AOC Garden State Chapter Luncheon

John Cervini

AOC Garden State Chapter • 732-528-7854 • johntcervini@optonline.net

On Friday, January 20, 2012, the local chapter of the Association of Old Crows held a luncheon in the Marconi Hotel dining room. The AOC is a professional organization dedicated to fostering an understanding of the history and importance of Electronic Warfare (EW) in the defense of the United States. EW incorporates electrons and photons rather than bombs and bullets in accomplishing its tasks. Historically, Camp Evans and Fort Monmouth played major roles in the development of EW for the U.S. Army.

Dr. Richard Wittstruck

The luncheon speaker was Dr. Richard Wittstruck, Chief System of Systems Engineer of the Army Program Executive Office (PEO) for Intelligence Electronic Warfare and Sensors (IEW&S). In the past, a number of divisions and branches of that organization were situated at Camp Evans, and were responsible for the successful development of many critically important Army Electronic Battlefield Automated Systems; such as; the Guardrail Airborne Signals Intelligence System, and the Firefinder Counter Mortar Counter Battery radars. These systems were directly responsible for saving thousands of lives of American servicemen.

Dr. Wittstruck gave a very interesting presentation of his organization, including an overview for those in the audience who weren't familiar with the topic. He also discussed some of the future challenges for the U.S. Military and his organization, due to the expected drawdown of forces in Southwest Asia, and a reduction in the defense budget. Dr. Wittstruck also highlighted some of the significant achievements made by scientists and engineers who used to work at Camp Evans and Fort Monmouth. The Army has moved the functions and people to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland and closed the posts in New Jersey.

Audience Members at AOC luncheon

Dr. Wittstruck related the story of the Quick Reaction development of the Countermeasure Program to defeat radio-controlled improvised explosive devices that were causing more than half the US casualties in Iraq. This was a very difficult technical problem, since the source of the control signal could be anything from cell phones to garage door openers, to automobile key fobs. In short order, contracts were let, the threat was analyzed, designs were rapidly implemented, and 50,000 countermeasure units were built – neutralizing the threat. There were many analogies to be made with this country's manufacturing efforts in WWII. Thousands of lives have been saved by these devices!

Vehicle-mounted Improvised
Explosive Device Jammer

Another Quick Reaction development was the "Wolfhound" Intercept and Direction Finding System. It was designed to help protect troops at Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Afghanistan, the most dangerous overseas assignment! GIs were being targeted by enemy irregulars who sneaked out of the mountains, all the whole communicating our troop whereabouts over commercial radios and cell phones. The troops needed something portable to take with them on patrol. The Wolfhound Handheld Threat Warning System is a one-of-a-kind, radio frequency direction- finder. The system is designed for simplified operations in austere conditions and rapidly geo-locates RF transmitters operating in the Very High Frequency and Ultra High Frequency bands. The Wolfhound was designed to help U.S. forces find

enemy command and control nodes, observation posts and spotter positions. It also assists in combat search and rescue efforts, and was designated the Army "Invention of the Year" in December 2010.

Wolfhound Man-portable DF System

Wolfhound can be seen at the InfoAge Electronic Warfare Display on Sunday's 1-5 pm, along with many other artifacts, dating back to WWII. One of the highlights is the special purpose Infra-Red Jammer that has been used to protect the President of the United States from shoulder-fired, heat seeking missiles! The AOC will be holding more luncheons at InfoAge in the future.

Vintage Computer Festival East 8.0

Evan Koblentz

Mid-Atlantic Retro Computing Hobbyists • (646) 546-9999 • evan@infoage.org

This photograph shows children playing an 8-bit clone of the modern video game "Guitar Hero" using the modern instrument hacked to run on a Commodore 64.

InfoAge will host the Vintage Computer Festival East on May 5-6, 2012. This year's edition of the unique computer history event features six lectures, eight technical workshops, and several dozen hands-on demonstrations of computers from the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

Mornings at the Vintage Computer Festival are devoted to lectures and workshops. This year there are two keynote lectures. Saturday's keynote is Dr. Thomas Kurtz, who co-invented the BASIC programming language at Dartmouth University in 1964. Sunday's keynote is Daniel Kottke, who was Steve Jobs' college friend and one of the first engineers hired at Apple.

Afternoons at the Vintage Computer Festival are devoted to the hands-on exhibit hall. You'll find live demos of everything from minicomputers the size of cars, to build-it-yourself home brew kits, to 8-bit microcomputers, and more -- all up and running.

All day long there will be a book sale, consignment, food, museum tours, prizes, and all manner of vintage computing fun.

Hours for the Vintage Computer Festival East are Saturday, May 5, 9:30am-7:00pm, and Sunday, May 6, 9:30am-5:00pm. Kids are admitted for free. Adult tickets, sold at the door, at $10/day or $15/weekend.

For more information about the event, or to participate as an exhibitor or seller, please visit http://www.vintage.org/2012/east/ or http://www.facebook.com/vcfeast8. Email should be directed to evan@snarc.net or call (646) 546-9999.

The event is sponsored by MARCH - Mid-Atlantic Retro Computing Hobbyists - which is a club devoted to saving computer history. MARCH operates InfoAge's vintage computer museum, open every Sunday from 1pm-5pm. Proceeds benefit MARCH and InfoAge.

InfoAge
Science/History Center
at Camp Evans, Wall, NJ

InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum
2201 Marconi Road • Wall • NJ • 07719

732-280-3000 • www.infoage.org

The Newsletter of InfoAge
Inside this issue...

• AOC Garden State Chapter Luncheon
• Vintage Computer Festival East 8.0

Member Donations Making The Difference

DONATE TODAY to Help InfoAge

Save and transform a 1914 Marconi Wireless Station, WWI Naval Radio Station
and a WWII Landmark into WWII Living Memorial, Museum and Education Center

Resolution for 1945
Whatever this boy needs-he GETS

From US- more RADAR equipment

Resolution for 2012

Save the WWII RADAR Laboratory

Roof Leaking
Building at RISK
New roof in 2010

The above image depicts our progress in fixing roofs at InfoAge and will be used in a campaign effort to raise needed funds.