



# The Michigan Reservist

The Official Publication for the Reserve Organization of America  
Department of Michigan—[www.roami.org](http://www.roami.org)

Issue 1 – 2026

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ventzel J. Potochnik, Captain, United States Navy (Retired), Department President

Welcome to Winter. It looks like we will finally get an old fashioned cold, snowy season. The report on the state of the Reserve Organization of America is not looking good. State wise, we are running with about 400 members while nationally our membership is less than 30,000.

It is projected that the organization has about 5 years left before going out of business. The new national president, MG Penny Wilmoth, is looking for ways to increase membership. Of the 770,000 drilling Reservists, only 7.7 percent are current ROA members. That does not consider the number of National Guard members out there. State wise, we need your ideas and, more importantly, your action to increase our numbers. If you have a local veterans event, step up and man a table and recruit new members. Membership handouts and information is available on line.



Ventzel J. Potochnik, Captain, US Navy (Retired)



2026 Conference 18 April 2026,- Program —Drone Warfare

The Department of Michigan has been working on increasing our numbers by partnering with our state university ROTC/NROTC programs. LTC Lou Wilson is spearheading the Working Together program at the University of Michigan. We also support awards programs at MSU and Michigan Tech to mention a few along with statewide JROTC. Roger up and get involved by doing local presentations.

We try to copy all reserve centers and drilling sites with little response. If you are still drilling or know a select reservist, tell them to look to their future and sign up for an organization that gets them present and future benefits. ROA is Congress-

sionally chartered to do just that.

The State EXCOM is in the midst of planning the 2026 State Conference. Mark Saturday, 18 April 2026, on your calendar at Berkley American Legion Post, 2079 West 12 Mile Road, Berkley. This year's theme is Drone Warfare. More specific details attached and to follow.

Lastly, BZ to LTC Scott Murdoch who has been doing our newsletter for the last 25 years. The newsletter has been recognized by National as being an outstanding product. Alas, Scott is in need of relief. We are looking for a volunteer to assist or become the new editor. Please contact me if you have an interest in assuming the conn.

For now, that's all, folks. Our thoughts and prayers go with those in harm's and their families.

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### Find Your Place in ROA

Membership options that are designed for every stage of your service journey.

# Department Detroit Historical Veterans Day Activities





## ROTC / JROTC

Louis Wilson, LTC (RET), US Army, Vice-President

# ROTC Working Together Program: 2026 Plans

The ROA-MI & ROTC Working Together Program (WTP) is looking to the future. After a full year of successful seminar meetings and interactive phone calls, the Cadets and Officer-Mentors are enthusiastically looking forward to participating in the Program in 2026.

The UM ROTC Programs have moved into the newly remodeled Observatory Hall – ROTC Building. All UM ROTC Programs, Army, Navy, and Air Force, are housed as the only occupants. The building has a state-of-the-art seminar meeting room with: electronic equipment and connections, big screen TV monitor, Zoom capability, sound-tracking camera, white writable wall boards and conference tables. It is an ideal space for seminars. An Open House is tentatively planned for March 2026.



Observatory Hall—The ROTC Building

At the 19 Nov 2025 Meeting, the Cadets and Officers discussed plans for 2026. All of the participants are enthusiastically enjoying the program, having fun, and learning leadership skills and mentoring experiences. The general format of monthly meetings on Wednesday afternoon worked well. As it is the Cadets' Program, input from all 72 of the Cadets is needed. Cadet Lucero, as POC, volunteered to contact the Cadets via a Google survey to gather details and tabulate results. The meeting times need to consider the Cadets' class schedules and the Officers' driving times and availability.



Conference Room with Cadets. MG (RET) Joe Marsiglia on monitor via ZOOM. At far right are COL (RET) Chris Scagnetti and LTC (RET) Lou Wilson.

New ideas discussed were: 1. Inviting Officers from the War Colleges to make brief presentation on Cadet selected topics. 2. Offer alternative days and times for Cadets with class conflicts. 3. A “Flip the Script” option, where an Officer makes the initial contact with a Cadet, rather than have a reluctant Cadet initiate the contact. 4. Cite individual Cadet – Officer Mentor success stories in meetings. (The Officers have assisted individual Cadets in several instances.).



With the enthusiastic Cadet support and positive Officer-Mentor feedback, MAJ Goldstein and LTC (RET) Wilson are planning to offer the ROA-MI & ROTC Working Together Program (WTP) in 2026. “It is a rewarding feeling for the officers to pass on their hard-earned leadership experiences to our future leaders,” commented LTC Wilson. “Get involved as an Officer-Mentor.” For more information, interested officers from all service branches can contact LTC Wilson at [louis-wilson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:louis-wilson@sbcglobal.net).



## Activities

Louis Wilson, LTC (RET), US Army, Vice-President

# Detroit Historical Society Veterans Day Program

Mr. Charles Calcaterra, Group Tours and Program Sales Coordinator for the Detroit Historical Society (DHS), contacted LTC (RET) Louis Wilson in August 2025, with an invitation to participate in the first offering of a Veterans Day Program on Saturday 8 November 2025 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

**DETROIT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**



The purpose is to create an interest in military history with Detroit Area Public High School students. This may spark interest in history with students, who have family connections with military branches or conflicts. Interested students from Western International High School, Renaissance H.S., and others attended. Military service members, retired and active, were invited. LTC Wilson recruited military volunteers for this event from ROA-MI members and retired NCOs from the 70<sup>th</sup> Division.

The program started with the posting of the colors by a JR ROTC color guard. Mr. Calcaterra, who holds a Master's Degree in History from Eastern Michigan University, presented a program on military history and the vital role played by the City of Detroit in WW-II as the "Arsenal of Democracy." The veterans provided a brief personal background. The group adjourned from the auditorium to an area set up with tables and chairs for a Casual Oral History Workshop, that allowed for the students to ask questions and interview the veterans on an individual basis.

ISG (RET) William Price was of special interest with the students. ISG Price grew up in the City of Detroit, enlisted in the U.S. Army, served in the Viet Nam War, was a drill sergeant with the 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Training Division, and retired with 30 years of service. He is currently an active member of the Tuskegee Airmen M

acon-Thomas Chapter.

Mr. Calcaterra was pleased with the initial success of this new program, and plans to make it an annual event. Speaking of the workshop, Mr. Calcaterra said, "I extend another round of immense gratitude to the Reserve Officers Association of Michigan to the volunteers who participated in our program, especially to CDR James, Semerad, LTC Louis Wilson, and ISG William Price.



1<sup>st</sup> row left to right: Charles Calcaterra of DHM, JR ROTC Color Guard. Second row L to R: MSG Elijah Turner, LTC Wilson, ISG Price, CDR Semerad and JROTC Cadets.

The Detroit Historical Museum plans to make this an annual event." "Military themed programs and events provide ROA members opportunities to network with communities and military friends," LTC Wilson commented. "The ROA-MI is creating opportunities for members to interact."



## ROTC / JROTC

University of Michigan-AFROTC, Cadets Rachel Smith and Michael Dancea

# U of M Air Force ROTC Program

The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) remains a cornerstone in developing the next generation of Air and Space Force leaders. At the University of Michigan, AFROTC Detachment 390 fulfills this mission by combining rigorous academic instruction with hands-on leadership development that prepares cadets for military service.

Established in 1946, Detachment 390 has commissioned more than 950 officers into the Air Force and Space Force. The detachment serves cadets from the University of Michigan and 9 other cross-town partner universities across Southeast Michigan, all united by a shared commitment to service, integrity, and excellence.

Cadets progress through a structured four-year leadership development program designed to build both character and competence. Weekly Aerospace Studies classes provide a foundation in airpower history, military organization, leadership theory, and national security affairs, with upper-level coursework emphasizing applied leadership, ethical decision-making, and management principles.



Leadership development extends beyond the classroom through physical training and weekly Leadership Laboratory sessions. During Leadership Laboratory, cadets rotate through leadership roles, plan and execute training events, and lead peers in a controlled environment designed to foster growth and accountability. During the summer between their sophomore and junior years, selected cadets attend Air Force ROTC Field Training at Maxwell Air Force Base, a competitive evaluation that assesses leadership potential, physical fitness, followership, and performance under stress. Field Training marks a pivotal transition from underclassman to upperclassman status within the program.

Cadets also participate in the annual Field Leadership Exercise alongside other AFROTC detachments from across the Midwest. This weekend-long training event challenges cadets to apply leadership skills in realistic field conditions through leadership reaction courses and expeditionary skills training, including small-unit tactics and tactical combat casualty care. Upperclassmen lead the planning and execution of the exercise, gaining valuable experience in supervision and mentorship.

Detachment 390 further emphasizes professional development through base visits and career exploration opportunities. Recent visits have included Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and its Human Performance Wing, as well as Selfridge Air National Guard Base, where cadets participated in incentive flights aboard the KC-135.

Through these experiences, AFROTC Detachment 390 continues to develop officers of character who are prepared to lead in complex environments and uphold the core values of the United States Air and Space Forces.





**RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Reserve Organization of America**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**

**2026 STATE CONFERENCE**

**18 April 2026**

**Berkley American Legion Post 374**  
**2079 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley, 48072**

**Theme: Drone Warfare**

**Schedule of Events**

0930-0945 Conference Welcome & Introduction

0945-1045 Darshan Divakaran, Founder, Airavat Solutions

1045-1055 Break

1100-1145 Jim Santilli, CEO, National Transportation Safety Agency

1200-1300 Lunch and ROA National speaker

1300-1430 Department Business Meeting

Live Demonstration Drones!

**COST: \$25 conference fee at the door to include light Continental breakfast and Lunch**

**Please confirm your attendance by either calling LtCol Bronka at 248-879-7357, or by email at [bronkaj@comcast.net](mailto:bronkaj@comcast.net) NLT 10April 2026**  
**If attending via Zoom, Zoom link will be provided at time of confirmation.**

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## From the Air Force

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

# SCONUS Installations Vulnerable to Drone Incursions?



According to a January 20, 2026 Department of War Inspector General report, major military installations in the United States are insufficiently protected from drone attacks despite policies that require protection.

Part of the problem is that there appears to be bureaucratic confusion over which bases must be protected by law. As a result, there are startling lapses in counter-unmanned aerial system defenses, even at installations that have experienced multiple drone incursions. Luke Air Force Base in Arizona is a good example even though F-35 training takes place for 75% of the world's F35 pilots. Luke is not designated as a "covered" facility, or asset.

Under Section 130i, Title 10, of the U.S. Code, counter-drone defense is mandated for installations that fall under one of nine categories that range from nuclear missiles to weapons testing facilities. But training bases are not on the list. Officials investigated ten Department of War sites that have suffered drone incursions. One such site was the Air Force's Plant 42 in Palmdale, CA, which is a government owned, contractor-operated facility that produces spare parts for the Global Hawk. The plant, which has suffered several drone incursions, is included on the Air Force's list, but at least one Air Force official reported that Plant 42 is not covered, and at least one DOW official said it was.

The report also cited the Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, USN, Newport News Facility, where contractors perform construction and maintenance of aircraft carriers and submarines. The report, which was heavily redacted, cited the fact that unidentified drones flew for weeks over military installations in 2024. Even though a 2020 DOD memo requires the integration of defense systems to protect against such incursions, there were none at the Newport News facility. The C-UAS defensive packages, known as the "Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems" are integrated technologies designed to detect, track, identify and neutralize unmanned aerial vehicles that pose potential security threats. Unfortunately, another part of the problem is that the various armed services have different policies for submitting those packages, including requirements for organizational and leadership approvals. In 2025, DOD did establish the Joint Interagency Task Force 401 to coordinate C-UAS efforts, and those efforts are on-going.

The findings of the IG report match those of a series of wargames conducted by the US Army's Joint Counter-Small Unmanned Systems Office, and the RAND Corp. think tank. The wargames studied the drone threat to military bases in the US. With approximately 500 military installations in the US the policies varied greatly, to the point of some commanders having the authority to shoot down marauding drones while other commanders could face legal prosecution for doing so.

The good news is the DOW has launched the "Replicator" program to quickly produce autonomous systems like drones, boosting national defense capabilities. This article is based on a recent Air Force Times article written by Michel Peck, and from other sources.



## From the Army President

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

## Newsletter and Website Salute

The ROA-MI salutes Scott Murdoch, LTC (RET), U.S. Army. Closing in on 25 years of service to the ROA-MI, Scott Murdoch is the Newsletter Editor and Website Administrator. The Michigan Reservist Newsletter is published four times a year and is distributed state-wide to our membership by email and USPS. The ROA-MI Website, [www.roami.org](http://www.roami.org), is constantly online providing our members with current information about actives and events. The EXCOM officers, representing service branches from Army, Navy, and Air Force, write relevant articles and email them to Scott. He edits the articles and places them into an organized layout. Scott has done this on a parttime, volunteer basis, while working fulltime as a practicing attorney. Scott continues to do excellent, praise-worthy work and is a vital communication link to ROA-MI members.



LTC Scott D. Murdoch RET

In keeping with the military principle of “cross training,” Scott has expressed a Willingness for the ROA-MI to share his working knowledge of the Newsletter and Website with another interested ROA-MI member. If you are interested in sharing your editing skills and in networking with new military friends, contact Scott by email at [smurdoch@murdochlawfirm.com](mailto:smurdoch@murdochlawfirm.com).

## What is “Buck a Year”?

The “Buck-A-Year” program is your opportunity to support the Reserve Organization of American, Michigan Chapter (ROA-MI) with your donation. The ROA has two forms of full membership: Annual and Life. The Annual Membership requires a yearly payment of dues. The Life Membership is a one-time payment of a larger dollar amount. It is the only dues that you are required to pay for the rest of your life. Most of our members are Life Members, who enjoy many benefits.

The ROA-MI has expenses: Website, newsletter printing and mailing, conference venue, ROTC medal sets awards and activities, and more. To help the ROA-Michigan cover these expenses, the EX-COM created the Buck-a-Year Program several years ago. The idea was, and still is, that if our current Life Members could each donate a small dollar amount each year, we can remain financially sound. Did you know that the ROA-MI subsidizes the State Conference expenses of room rental, audio/visual/ZOOM equipment networking, and food? As an ongoing effort, the Buck-a-Year donation form is included in each Newsletter. we ask you to not overlook it, but to consider a small donation to help maintain the ROA-Michigan.



If you enjoy the news and information found in the Michigan Reservist Newsletter, the ROA-MI Website ([www.roami.org](http://www.roami.org)), sponsored events (Such as: The Annual ROA-MI State Conference, the ROA & ROTC Working Together Program, the ROTC Medal Set Awards to honor students, and more.), we ask for your donation to help support them. If all give a little, it will help a lot

ROA  
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## 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  
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