

Questions to Erik Bamford talk in Japan Chapter Conference (2025-06-05)

Name	Question and Answer
Dr. Motonobu Fujita (Keio Univ., ALTA, MoD)	There was no detailed reference to the Political Understanding of EMS, and I am wondering how you have cultivated the understanding from people other than EMS specialists (those on the political decision side) and what Mr. Erik Bamford is doing toward that end. I am curious to know what Erik's efforts are.
Answer by Mr. Erik Bamford	<p>The NATO EMS Strategy was approved at both the highest military level, and at the political level in NATO (North Atlantic Council (NAC)) which only approves on consensus - meaning the political level agreed across all 30 nations (2021). Through consensus at the political level across all nations we have the approval, and shared understanding across from Eand EMS specialists to the non-EMS knowledgable political level.</p> <p>The understanding at the political level that was achieved in 2021 is much deeper compared to previous attempts at getting the political (and senior military) level involved.</p> <p>As to what we do to get the the knowldge move from 'acceptance' to 'real effects & capability' is a continous work. Among things we do is pushing EW and electromagnetic operations (EMO) message to leadership. E.g. NATO Aerospace Capability Group 3 (ACG3) will offer up "EW Information Day" via the NATO Airforce Advisory Committee (NAFAG) annual "topical meeting". The annual topical meeting is an information day(s) on a specific topic of relevance. In addition there are "EW information Day" events in NATO HQ specifically targeting the senior military leaders and national NATO Embassadors in HQ.</p> <p>The Association of Old Crows (AOC) and AOC Europe (annual conference and symposium) is a very important venue. AOC Europe will change its location every year in order to cover different capitols and regions across Europe. By changing location we get to meet different governments and talk EW directly with them at a very low travel cost for their participation. It also forces the seniors, both military and political in that capitol to provide keynote speakers, which in itself triggers their need to focus and be smart on EW/EMO.</p> <p>This is a line of effort that we never will finish. As new generations of beaurocrats, military leaders and politicians come out we need to advocate EW/EMO again.</p>
Mr. Takakuraki (BAE Japan)	The main focus of EW has been electronic warfare systems on board aircraft. I hear that in Ukraine, a wider range of EW methods, including counter-intelligence, are becoming more important. I would like to know which EW fields are predominant in Ukraine, which fields are lagging behind, and which fields are most in demand.

Answer by Mr. Erik Bamford	<p>Personally my take on EW has been wider since I started working EW back in 2001. EW for platform protection for air and maritime assets is still very important, and likely more so than earlier, as the need as of 2025 requires a 'layered EW approach' capable of countering incoming threats prior to 'launch' (stand-off effects) all the way until effectively countering the threat (stand-in effects). In the Ukraine the war is land heavy - so land EW will be the premier focus. The mix they currently employ (both sides) are rifle-like shaped jammers for counter-UAS (fixed frequency to counter command signals, sensor feed signals and civilian GPS L1 and L2), in addition the more conventional land EW capabilities are employed to counter combat radio network (CNR) communications like military HF, VHF, UHF. Whilst counter-UAS jammers protect trenches and foxholes, the conventional EW systems will provide an EMS dominance across 'no-mans land'. Neither side of the conflict in the Ukraine are currently proficient in aggregating EW effects across from air to ground, ground to air, air to maritime, or maritime to air. EW is operated to support within the domain the delivery platform is operated within.</p> <p>The demand is still focussed on ground forces, but the need is likely to look at EW across the different domains of operations and look to aggregate cross domain EW effects that support in a more 'joint EW approach'.</p>
Addition by Dr. Kawahigashi	I would like to ask how EW is perceived not only in Ukraine but also from the standpoint of NATO/Europe.
Answer by Mr. Erik Bamford	<p>EW is growingly appreciated as an effector that is cost efficient - meaning jamming is costly in procurement, but cheap 'per shot' (jam cycle). EW also provides a capability that quickly can be adopted to counter new threats like new weapons formerly not used by Russian forces. At the political level the low-cost per "shot" is highly appreciated as it keeps the cost of fighting manageable. EW as means to protect the highly costly platforms the nations have invested in is also appreciated - EW platform protection is a cheap way of ensuring the survivability of very costly platforms that will be impossible to replace if lost in combat.</p>