



John Waters

Wall Of Honor 2021 Aircraft Self-Protection

John Waters spent much of his professional career at Camp Evans and Fort Monmouth. On 4 June 1962, he transferred from the Armed Services Electro-Standard Agency to work in the Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECM) Branch in the U.S. Army Electronics Command (ECOM) Directorate. On 16 June 1963, he was promoted as the Project Engineer of the Mohawk aircraft wing-mounted AN/ALQ-80 Countermeasures Set.

While employed as an Electronic Engineer in the Army's newly formed Electronic Warfare Laboratory at Camp Evans Waters worked in the Aircraft Survivability Equipment division where previous InfoAge Wall of Honor recipients Max Adler and Bob Giordano were Division Chiefs. He was the Project Engineer for the AN/APR-39 (V)1 and (V)2 aircraft Radar Warning Receivers (RWR) to neutralize Soviet developed Gun Dish SA-6 and SA-8 radar directed anti-aircraft systems (to deal with low-flying helicopters and close support planes). Waters briefed many Army pilots, including Delta Force pilots at Fort Campbell, on the technical intricacies of the RWRs, and helped develop operational tactics to use in dense enemy radar environments. At the start of Desert Storm, the APR-39s on the Apaches and Cobras rapidly detected and identified the Iraqi early warning radars, resulting in their immediate destruction. The U.S. Navy SEALs office once contacted him and asked him to install a version of the APR-39 on one of their Fast Patrol Boats. He responded with an antenna redesign and successful test trial in the waters off San Diego, Ca.

Waters was also involved in the design, development, and testing of several Countermeasures systems, including the AN/ALQ-80. This

equipment was installed on a pylon on the left wing of the Mohawk OV-1 aircraft in Viet Nam. It was designed to jam the Soviet 57 mm Anti-Aircraft Artillery "Fire Can" and the "Fire Wheel" radars. He

also tested the Humvee mounted AN/VLQ-9 proximity fuse jammer, known as "Shortstop". This was a Quick Reaction Capability (QRC) program to meet what was an emerging threat during the First Gulf War. It became the progenitor of all the Counter IED (Improvised Explosive Devices, or Roadside Bombs) systems during the Second Gulf War.

As the state-of-the-art of Electronic Countermeasures advanced, the military pursued a path to remove some equipment from pylons and install them "inboard", leaving room for more weapons. Waters then supported the development of the AN/ALQ-136 radar jammer which was installed on both Army fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. When the Department of Defense mandated a program for a single tri-service airborne jammer, he was the lone Army representative at the kickoff meeting for the Advanced Self-Protection Jammer (ASPJ), the AN/ALQ-165.

Waters' expertise in radar countermeasures was so well known that a Federal Agency contacted him to conduct a "Sting" operation against an individual who wanted to sell highly sophisticated jammers to a foreign entity. He was to be the representative of a Middle Eastern country that would potentially receive the equipment in an illegal transaction.

He retired from Fort Monmouth in November 1988 and then worked as an engineering consultant to a number of defense contractors until he fully retired in December 1994. During the early 1990's John was voted in as the president of the Association of Old Crows (AOC) Garden State Chapter.

John currently resides in Toms River with his wife Barbara. They have a son, Jay, a U.S. Army Colonel (Retired), and daughters Nancy and Sharon, a former White House employee.

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