



# The Michigan Reservist

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Department of Michigan

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Semerad, CDR, SC, USN (Ret)

Our lives have changed and so has the way we support our membership and customers.

Our Annual Conference was successfully held virtually and conducted via Zoom Video and Telephone Conferencing Application and we were able to attract a wider audience. In addition to outstanding speakers on Cyber warfare, we attracted a wider audience of guests. The conference included valuable information for Veterans from Susan Lukas at ROA HQ. Next year, we anticipate a blend of on-site and remote participants.



Jim Semerad, CDR, SC, USN (Ret)

ROA HQ has been operating virtual, with at least one person each day

maintaining the office. It is amazing that the staff and volunteers have not stopped supporting members and Reservists.



Department Conducts Virtual Conference

From my sphere, Reservists have been ordered to Drill remotely. They are required to be ready for deployment. Many Reserve Units and National Guard have been activated. It is a different mission than what is expected, however, disaster relief is a mission Reserve members are trained and ready for. The ROA mission to support the Reserve soldiers and their family members remain important. Each of us should find a way to give in support of this important mission.

We are anxious to recruit and retain new ROA members. This recruiting effort demands that we understand the motivation of yourself as members and other potential new members. Bookmark in your browser ROA National Website at: [www.roa.org](http://www.roa.org) and our Department of Michigan Website at: [www.roami.org](http://www.roami.org). Please check the many new and very attractive membership categories and benefits (awesome). How can we help you. When visiting the website please check your contact information that it is current and up to date so we may better serve you and you can received your membership benefits.

Stay safe in these difficult times.



Virtual Services during the Pandemic



## ROTC Director

ROA Department of Michigan, Colonel Keith Sousa, US Army Reserve (Retired)

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, all of the colleges and high schools cancelled their awards ceremonies for the remainder of academic school year 2020. However, there were a few schools, i.e. Michigan State, and Houghton High School who held virtual ceremonies.

The ROA was still able to send certificates and medal sets to the universities and high schools that normally present our awards to their cadets, so we were still able to recognize those outstanding cadets who demonstrated leadership qualities and abilities.

Unfortunately, due to the virus, I was not able to attend the Army Commissioning ceremony at the University of Michigan. This is an inspiring event as I've been able to watch these newly commissioned lieutenants starting out their military careers. This has truly been an unusual year, but hopefully next year will be a little more normal for all of us. I'm sure that the ROTC/JROTC directors are anxious to get back to normal as well and move their respective programs forward.

The last article I wrote focused on Army ROTC students and what they did between their junior and senior year of college. As was noted, these students attend an advanced camp in which they are evaluated for their leadership and participation. This is a pre-requisite for graduation and commissioning.

Air Force ROTC cadets also complete a series of training between their sophomore and junior years of college, as well as between their junior and senior years of school. Between the sophomore and junior years, these cadets attend a basic officer's course at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. During this time the cadets complete courses in base defense, communications and field training events, along with other required courses. Between their junior and senior years in school, most cadets spend their summer at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There the cadets participate in cyber training, language training, engineering, and cadet training assistance programs. They also have the option to complete a glider pilot program, participate in survival training, and if time permits can obtain a private pilot's license.

On the other hand, Navy ROTC cadets spend their summer between their junior and senior year on ships that are similar to the ones in which they will be assigned upon commissioning. While on board they are instructed to follow and observe junior officers as they perform their various duties. They will also receive training in surface warfare, naval intelligence and other duties that may be required. Navy ROTC cadets have the option to become Marine Corps Officers. If selected, they will attend Marine Corps Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia. During this 10 week training course, the candidates learn the organizational skills and leadership requirements to lead Marines at the platoon leader level, and also receive instruction on weapons, physical training and combat training. The completion of OCS is also a pre-requisite for commissioning as a Marine Corps lieutenant.



Given the training that they receive, the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps cadets receive excellent training and are well prepared to take on the duties and responsibilities as second lieutenants or ensigns respectively. I look forward to the upcoming academic year and the commissioning of these new military leaders.



## Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, NOAA

Captain Ventz Potochnik, USN (Retired), Sea Services, Vice President

### Eight Leadership lessons from the Navy Carrier Captain Case

There is a Article and discussion by Charlie Dunlap, JD published on April 27, 2020 concerning leadership lessons from the case of CAPT Brett Crozier. The leadership points are included below however I strongly encourage you to review the Full Article at <https://sites.duke.edu/lawfire>. THE LESSONS:

**1) Senior military leaders should not assume a “peacetime” mindset in the midst of the risks intrinsic to 21<sup>st</sup> century “grey zone” conflicts.**

**2) Military leaders need to maintain situational awareness in a crisis.**

**3) In crises especially, military leaders need to be careful about the example they set in their civil-military relations.**

**4) In crisis situations, leaders need to think inclusively in terms of the organization as whole and not about particular career fields.**

**5) In crisis situations, leaders need to put aside concerns about their own careers.**

**6) Senior leaders, especially in complex emergencies, need to communicate in an effective way, and understand their options if they believe their concerns are being wrongly ignored.**

**7) Commanders (as well as the media and the public) shouldn’t confuse popularity with good leadership.**

**8) Don’t trivialize potential civilian casualties as a mere “political” problem.**



USS Theodore Roosevelt

It was recently reported that Captain Crozier ought to be reinstated. Apparently, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley wants “a ‘full-blown investigation’ into the events leading up to the “Crozier’s ouster” before making his recommendation. This would seem wise. The Navy has had a number of issues over the last few years that raise questions of morale, discipline and readiness. Both General Milley and Secretary Esper need to determine if this incident is a “one off” or yet another manifestation of deeper problems. The \$4.5 billion Roosevelt and its nearly 5,000 person crew are simply too vital to the nation not to be absolutely confident about its leadership.

Of course, it cannot – and should not – be an easy decision when it involves an officer with what we can presume to be an otherwise fine record. It would appear that Captain Crozier had zeal, but the question for General Milley and, ultimately, Secretary Esper, is was the zeal the right kind, and was it properly vectored? Or, was Secretary Modly correct that Captain Crozier lacked sufficient appreciation for the “larger strategic context” and competing “national security imperatives”? Did emotion make Captain Crozier too impatient about the pace of the Navy’s action and the leadership of civilian superiors? Did he allow adversaries to seize the initiative in grey zone conflicts? Did he overestimate the risk to his crew, and underestimate the risk to civilians? Overall, did Captain Crozier make the right decisions for the Navy and, more importantly, the nation? To be clear, Captain Crozier insisted that he was ready to take his ship into combat and fight adversaries if the nation was at “war”, but to what extent is he prepared to take risks to wage grey zone “war” when that’s the mission in our complicated world?

The stakes are high as our adversaries are closely watching how the U.S. military deals with the pandemic. Regardless of the disposition of Captain Crozier’s case, it’s imperative that the entire incident be evaluated to see what lessons can be learned. Please review the entire article online and see what you think?



## From the Air Force Vice President

Jack W. Bronka Lt. Colonel, USAF, Retired, Air Force Vice President

## Space Force Overview

The U.S. Space Force (USSF) is a new branch of the Armed Forces; established on December 20, 2019 with enactment of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act and will be stood-up over the next 18 months. The USSF was established within the Department of the Air Force, meaning the Secretary of the Air Force has overall responsibility for the USSF, under the guidance and direction of the Secretary of Defense. Additionally, a four-star general known as the Chief of Space Operations (CSO) serves as the senior military member of the USSF. The CSO is a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and also serves as the principal uniformed adviser to the Secretary of the Air Force on Space Force activities.



Space Force Announces Uniform

### Mission

The USSF is a military service that organizes, trains, and equips space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force. USSF responsibilities include developing military space professionals, acquiring military space systems, maturing the military doctrine for space power, and organizing space forces to present to our Combatant Commands.

### Space Force Organization

The USSF Headquarters and Office of the CSO are located in the Pentagon. This staff will focus on establishing a fully-functioning headquarters and, in conjunction with the U.S. Air Force, developing a detailed plan to transfer forces into the U.S. Space Force. As a new military service, the U.S. Space Force will leverage the Department of the Air Force for more than 75 percent of its enabling functions to significantly reduce cost and avoid duplication. The Department of the Air Force will provide support functions that includes logistics, base operating support, civilian personnel management, business systems, IT support, audit agencies, etc.

### People

Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) was redesignated as the USSF as an initial step in establishing the USSF. Military members that were assigned to AFSPC have now been assigned to the USSF but remain Airmen within the U.S. Air Force. This command was and still remains a combatant command. It is solely focused on the war fighting aspects of space. Appropriate Air Force space-related personnel will transfer into the Space Force and become Space Force service members in a deliberate manner over the next 18 months. Over time, the Department of Defense (DOD) vision is to consolidate space missions from across the Armed Forces into the USSF, as appropriate and consistent with law.



## From the Army Vice President

Louis Wilson, LTC, US Army Retired, Army Vice President



Testing new methods to charge batteries

## Marching Soldiers Can Charge Batteries

Scientists with the Army's Communications and Electronic Research Group (CERG) are looking to the soldier's own footsteps and movements to increase battery life and lighten the combat load for increasingly tech-laden troops. Researchers are forecasting that the battery load for a dismounted soldier could double by 2025, with more sophisticated electronic systems. The load currently runs from 15 to 25 pounds for a three-day mission, no small amount when every ounce counts, causing some soldiers to strip rations to cut weight.

New battery and power requirements could come from augmented equipment. The more sophisticated Next Generation Squad Weapon program will add new targeting capabilities to the soldier's rifle, but also needs more electrical power. Researchers with the Army's CERG and Development and Engineering Center said that the added weight means soldiers might fatigue more easily, be more susceptible to injury, and be less able to maneuver nimbly. The Army's Research, Development and Engineering (RD&E) Command is looking at advanced solutions to make the batteries that soldiers carry last longer, which means less weight as soldiers will need to haul fewer batteries to the field.

New footwear advances could help soldiers to use their own footsteps to charge devices in the field and enable commanders to track their location. The Army recently awarded a \$16.5 million contract to Robotic Research LLC for a sensor unit that fits on a boot and can be used to track individual soldier's GPS locations. A novel way, to solve the charging problem on the move, comes in the form of a recent patent out of the Army's Command, Control, Computers, Communications, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C5ISR) Center, which is developing a shoe insole that can generate electricity with each step. As the soldier's heel pushes down into the insole, the force hits a miniature rotational mechanism, turning a small generator, which creates an electrical charge. Other engineers have built a rucksack that converts energy into an electrical charge when the pack moves.



This unit uses knee motion to generate electricity

Researchers are experimenting with wearable solar panels that can fit to the body and continuously charge batteries. While it isn't always sunny in the field, soldiers are almost always moving. Researchers are also looking at a backpack frame that generates electricity to charge batteries from the subtle movements of the backpack frame while soldiers are on the march. Lastly, they're also working on the "kinetic knee harvester." This device would use the motion of a soldier's legs to build electrical current while walking

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## The Michigan Reservist

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