numerous lessons learned; the Professional Development Committee will summarize those and propose a high-level way forward before or at the 2025 Symposium that will include requested insight and feedback from the Board.

- **Cross-Collaboration with AOC Education Foundation (AEF)**
 - The Professional Development Committee and AEF Committees have met multiple times to clarify roles and responsibilities and align operations. The key outcome is that STEM-related investments and activities will be led by AEF, with the Professional Development Committee focusing on supporting young professionals as they engage with U.S. Government, Department of War, academia, industry, and foreign partners. Additional opportunities and recommendations will be shared ahead of or during the 2025 Symposium. This collaboration supports the expanded Talent Pipeline model—**Inspire → Recruit → Train → Retain → Retire**—by creating a clear handoff between AEF and the Professional Development Committee.

- **Challenges and Plans:**
 - **Committee Engagement:** Need to re-energize the Professional Development Committee working group (initially 50+ volunteers)
 - **Moving forward:** Re-establish smaller, task-focused teams to drive progress.
 - **Strategic Initiatives:** While interest is strong, execution on programs such as certification and career fairs has been limited.
 - **Moving forward:** Identify priority initiatives with clear timelines and ownership.
 - **Chapter Collaboration:** Local chapters remain focused on their own membership and activities.
 - **Moving forward:** Pilot targeted, high-value collaborations to better integrate support of/from the Professional Development Committee.