



The Michigan Reservist

The Official Publication for the Reserve Organization of America
Department of Michigan—www.roami.org

Issue 2 – 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jack W. Bronka, LtCol, USAF, Retired, President

A thank you to all of the members who attended our 23 April Department Conference. It was great to meet with many of our members who attended the speaker portion as well as our business meeting. Unfortunately, we did not have any zoom attendees. Our Zoom speaker gave an in-depth overview of the Chinese military buildup, comparison to Taiwan’s capability as well Chinese internal challenges, and global goals. Fingers crossed that our 2023 conference speakers can resume being in person. The EXCOM will begin work on the 2023 conference in the fall. If you have any suggestions for a conference theme, please feel free to share it.



Jack W. Bronka, LtCol, USAF, Retired, President

Our ROTC/JROTC Chair, Colonel Sousa, continues to

work with each school by providing ROA medal sets to nominated cadets. Award ceremonies remain limited but we continue to mail out the medal sets. In this issue we have a picture of several JROTC cadets that have been recognized. Great job Colonel Sousa.



ROA Conference 2022 EXCOM—Selfridge

On another military camaraderie note, many department members, in mess dress, attended the International Armed Forces Council Armed Force night in May along with Canadian officers. Great to hear the Army band playing the service songs.

A highlight for ROA in 2022 is that we celebrate our centennial. Celebrations are planned at the National Conference in D.C. 9/29 – 10/2.

As always, our thoughts and prayers are with those serving and in harm’s way. Jack





Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, NOAA
 Captain Ventz Potochnik, USN (Retired), Sea Services, Vice President



Maritime Patrol Association

Reporting from NAS Jacksonville, FL at the Maritime Patrol Association Conference and Symposium.

The Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) is proud to be the premier, non-profit professional organization for the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community. A nonprofit organization founded in 2011, MPA provides recognition and enhances the prestige of the MPR community by harnessing the power and support of our members and the community's industry partners.



MPA Conference and P-8A Poseidon—Captain Potochnik

This year's east coast conference was held at NAS Jacksonville during the week of 09 May 2022 with VP-30, the East Coast Replacement Air Group (RAG) squadron acting as the host. Vice Admiral James Whitsell, Commander, Naval Air Forces, was the featured sponsor and speaker.

Wednesday, 11 May 2022 was the big day of presentations and aircraft tours. Vice Admiral Whitesell started the morning with an overall view of Navy aviation and the state of the ASW/Electronic Intel/Special Activities, i.e., maritime patrol and reconnaissance activities. Much centered around the succession of the P-8A Poseidon in to the MPA community. Only two reserve squadrons, VP-65 and VP-69, and the electronic intel community still fly the P-3/EP-3 aircraft. There was talk of transforming two active duty squadrons to Navy Reserve to save money. Most of our allies are also either transitioned to the P-8A, in the process of transitioning, or thinking about transitioning. All in all, the Admiral painted a rosy picture with no bumps in the road. Talking with various pilots/NFO and aircrew revealed a less smooth transition with most expecting about five years to codify logistics and maintenance support.

Allied nation speakers followed with updates on their transitions and operational activities. Norway is completely transitioned to the P-8A, Australia is most of the way there, New Zealand get their final aircraft later this year, the Dutch are completely transitioned and are selling their P-3C fleet to Germany as the Germans await late delivery of their P-8A's, the United Kingdom will have a full squadron operation this year and the Canadians are thinking about transition. Presentations were made by the Royal Australian Air Force and the United Kingdom RAF on their operation experiences.

Aircraft tours and questions followed with inspection of the VP-30 P-3C and their new P-8A. The command representatives did not seem very available to intermingle with the troops. Could not buttonhole the Vice Admiral on the Reserve squadron transition proposal.

It was not all work and no play with a hanger Heritage Dinner on Wednesday night, a golf tournament and BBQ on Thursday and a Flight Suit Social on Friday night.



From the Army Vice President

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

Moscow's Demands Bring Surprising NATO Results

Moscow's demands to effectively dismantle NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), as a condition for Russian de-escalation, appear to have had the opposite effect. In the 17 Dec. 2021 ultimatum presented by the Kremlin, Russia wanted commitments that NATO would withdraw all troops from countries that joined the alliance after 1997, meaning all Eastern Europe, and for NATO to agree to admit no further members. A Russian goal appears to be to fragment NATO.

Russia kicked off large-scale military exercises in Belarus on its western borders with Poland and Lithuania, and Ukraine. The Russian exercises opened vectors to launch attacks on Ukraine, adding to the 100,000 troops Moscow had deployed to the Russian-Ukrainian border. The Kremlin first claimed the military activity was only an annual military training exercise.

On 21 February 2022, Russia recognized the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, in Ukraine's Donbas region. The Russian Federation Council authorized the use of military force as Russian troops overtly entered both territories. On 24 February 2022, Putin announced a "special military operation" to "denazify" Ukraine. Missiles and airstrikes hit Ukraine, followed by a large ground invasion from multiple directions. Simultaneously, Russia launched cyberattacks on Ukrainian military, governmental, and economic communications systems.

The Russian invasion marked a steep escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War. It has caused Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II, with more than 6.1 million Ukrainians fleeing. It was determined to be a violation by the United Nations, which condemned "all violations of international humanitarian law" to be against the Geneva Conventions. A UN General Assembly resolution demanded a full withdrawal of Russian forces. The International Court of Justice ordered Russia to suspend military operations. The Council of Europe expelled Russia. Many countries imposed new sanctions, which have affected the economies of Russia and the world, and provided humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine. The International Criminal Court opened an investigation into war crimes that occurred in Ukraine since the 2013–2014 invasion through the 2022 invasion.

The Western powers reactions may have surprised Moscow. Rather than quietly backing down, the Western Powers are working together as a united group by meeting and sending military personnel and equipment to NATO's western border and aid to Ukraine.

Of the 30 current NATO member countries, two are located in North America (Canada and U.S.), 28 in Europe, one (Turkey) is in both Europe and Asia. Three of NATO's members are nuclear weapons states: France, the UK, and the U.S.A. NATO has 12 original founding members. From 1952 to 1982, it added four more. After the end of the Cold War, NATO added 14 more nations, former Warsaw Pact members, from 1999 to 2020. Finland and Sweden are now considering joining.

The revolutions of 1989 in Europe led to a strategic re-evaluation of NATO's purpose. The Soviet Union dissolved. East and West Germany united. The Warsaw Pact collapsed. Spending by NATO's European members declined by 28% from 1990 to 2015. At the 1999 Washington summit, Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic officially joined NATO. Moscow did not like these developments. Russia appears to be attempting to restore the former Soviet Union. Successful Russian invasions have included Georgia in 2008, and Ukraine/Crimea in 2014, with no significant consequences.

Instead of quietly backing away from the pressure of Russian threats, NATO is becoming rejuvenated and stands firm. NATO members are increasing their military presence. Major members have primary zones of responsibility: UK for Estonia, Denmark for Latvia, Germany for Lithuania, and U.S.A. for Ukraine and Poland. NATO allies have stationed enhanced forward "tripwire" forces to ensure the Kremlin knows an attack on the Baltic states would be an attack on NATO. Their defense budgets exceed the minimum 2 percent of GDP mandated by NATO. NATO is drawing a line for democracy.





2022 Reserve Organization of American State of Michigan Annual Conference





ROTC Director

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

JROTC CADET LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE (JCLC)

Now that the school year is coming to a close, those graduating JROTC cadets who have enlisted in the various branches of military will soon be off to basic training and the start of their military obligations. However, many of those cadets who are in leadership positions and still have a year or two remaining of high school are selected to attend various leadership courses.



Approximately 250 cadets from the Atlanta, Georgia Public School system were selected to attend the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge Course (JCLC), which was conducted at Fort Benning, Georgia. This five day course focused on various leadership and physical activity requirements. The main focus of the course was to develop confidence and provide challenging experiences for each cadet, along with enhancing their individual organizational skills. In addition, it assisted in developing citizenship, overcoming fears, increased motivation, improved listening skills and in providing a future focus for these cadets. These are skill sets which can be used in high school, college, military service or other life experiences.

During JCLC the cadets participated in physical training, learned safety practices, drown proofing, zip lining and rappelling (conducted at the Airborne School) land navigation and the obstacle course. Cadets also completed the obstacle course at the Ranger School. They were given helicopter rides. The cadets also completed a land navigation course, which enforced team work, safety, and navigation methods. For many of these students, this was the first time they had actually been in the woods.

On the fourth day of the course, parents and loved ones were given the opportunity to visit the cadets and observe some of the training in which they participated. They were able to observe the cadets rappelling and completing the zip line, along with drill and ceremonies and other activities. Parents were impressed with the level of motivation, improved work ethic and the increased confidence in their cadets.

Training similar to the Cadet Leadership Challenge Course has proven to be very beneficial in developing these JROTC leaders, which will be carried back to their individual schools and JROTC programs. These young leaders also gain life skills which will help them in whatever their future holds.

On the fourth day of the course, parents and loved ones were given the opportunity to visit the cadets and observe some of the training in which they participated. They were able to observe the cadets rappelling and completing the zip line, along with drill and ceremonies and other activities. Parents were impressed with the level of motivation, improved work ethic and the increased confidence in their cadets.



Training similar to the Cadet Leadership Challenge Course has proven to be very beneficial in developing these JROTC leaders, which will be carried back to their individual schools and JROTC programs. These young leaders also gain life skills which will help them in whatever their future holds.

Training similar to the Cadet Leadership Challenge Course has proven to be very beneficial in developing these JROTC leaders, which will be carried back to their individual schools and JROTC programs. These young leaders also gain life skills which will help them in whatever their future holds.



ROA
Department of Michigan
6779 Serenity Drive
Troy, MI 48098



Phone: 248-879-7357
www.roami.org

EMAIL NOTIFICATION!
Yes I can help reduce the
printing and mailing expenses.

Please send your email address
to: smurdoch@imanor.com
And future newsletters will be
sent via email attachment.



The Michigan Reservist

Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor or columnists and are not necessarily those of the Department of Michigan or the Reserve Officers Association of the United States.

Newsletter Editor LTC (Ret) Scott D. Murdoch smurdoch@imanor.com

“BUCK A YEAR”

_____ \$ 1.00 – Buck a Year
_____ \$ 5.00 – Donor
_____ \$10.00 – Sponsor
_____ \$20.00 – Benefactor

Make your contributions payable to:

ROA Department of Michigan

Send to:

39842 Golfview Drive

Northville, MI. 48167

Name: _____ Rank: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Chapter: _____ Branch of Service: _____

