

FTCN Replay: EMSO in 2025 – Answering Your Questions about Trump, Congress and the Future of EW

In the latest edition of From the Crow's Nest, Ken Miller, the Director of Advocacy and Outreach for the Association of Old Crows (AOC), kicked off 2025 with a reflective and forward-looking discussion. Joined by producer Laura Krebs and sound engineer Reese, the episode highlighted current events, the future of electromagnetic spectrum operations (EMSO), and the evolving role of AOC's podcast as a platform for engagement and education.

Welcoming listeners to the member-exclusive episode, Ken emphasized the interactive nature of the show. "This is the show that's dedicated to you, our audience. Your questions, your comments, your suggestions drive this episode," he said. By fostering an inclusive dialogue, the podcast continues to serve as an invaluable resource for experts and newcomers alike, making complex topics accessible and engaging.

Ken began the episode by reflecting on the political landscape as President-Elect Donald Trump prepared for his inauguration. Unlike the tumultuous transitions of recent years, Ken noted the relative calm surrounding this event. "I think it seems to be a pretty normal process unfolding," he observed, expressing cautious optimism about the administration's ability to navigate a polarized Congress.

A significant portion of the discussion centered on Space Force and its evolving strategies in the Indo-Pacific. Ken highlighted the critical role of electromagnetic energy in space operations, underscoring the direct connection to AOC's

mission. "When you look at space operations, it's basically electromagnetic energy," he explained, adding that the US must project electromagnetic spectrum superiority to deter adversaries effectively. The importance of these efforts has become a focal point under AOC President Tony Lisuzzo, who has prioritized Space Force initiatives for 2025.

The Ukraine-Russia conflict also featured prominently in the episode. Now entering its third year, the war continues to offer lessons for US electronic warfare capabilities. Ken emphasized the rapid pace of technological advancements in the conflict, noting, "Once the fighting starts, you don't have time to make up for any shortfall in EW." He called for reforms in acquisition processes, enhanced training, and a stronger talent pipeline to ensure readiness for future challenges.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning emerged as central themes in the conversation. Ken described these technologies as indispensable for modern EMSO operations, where the complexity of maneuvering in the electromagnetic spectrum demands rapid adaptation. However, he urged proactive discussions on the ethical and regulatory implications of AI, cautioning that conflict leaves little time for deliberation. "We need to start addressing these issues now," he said, advocating for a forward-thinking approach to technological integration.

Looking ahead, Ken shared his vision for the podcast's continued growth. Since its inception in 2021, From the Crow's Nest has provided a platform for exploring niche topics within military technology and EMSO. "I want the podcast to be an access point for anyone interested in military technology that touches on the electromagnetic spectrum," he said. Future episodes will delve into topics like Space Force advancements, AI in EW, and regional perspectives on EMSO from Europe and Asia. Ken also encouraged listeners to contribute ideas and questions, reinforcing the collaborative spirit of the show.

