



# Strat Roost News

www.stratroost.org

Association of Old Crows · Strategic Roost P.O. Box 13146, Offutt AFB, NE 68113

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## October Pizza Luncheon

October 15, Mr. Spivey set to speak on the history of the 45RS at 343RS Briefing Room 11:15

## Strategic Roost Elections

October 15, same time and place as pizza luncheon

## Strategic Space Symposium

Nov 2 - 4, Discussions surrounding space operations to be held at the Qwest Center

## 55th Wing Milestones

7000 combat sorties, 7000 days in the AOR

## 55th Wing Realignment

Oct 1, The 55th Wing falls under 12AF as part of non-bomber realignment plan

## OFFICERS 2009

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## Greetings, Strategic Roost Chapter Membership-

I am honored to have served the Strategic Roost as Vice President and now as President. This year we planned, organized, and put on our traditional Scholarship Awards event featuring the Director of the Strategic Air and Space Museum as the keynote speaker. We honored and awarded scholarships to five college-bound students from local area high schools. In March the Roost presented cash awards to high school students participating in the annual Science and Engineering Fair in Nebraska City.

Thanks to Steve Marchitelli for taking point on organizing our participation in the Offutt Open House. We raised a record sum of money for the event which goes directly into the scholarship account. Every cent goes to the award winners. My thanks also for the 20 of you who volunteered at the two booths we operated during the air show. This is what we do. And, I'd like to think that when we gather around the planning table to discuss fund raising events that we're not looking at this as a burden but as a privilege. Such has been the case for me.

But, time moves on. Earlier this year I stepped in as president and quickly noticed the same faces at the planning table. There were also fewer faces. It is time for change, a fresh look and active duty participation. The organization is about advancing the concepts and technology of Electronic Defense (Electronic Warfare) and Information Operations for the benefit of freedom's defenders in uniform. To this end it behooves the Strategic Roost to have active duty blood in its membership and on the board. What we do has direct and indirect impact on tactics, techniques, and procedures as employed by those who are ordered to go in harms way. With this in mind, I feel it necessary to step aside and allow the Roost to assume a new look with new ideas ready to meet the challenges presented in terms of membership, but also with respect to contributing to the defense of our country through technology, through education, and to the ideals that have helped shape the nation. These are not lofty ideals of duty, honor, and country but plain-spoken words of a patriot citizenry for the common good. There is something to say about the heart of a volunteer—especially when that spirit is focused on doing the right thing!

Please carve out some time from your schedules to join us for a Pizza/Speaker meeting. This meeting will be important as we will be electing new leadership. Lt Col Mohan Krishna, the current commander of the 343RS, is in the running for President. The meeting will be at the 343RS Briefing Room beginning at 11:15 on 15 October.

It has been my pleasure to serve you all. I look forward to serving in a capacity that works best for the Roost. I urge you to come for the elections, a bite of pizza, and a word from our guest speaker Mr. Spivey—a great speaker, leader, and mentor.

Mitch Houchin

President, Strategic Roost

## On the Calendar

### *Strategic Roost Elections*

OCTOBER 15, 2009—343RS Briefing Room. Several months ago, Lt Col Mohan Krishna took command of the 343rd Reconnaissance Squadron. On the 15th Strategic Roost Membership will have the opportunity once again to elect new leadership. Lt Col Krishna will be among the candidates running for the presidency of the Strategic Roost. Yes, the opportunity to return to a methodology taken from a page of Strategic Roost history presents us with a welcome possibility. Please consider coming out to vote for your choice.

### *October Speaker/Pizza Luncheon*

OCTOBER 15, 2009-343RS Briefing Room at 11:15 a.m. Mr. Joe Spivey, former 45RS Commander, will be our guest speaker. Come on out for pizza and a good talk on perspectives of the 45th.

## News

### *Information Operations*

The September issue of the Journal of Electronic Defense (JED) posted an article on Information Operations. While looking into the topics to fill in the white space in this news letter I perused OSD's Early Bird. (This is a great summary resource of information for those who have access.) There were several title leads that have something to do with Information Operations. Here are a few: "Defense Secretary Says Network Supersedes Platform for U.S. Army"; "Fight Afghan War To Deny Qaeda Propaganda Win"; "American Strategy of Winning Trust Of Afghan People Is High Risk"; "Pentagon: Our Cloud Is Better Than Google's". The JED article goes on to read that once again the Department of Defense is debating yet another change in the definition of IO.

Breaking down the will of an adversary forcing submission or an assent to particular information as truth has existed in many forms since warfare began. IO is nothing new. But the technology that exists today to leverage the many facets of IO from information denial to persuasion, influence, and even deception is. It adds validity to the concept and more tools for the generals to employ. Allow me to cite Lt Col John N.T. Shanahan's 2001 National War College paper to firm up the idea. "SHOCKED-BASED OPERATIONS New Wine in Old Jars. (Yes, Lt Col Shanahan is now Brig Gen

Shanahan, 55th Wing Commander.) In his paper, then Lt Col Shanahan builds the case for a "war fighting doctrine that places more emphasis on overwhelming an adversary physically and *mentally*." Current doctrine teaches that the goal of a war plan is destroying or neutralizing organized resistance.

Resistance. Is not resistance a matter of the mind, of the will?

Information 225 years ago travelled a much different path. Today information travels by wire, by radio and even by light through fiber optics. Access to information can be instantaneous but cognition of that data is not. The web for example, serves up information (or disinformation) that can be used for great but terrible purposes. If the end of US war policy is aimed at neutralizing organized resistance, what is the aim to states who employ an unorganized array of resistance or even attack through non-state actors? Insurgencies, terrorist networks, let alone the criminal element prove a difficult problem set. If an intermediary goal of these groups is to deny or destroy information are we equipped as a military component to go in harms way if our ability to pull from automated information systems were altered, degraded or destroyed by that unorganized entity?

Several years ago while TDY with RJ at Nellis AFB we were enduring several arduous debriefs. During one debrief an IT engineer addressed the audience on all the problems occurring during the exercise. The story goes that one platform's widget wouldn't talk properly with another platform's widget. We, the users of widgets, tend to want and request a single widget to do everything. Whereas IT personnel appear to like many different widgets or a modular concept. What IT suggests is that the different systems be connected by an interface. The argument is that if you have one system you don't need a thousand different interfaces to connect one platform to another... in essence you are all speaking one language. There is a downside to consider—the proverbial single point of failure with having only one widget fits all approach.

So you're wondering how on earth this relates to IO. Its in the article gleaned off the Early Bird referring to the network. We as a network are better than a single platform. I would argue to the analogy that as a military force we're more like a network of honeycombs.

IO is defined and debated. It has undergone name changes but it still remains something akin to what Quality and Deming were to the Air Force 15 years ago. At this point a commander can value the concept but would have to make serious choices in terms of how he or she can use it to the benefit of the task at hand—which at the moment in Afghanistan... is defending against the forces who threaten us and our way of life.