



The Michigan Reservist

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

Issue 2 – 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Louis Wilson, LTC, US Army, Retired, President

As we start the new 2023-24 fiscal year, I begin serving as the new president of the ROA-Michigan Department. Commissioned as a 2LT Armor officer through the R.O.T.C. program at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, my background includes 32 years of service during Vietnam, the Cold War, and Iraq - Desert Storm with the Armor School at Fort Knox, 70th Infantry Training Division, 84th Infantry Training Division, and the Command and General Staff College. Like many of you, I have experience as a company commander, S4 BN supply officer, G3 general staff, and Chief C&GS Instructor for Michigan. In addition, I am currently on the Planning Council for The Annual Armed Forces International Night.



Louis Wilson, LTC, US Army, Retired, President



the pleasure and privilege of working closely with my predecessors and other experienced team members. Together we have the experience and energy to have an active membership.

Our plans for the upcoming year include you, our current ROA members, through more communication and involvement, and to attract new members in Michigan military units, R.O.T.C. units, and affiliated military veterans' organizations. Our goal is to recruit, engage, and retain members. ROA's ability to stay relevant depends on maintaining a significant and active membership base.

Our membership goal is to Recruit, Engage, and Retain. We plan to be in touch through our newsletter, The Michigan Reservist, and Website, www.roami.org. In addition to the Annual State Convention in April, 2024., we hope to host other events of interest where you can meet new friends and renew existing ones..

Since joining the ROA-Michigan Executive Committee (EXCOM) team four years ago, I have had





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

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

Bits and Pieces

USMC Band Director Going to U of M

After nearly 10 years at the podium over “The President’s Own” United States Marine Corp Band, director Colonel Jason Fettig is passing the conducting baton and heading for Ann Arbor. The University of Michigan Regents approved Fettig’s appointment as director of bands and a professor in the Department of Conducting in the Music School, Theater and Dance. He will start teaching in January for the university’s winter session. As director of bands, Fettig will conduct the 70-member symphony band, teach graduate wind conducting students and administer the budget, faculty, personnel and curriculum direction for for the entire band program, which entails nine bands, including the Michigan Marching and athletic bands. Will we see him on the field for the 2024 season? Go Blue!



2023 Navy Birthday Ball

Navy Birthday Ball to be held on Friday, 13 October 2023 at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. Navy League of the United States sponsoring. Details and cost to follow. Get out the mess dress now to see if it still fits!

First Female Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Nominated by President Biden

Admiral Lisa Franchetti was five weeks into leading U.S. 6th Fleet when she oversaw the first-ever Tomahawk missile strike by a Virginia-class attack submarine. Days after Syrian President Bashar Assad launched a chemical weapons attack on his people in April 2018, then-President Donald Trump threatened to use military forces to destroy the Syrian chemical weapons facilities. Franchetti, then a three-star admiral still settling into her new office in Naples, Italy, was tasked by Defense Department leadership with striking Syria from European waters using naval vessels. The target was complex: Three facilities in Damascus and near Homs were close to Russian forces and air defense systems, which the U.S. wanted to avoid hitting. Franchetti and her 6th Fleet team both successfully used the new submarine John Warner to fire upon Syria from the Eastern Mediterranean and rearmed the boat afterward, marking two firsts.



Five years later — and after completing her tour as 6th Fleet commander, serving as the director for strategy, plans and policy on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and then becoming the vice chief of naval operations — Franchetti is now President Joe Biden’s nominee for chief of naval operations.

Franchetti’s nomination is likely to be sidelined by ongoing political fights on Capitol Hill over the military’s abortion access policy. The ongoing hold by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., has stalled more than 250 senior military confirmations over the last four months, with no resolution in sight.



From the Army President

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

US Army Logo Rebranded

What is old is new again in the Army's 2023 marketing campaign, resurrecting the 1980s and 1990's-era slogan, "Be All You Can Be" The new ad campaign comes as the service has struggled to appeal to younger generations and following the worst recruiting year in its history, coming up 15,000 soldiers short of its 2022 goal of 60,000 new recruits. Recruiters have even more ambitious recruiting goals for this year, aiming for 65,000 new enlistees.

This spring, Army officials said at the launch event at the National Press Club in Washington that they chose "Be All You Can Be" out of hundreds of other possible slogans. Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said that the slogan was picked not only for its nostalgic value, but because the data showed it had the most positive response.



BRAND



REBRAND



"All of the military services are facing the most challenging recruiting landscape in decades," Wormuth said. "So, it is a perfect time to be launching our new brand and launching our reinvented tagline 'Be All You Can Be.' The famous motto was first used in 1981 and served the branch for two decades, before the service moved on to the slogan "Army of One" in 2001, and then "Army Strong" five years later.

The U.S. Army Reserve's new logo resembles the Army's star moniker, which was updated in March 2023 as part of the "Be All You Can Be" recruiting campaign. The impact of the rebrand and resurrected slogan remains to be seen.

Selfridge Retiree Day at SANGB on Saturday, 16 September 2023

The Lower Michigan Retiree Appreciation Day Event will be held on September 16, 2023, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the 127th MI ANG Dining Facility, Bldg.164, Selfridge ANGB, MI 48045. If you are planning to attend and/or would like updates, please respond to the Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) email at self-rao@yahoo.com.

They expect to have speakers for TRICARE, Federal Employee Dental & Vision Insurance Program, Long Term Care, Military Officers Association of America legislative update, we do not anticipate that DFAS will have funding to attend. We expect flu shots and ID Card support will be available. A tentative Agenda is attached. If you need information before then, please call their office, 586-239-5580, on Tue-Fri between 0900 and 1500 hrs.



From the Air Force Vice President

Graydon W. Dimkoff, Lt. Col., USAFR, Retired, Vice President Air Force Section

Airmen need more trust, autonomy to win next wars, Air Force boss says

Lt. Col. Brad Webb awoke in N. Carolina on Sept. 11, 2001, to the news that the U.S. was under attack. Within hours, he and his special operations helicopter squadron were dispatched to New Jersey to await marching orders. The situation being dynamic, time being of the essence, and with no further orders, Webb knew he could not just sit.

So Webb—who retired as a lieutenant general last year—and his wingmen headed to the smoldering Pentagon and World Trade Center to help rescue their countrymen buried in the rubble, regulatory minutia and cautious planning be damned.

The actions of Webb’s team in the aftermath of the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil exemplify the swift decision-making that Air Force leaders say will be key to combat victories in the years ahead.

New Air Force doctrine published in August, 2023 outlines a vision of decentralized mission command that empowers units to work unilaterally in urgent situations, without waiting for multiple levels of leadership to approve their every move.

It’s an invitation to think outside the box in an organization that thrives on hierarchy and process, and it’s a plea to stop the perfect from being the enemy of the good.

“Throughout my career, I’ve witnessed the friction between bold leadership...and the guidance our Air Force has outlined in our instructions and regulations,” Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown said in a memo to the force in August. “Mission command—and our success in future crisis or conflict—is grounded in clear communication of intent, shared understanding, trust and empowerment.”

In the future, military officials believe wars will unfold faster than the chain of command may be able to keep up.

Airmen could be cut off from their commanders due to technical difficulties or combat losses, or lack the resources they’d typically have to do a job. Regulations might not directly tell them how to handle an urgent conundrum in the field. And, despite the service’s push for so-called “multi-capable airmen” and “agile combat employment,” that flexibility can come to a halt when people can’t move cargo without a particular inspection, or if they aren’t authorized to work on a certain piece of equipment.

Brown encouraged troops to trust their training and their fellow airmen. As long as troops understand their commander’s intent and keep leadership in the loop, he said, they should be allowed to accomplish the mission.

“Mission command does not grant subordinates authority to execute missions or make decisions outside of their commander’s legal authorities,” the service said. Nor is it a “license to ignore commander’s intent or take unauthorized or unnecessary risk.”

The new doctrine and Brown’s accompanying memo come as service leaders try to distance the force from the past few decades of combat in the greater Middle East and prepare for new challenges. Reforming the Air Force’s sometimes rigid ways can also help it work more seamlessly with its international allies whose smaller size and lack of red tape often make them more flexible in the field. “I trust your judgment as airmen and leaders to execute our mission,” Brown said. Original article by Rachel S. Cohen, senior reporter for the Air Force Times, Article dated 8/17/2023 and mildly edited for clarity and space.





From the Secretary / Treasurer

COL Donald Gates, US Army Retired, Department of Michigan

Soldiers Assess the Army's New IVAS for infantry

Soldiers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York began assessing the newest version of the Army's do-it-all heads-up display device, the IVAS, in August 2023.

The soldiers will take the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS) version 1.2 through a series of fit and comfort tests, weapons compatibility checks, evaluate its low-light sensor, and run mission planning tasks all in a heads-up display, said Lt. Col. Denny Dresch, the IVAS product manager for Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier.



IVAS 1.2 (left) features a lower-profile Heads-Up-Display (HUD) than IVAS 1.0 (right), improving comfort and performance.

The device aims to offer a multitude of individual and squad-level features for each soldier and their team. The IVAS's ability to turn each soldier into a sensor opens the door for the Army to create a networked battlefield.

Information sharing is key. Larger efforts of networking soldiers within a squad take on outsized roles as tactical computing expands. Those soldiers can serve as information nodes and sensors for a company, battalion, brigade, or division commander at a tactical operations center behind the battlefield. Tracking individual soldier positions, their condition, weapon usage and accuracy gives commanders a wider and deeper insight into the formations.

Applications include mapping, route planning, rapid target acquisition, troop location tracking and terrain modeling, virtual shoot house training tools and "instant replay" style after action reviews, among other features planned for the device.

PEO-Soldier commander Brig. Gen. Christopher Schneider emphasized in an interview with Army Times, that while many look at IVAS as a night vision device, it's better to see it as a way to put cloud-computing capabilities in the hands of an individual dismounted soldier on the battlefield.

Early testing has shown that the IVAS can link into tactical Wi-Fi-enabled systems on Bradleys, Strykers and helicopters. Soldiers have been able to see vehicle and aircraft camera views outside the hull. They've been able to pass data soldier-to-crew and vehicle-to-vehicle. Those are the options that developers aim for with the device — an all-encompassing situational awareness tool. It's akin to fighter pilot visibility inside the rifle-toting grunt's heads-up display.



From the Air Force Vice President

Graydon W. Dimkoff, Lt. Col., USAFR, Retired, Vice President Air Force Section

DOD Continues to Wrestle with Alcohol Sale in Commissaries

In 2018 a pilot program allowed 12 commissaries to sell beer and wine, primarily as a convenience to customers. Historically, beer, wine, and distilled spirits have only been sold on base at Class 6 stores, operated by the Air Force and Army Exchange stores.

Since June, 2023, the number of commissaries selling select beer and wine has increased to 26, all 14 additions being on Air Force and Army Bases.

Since June 1, 2023 the 26 commissaries, have experienced a 153% increase in dollar sales of beer and wine, and 144% in unit volume. So far, in fiscal 2023, commissaries have sold \$3.6 Million worth of beer and wine.

However, the additional sales and commissaries doesn't translate into an increase in overall on-base sales and profits. Instead, dollars have simply been shifted from Class 6 stores to commissaries. Indeed, the purchases at commissaries are more convenient, but overall sales on base have increased by only ½ of 1%. Also, AAFEES experienced negative earnings from alcohol, decreasing funding for the services as critical quality of life programs.

Balancing the momentum for adding the remaining 210 commissaries, is the DOD's overall efforts to deglamorize the use of alcohol. In fact, there has been a concern about excessive drinking in the military, and concern that for decades the military has promoted a culture of drinking. "Excessive and problematic alcohol use is a national public health issue that directly impacts suicide risk," stated the February 2023 report from the independent Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee. In 2021, 18% of service members who died by suicide, had an alcohol use disorder diagnosis. While some people have questioned the wisdom of even allowing the sale of alcohol on base, the committee did not recommend banning such sales. Rather, the committee recommended banning in-store advertising, limiting days and times alcohol is sold, and increasing alcohol's price.

Like so many issues confronting DOD, expansion of the number of commissaries allowed to sell beer and wine appears to be complicated, and appears for now, unsettled. Original Source: *Military Times*, Aug. 2, 2023



Air Force Plans to Deploy Reserve Members in Europe

The Air Force plans to call up Reserve members, including pilots and air planners, under President Joe Biden's July 13 executive order authorizing their use to bolster active-duty troops supporting NATO operations in Europe. "We put in a request for folks to help out in our air operations center, and some staff position billets here at Ramstein [Air Base in Germany]," said General James Hecker, commander of US air forces in Europe. He added that the Air Force is "going to put in some requests for some Guard units or Reserve units to come fill some [air patrol] taskings, so our active duty can get a [much] needed rest...."





ROTC / JROTC Chairman

Jack Bronka, LtCol, USAF, Retired

Many of you may not be aware that our long serving ROTC Director, COL Keith Sousa, has been recovering from a medical issue and I have accepted the position pending his return. At the end of the Spring school schedule, I was contacted by the various ROTC and JROTC schools regarding their outstanding cadet medals. For JROTC the department sends one medal and ribbon set plus a certificate to the presented to the cadet selected. For ROTC, the department send one bronze medal set for a sophomore, one silver medal set for a junior and a gold medal set for a senior cadet, along with ROA certificates. All cadets are nominated by their respective military schools based on criteria established by ROA national.



This year the department mailed out 33 medal sets to ROTC schools in Michigan which included Army, Navy and Air Force cadets. I also mailed out 14 JROTC medals sets to both Army and Air Force JROTC cadets.

Now that you are aware of our Department activity, each of the ROTC/JROTC units also conduct award banquets/ceremonies which we as members are invited to attend and present the medal set to the cadets. For JROTC, location include Howell, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Anchor Bay. One does not have to be from the same service at the school to attend. This year one of our Navy members attended the Army and Air Force award ceremony at Michigan Tech.

I will be providing you with those opportunities in our Spring 2024 newsletter and I hope some of our members would be able to attend and represent the Department of Michigan.

Jack



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: _____

