

# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2017



## PROMOTION ISSUE





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## NEWSLETTER

### SPRING 2017

#### Commander's Corner:

**NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA**  
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An entity of the  
**New York State Division of Military & Naval Affairs**



**Rear Admiral (LH)  
Ten Eyck B. Powell, III NYNM**

#### From the Commander:

Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of being the Commander of the New York Naval Militia is the opportunity it gives me to have conversations with younger Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen about their plans for the future. One of the unique features of our organization is the educational benefit that the State of New York offers to active Naval Militia members. Using this first, or in conjunction with GI bill benefits, creates a tremendous opportunity for our members to further their personal and professional education.

Another benefit that I encourage all of us to take advantage of is the opportunity to become actively involved in a leadership role, in some capacity, within the New York Naval Militia. Make sure when you give your supervisor your input for that



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**Cover photo:**  
A New York Naval Militia Chief Petty Officer pinning ceremony.

regular Reserve evaluation or fitness report, that you note the position or role you play within NYNM, and any state awards or citations you have received. As CAPT Weill indicates in his article, promotion is as much about the effort you put into making sure that people know what you have done, as it is about their recognition of your accomplishments.

With three regional commands, an active command staff, and the continued development of our MEBS staff, there are plenty of ways you can contribute and accomplish things that will improve your chance for the next rung up.

On a different topic, many thanks to the members of the WESTCOM leaders mess that allowed me to come out and listen to them as they enthusiastically talked of the progress they have made in creating a stronger, more vibrant force. For a number of years we have discussed having an exercise in the western part of New York, and due to their leadership that will happen this spring on Seneca Lake, in addition to our annual exercise at Camp Smith later on this year.

Our Chiefs mess continues to grow, and coalesce. SOCM Mach and Master Gunnery Sergeant Rignola have worked diligently to create the backbone network that we need in or to communicate effectively as a militia force. Please contact them if you would like to assist in their effort.

We never know what the winter or hurricane season will bring, but as always it is our obligation to remain ready to respond to the call of the state at any time. Our expectation is that every militiaman is ready to go if called, physically fit, and in good standing with their Reserve component. The level of interest the Reserve component in our ability to support the state and our members is at its greatest level in many years, and we intend to improve upon that.

Enjoy the spring, as always, be safe, and if the whistle blows, be ready to run!

## Promotion News from the Chief of Staff:

The next promotion cycle is less than six months away. Soon we will be forwarding to Regional Commanders and Senior Enlisted the names of members that are potentially eligible for promotion in the 2017 NYNM Promotion cycle.

You must submit a Promotion Application in accordance with New York Naval Militia instruction 1410.1B to be reviewed for promotion.

[http://dmna.ny.gov/forms/naval/NYNMINST\\_1410\\_1B\\_PROMOTION\\_POLICY\\_AND PROCEDURES\\_2015.pdf](http://dmna.ny.gov/forms/naval/NYNMINST_1410_1B_PROMOTION_POLICY_AND_PROCEDURES_2015.pdf)

The New York Naval Militia is fortunate to have dedicated men and women that give up their time in the service of New York State. As we know the opportunities for accolades, rewards, and pay are few and far between. However, for those members that are no longer part of the Drilling Reserves there is still a measure of recognition and appreciation: Promotion.

The referenced instruction provides the guidance on submitting a promotion package to Headquarters. The Promotion Board will meet after 1 JUN 17 this year. Please have complete promotion packages submitted by 30 May 2017, to the "President, 2017 Promotion Board c/o CAPT David Hawley, Executive Officer, NYNM, DMNA, 330 Old Niskayuna Rd., Latham, NY 12110." If you believe that you are eligible for promotion you are encouraged to submit your application. The first duty of the Promotion Board is to verify eligibility.

Applications for Promotion should be sent via US mail, email with .gov or .mil addresses, or by FAX. (you may also drop off the application to the NYNM Office) Do not send your SSN by email.

A very important part of any promotion package is a letter of recommendation from your reporting senior. In most cases this will be your Regional Commander. This is in addition to a current evaluation or fitness report.

I cannot stress enough to talk to your Regional Commander about what you can do to improve your promotion application.

It is extremely important that members that wish to be considered for promotion provide a complete promotion package. Nothing provides the promotion board with a better "first impression" than a complete and well organized promotion application.

Key on last year's Promotion Board was the question:

"What has this individual done for the New York Naval Militia lately?"

If you cannot answer that for yourself then contact your Regional Commander to get involved. The answer is not: "Once I get promoted I'll do lots."

If your NYNM activities in the past year are not obvious then explain what you have done in the past year in your letter to the Board President.

Please contact the Chief of Staff if you have any questions.

## **NORTHCOM News:**

NOSC Schenectady: The C.O. of NOSC Schenectady has authorized the N.Y. Naval Militia to conduct indoctrination onsite, every drill weekend, as well as have personnel available for questions and recruitment.

## **Promotion Boards Through the Eyes of a Board Member:** (by CAPT Larry Weill)

Promotion Boards are an interesting topic that are of interest to just about anyone who has worn the military uniform. Especially in these days of "smaller is better," you need to figure out how to keep moving up or you may soon find yourself looking in from the outside.

I must admit that I feel rather lucky (or privileged) to have sat on so many promotion/selection boards over the years. I was pleased to serve on 14 Navy Statutory Promotion Boards, APPLY Boards, and Special Boards, in addition to those in which I participated with the NYNM. I also wrote volumes of notes and advisories on promotion boards while serving as the VP for Professional Development for the Naval Reserve Association (now the AUSN), so this is somewhat of a hobby for me.

The unfortunate point about most individuals who go before the promotion boards (either Navy or NYNM) is not understanding the process for getting selected. Too often, candidates either submit packages that are missing substantial requirements, or they place their focus in the wrong directions. Either case can be a selection-killer, especially in years when the number of promotions is limited.

As a bare bones starter, have you reviewed the Promotion Board Checklist, which was sent out to eligible personnel on March 20? It summarizes the twelve requirements outlined in Instruction 1410.1B, which is also posted on our NYNM website. Is your Physical Exam up to date? Did you submit five years (minimum) of FITNESS Reports? Did you file a Civilian Skills Questionnaire? All these requirements and lots more are the MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS for consideration by the selection board. Failure to submit these



requirements will remove you from consideration before the discussion even gets started.

But once the records hit the roundtable of NYNM reviewers, a completely different set of criteria enter play. That is, the military wants to know not whether you performed you last job well, but how prepared and suited are you to perform at the next higher level? To start this discussion, it is important to see how you have performed against competition in your previous jobs. In other words, were you EP (Early Promote), MP (Must Promote), or P (Promote)? Hopefully, you have either been an EP or an MP, and “trended to the right,” meaning you’ve moved up between your annual FITREPs. Moving the other way, indicating declining performance, is another selection killer.

Another HUGE factor is that you have performed in positions of leadership, whether as a Work Center Supervisor, Division Officer, or other leadership position. Don’t get caught stagnating as the “Special Projects Officer” or “Navy Federal Campaign collector” for three years in a row. That will quickly be noted in the mind of every member of the board. Find positions of leadership, and keep striving to move up in your levels of responsibility and performance in every FITREP. (BTW, I have seen APPLY Boards that started their first week by dividing all the service records into two piles; one containing officers who have had command, and the other who did not. Guess which pile received the greatest interest for billets?)

Deployments and meaningful periods of Active Duty also receive attention at the Board. Were you part of the “boots-on-the-ground” in recent exercises and operations, especially at the “pointy end of the spear?” Likewise, with the NYNM, were you mobilized for Hurricanes Irene or Sandy, or Operation Lake Effect? Are you an annual participant in Exercise RAPID

GUNWALE? Are you qualified as a Coxswain on a MEBS platform? Use these qualifications and experiences to TELL THE STORY! Remember, “the Board Abhors a Vacuum.” They want to know what you have been doing for your service, and how well you tell the story. Better yet, have your Regional Command write a Letter of Recommendation that outlines all of these experiences. Remember; if you don’t tell your own story, no one will do it for you.

Finally, if you write a letter to the Board (which is permit-able in any service), make sure that you have drafted a well-written document that expresses your points and issues in a clear, concise format. You do not want to document qualifications and accomplishments that have already been documented in other places inside your record, as the Board has to open every file you submit. But if you are in doubt about the Board seeing a new item (i.e., a Navy Achievement Medal, or something equivalent), submit it just to be safe.

There is so much more to discuss on this topic, and I feel confident in saying that a full book could be written on the subject. But these are some of the more important issues to address, and will give you a good running start towards a successful promotion board.

Good luck, and I hope to see you at your promotion ceremony!

## **FITREPS and Evaluations; Read Every Word**

**(CAPT Larry Weill)**

I cannot stress how important it is to read every word of your FITREP or Enlisted Evaluation before you sign it. “Typos” and other mistakes look terrible on a selection/promotion board, and gives Board members the impression that you don’t care enough to even read your own evaluation. And if you don’t care about your own record, you certainly

wouldn't care about the records of your subordinates.

As a funny sea story, I must re-tell the saga of the Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel who was going up for "Full Bird" (O-6). (This is a true story.) In one of his past O-5 FITREPS, he had ended up as the sole member of a Urinalysis Team onboard ship after all his assistants had departed the ship on liberty. Unfortunately, the ship received a message calling for a complete "Command Sweep" urinalysis, meaning that all 400 people onboard had to be tested, and the Lieutenant Colonel had to test everyone *personally*. Well, the officer got it done and completed the entire testing by himself. He was extremely proud of his feat, and claimed as a bullet on his FITREP. Except there was a problem...he didn't read every word on his FITREP and check it for typos. He tried to say that he "personally tested over 400 urinalysis samples in a command sweep," but there was a typo in the word "tested," and it appeared as "tasted" on his FITREP. Yup! When this FITREP appeared before the Board, the entire "tank" of Board members went into such hysterics that they had to take a lengthy break and re-convene later. Lesson learned; read every word, because any mistakes will make it appear as though you don't care about your own record.

## Looking for Personnel in the Capital Region:

The Naval Militia is looking for Albany-area drilling reservists (Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard) who are interested in supporting the Joint Force – New York headquarters during state mobilizations. Between the Naval Militia HQ and the N.Y. National Guard HQ in Latham (next to Albany International Airport), we have identified upwards of 12 positions that would need to be filled during emergencies and other contingencies. All candidates must have a valid Common Access Card (CAC). Skills needed are wide-ranging, including personnel management, logisticians, IT and

communicators. If interested in finding out more information, contact CAPT Hawley, the Chief of Staff at (518) 786-4584.

## Exercise WESTERN HORIZON:

### New York Naval Militia will conduct Exercise WESTERN HORIZON on 19-20 May 2017

The members of the NY Naval Militia are always looking for opportunities to volunteer, train and serve. This spring, they will have that opportunity as they sign up to participate in Exercise WESTERN HORIZON, a new exercise conducted on Seneca Lake, in Western New York. The exercise is a ground-



*Site of Exercise WESTERN HORIZON on Seneca Lake*

breaking event that will test the Militia's capabilities in conducting a full-scale exercise on a Regional basis.

"WESTERN HORIZON is really a unique event in that we will be pulling the vast majority of the participants from Western New York" said CAPT Tom Hurley, Regional Commander of WESTCOM. "The normal scenario is to establish an exercise much closer to NY City, where we can draw from the thousands of NYNM members who live and work in the metropolitan area. But accidents and other casualties aren't confined to a 30-mile radius



of NY City, so this will be a great way to flex our Western resources and personnel much closer to our area.

The plan calls for the presence of four MEBS (Maritime Emergency Boat Service) boats, acting as both exercise participants as well as control platforms. "This exercise will give us a triple chance to test our capabilities" said CDR Don McKnight, Commander of the MEBS service. "Not only will we exercise our people and our platforms on Seneca Lake, but we will also take advantage of the chance to test some new communications equipment and our ability to transmit to our JOC (Joint Operations Center) in Latham, NY. So it's a win-win-win opportunity for us all."

NYNM personnel will conduct the event operating out of the Willard State Training Facility, which will provide the messing and berthing facilities. Approximately 45 people will be involved in the exercise, which will take place in the second half of May. "The participants themselves won't know the nature of the events in the exercise, as they will be asked to respond rapidly and efficiently to take care of the circumstances" said CAPT Larry Weill, Exercise Director for WESTERN HORIZON. But we are looking forward to working with this group because it will involve a lot of people who have yet to participate in one of the major training exercises down near NY City. But they will be ready, and most of them are already "pumped" for the chance to show what they can do."

WESTERN HORIZON will be a great opportunity to demonstrate the NYNM and MEBS' ability to respond whenever and wherever needed.



## Recent Recruiting Awards:

### 1st Award

LCPL Justin CHERMAK  
 ABECS Charles DICK  
 GM2 Maria HIDALGO  
 MM3 Videsh MUNGAROO  
 CWO2 Arthur NOLAN  
 BM2 Taotao REN



### 5th Recruit-Bar

MA3 Luis BELLIARD  
 CAPT Spiro COLAITIS  
 RP1 Kenneth GLADDING  
 CAPT David HAWLEY  
 LCDR Jason LASKER  
 LS1 Brent YOUNG  
 HMC Jason RODRIGUEZ  
 PR2 Yu TAM

### 20th Recruit-Bar

SGT John ORELLANA

### 25th Recruit-Bar

SSGT Chad DIBIASE (OVER 30 SM)  
 CAPT Lawrence WEILL (OVER 30 SM)



**U.S.C.G., U.S.M.C., U.S.N. DRILLING  
 RESERVISTS WITH MILITARY LICENSES NEEDED.**

**CONTACT YOUR N. Y. NAVAL MILITIA REPRESENTATIVE TO  
 "GET IN THE FIGHT!"  
 OR VISIT: [HTTP://DMNA.NY.GOV/NYNM/?ID=JOIN](http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=join)**



## Military Emergency Boat Service:



PB 301 is launched at Germantown on 5APR17. The boat sailed down the Hudson River to assume duties with JTF Empire Shield.

**Promotions for MEBS personnel.** Eligible, non-drilling members of MEBS may submit a promotion packet for consideration. Usually, the MEBS Commander serves as senior ranker for performance evaluations that are required in the package. The member's Region Commander is the assigned Reporting Senior. Candidates should route their packages through the chain of command, including their MEBS Regional Coordinator (this is different from your Region Commander) to the MEBS Commander. All packages must be complete, to include

performance "bullets" and a photograph per the promotion instruction. The MEBS Commander will then review and finalize a performance evaluation for the Region Commander's consideration. The Region Commander has final say on all evaluations for personnel in their command.

MEBS is an elite unit within the New York Naval Militia. Due to higher standards of performance within MEBS, candidates for promotion often have a higher rate of success in getting selected especially when it comes to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. However, all MEBS personnel who have been selected for Chief Petty Officer have also demonstrated exceptional skill, initiative, and broad leadership talents. We encourage the selection and promotion of our MEBS personnel who are deserving.

**New MEBS Logo, and uniform patch for MEBS personnel:**





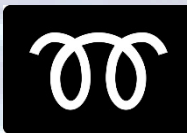
## UPDATES FOR DIESEL TRUCK OPERATIONS:



**Procedures for fueling MEBS trucks** have changed. Instead of using the license plate number as a Driver I.D., a newly assigned number for each truck and its corresponding fuel purchase card have been issued. After inserting the WEX fuel card into the fuel pump, you will be asked for the Driver I.D. number. This four-digit number can be found on the cover of the truck log binder, and also inside the fuel-fill door on the side of the truck. Since entering the truck's odometer reading is also required at each fuel-up, WEX cards are NOT inter-changeable between trucks.



**How to start a MEBS diesel truck.** MEBS vehicles are all Ford Super-duty trucks. When starting the diesel engine, insert the key in the ignition and turn, but do not start the engine. On the instrument panel, you will see indicator lights including the glow plug pre-heat indicator light. While the glow plug light is illuminated, the plugs are warming, which greatly assists in the starting of the trucks. Wait for the glow plug light to go out (usually just a few seconds), and then start the truck. Not waiting for the glow plug light to go out before starting causes



excessive wear on the engine and increased maintenance costs.

The truck should be allowed to warm up to operating temperature before travelling, especially when towing a trailer.

## Education News:

The next eligible semester for RIRP education benefits is Fall, 2017.

**The deadline for submission of benefit applications is 15 August 2017.**

Note that RIRP applications MUST be signed using CAC signature from now on. All eligible applicants will have a CAC. Applicant must sign DMNA FORM 96-1, Block 3f electronically using a CAC. See the image at right.

## Member in the Spotlight:

BMC James Bruce, NYNM



The U.S. Navy retired one of its finest recently (March 4) at a ceremony at the boat house building in Buffalo. BMC James Bruce formally retired following a naval career that spanned parts of four decades and two Navies.

Chief Bruce’s career began in the British Navy. Born and raised in Scotland, he quickly made his mark in the Royal Navy as a steady performer and someone who could be counted on at all times to perform almost any task. His 15 years of service included combat time in the Falkland Islands, where he operated as an integral part of their combat team.

Chief Bruce’s time in the American Navy was even longer, serving for 21 years and once again ending up in harms was in places like the Persian Gulf during the war to liberate Kuwait, and the rescue operation in New York City in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attack. His list of personal awards and campaign ribbons is lengthy and impressive.

In addition to his Navy Reserve duties in Buffalo, Chief Bruce has become an important figure in the New York Naval Militia. Utilizing his skills as a craft operator from ASSAULT CRAFT UNIT

TWO, he is a regular participant in the MEBS training program, as well a major link in the annual retrieval and deployment of the MEBS boats from Leeds to the various upstate stations. He has also served as the LNO for NOSC Buffalo as well as a high-powered recruiter for both membership as well as participation on the various NYNM exercises and operations. This spirit of volunteerism has been a true hallmark of Chief Bruce’s career.

The ceremony was attended by RDML Powell, who presented Chief Bruce with the NY State Military Commendation Medal. He also received the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal as part of the proceedings. Also in attendance from NYNM were CAPT Thomas Hurley (WESTCOM Commander), CAPT Weill (Ops/Training), and CWO4 Slominski who delivered the remarks summarizing Chief Bruce’s remarkable accomplishments. The ceremony was followed by a reception attended by over 100 people, including Chief Bruce’s family and many of his Navy shipmates.

## New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

6-Apr-17	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	153	32	39	<b>224</b>
WARRANT	13	4	5	<b>22</b>
ENLISTED	1851	289	337	<b>2477</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>2723</b>
NAVY	1024	146	228	<b>1398</b>
MARINE	832	135	132	<b>1098</b>
COAST GUARD	114	3	1	<b>118</b>
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	17	6	3	<b>26</b>
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	30	35	17	<b>82</b>

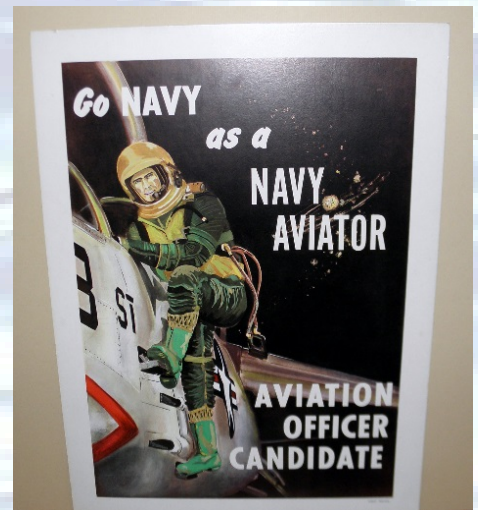
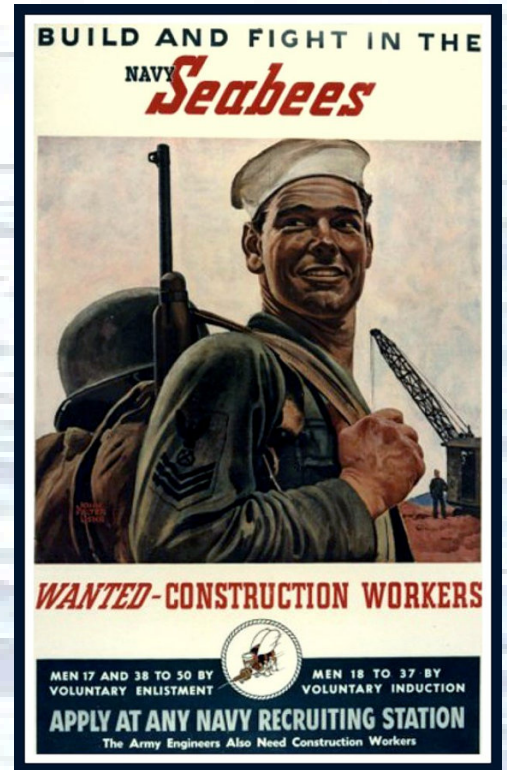


## Call for Poster Ideas:

Many of us can remember the iconic Military Recruiting Posters. Some of us may have even walked into a recruiting office because a compelling poster caught our eye. Your New York Naval Militia is entering a new age of “Specialist Utilization”. More and more the leadership of the New York State Defense Forces are asking the Naval Militia: “What specialist do you have?” They are asking this because they recognize that the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve members that are in the Naval Militia have the skill sets needed for New York disasters and emergencies. Last week in the Operations office I was asked: “Does the NY Naval Militia have Culinary Specialists? We need qualified cooks for forward bases.” We have been asked for IT Specialists and specific vehicle drivers with Federal training and licenses. We have used Logistics Specialists, Hospital Corpsmen, Doctors, Nurses, Mechanics, and Master At Arms.

The New York State Defense Forces will always ask the Naval Militia to be a “Force Provider” of general purpose personnel to assist in emergencies. These recalled volunteers will help evacuate flooded areas, search for citizens in distress, fill sand bags, shovel snow, direct traffic, and more general purpose duties.

Now my call to you, as members of the Naval Militia, send me your ideas for Naval Militia recruiting posters. We may be able to reproduce these in 3' x 2' “poster size” copies and hang them in Reserve centers. Because they may be in either joint centers or Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard specific, please use your imagination and you can target a specific Service.



Send your ideas to: CAPT David Hawley, NYNM, DMNA, 330 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY 12110 or [david.h.hawley1.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:david.h.hawley1.nfg@mail.mil)

Rough artwork is always appreciated as is any volunteer artist that may be interested in converting rough artwork into finished posters.

Promotion Board Checklist

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Promotion to: \_\_\_\_\_

	Yes	No	Comment
Recommendation for Promotion:			
Narrative Justification:			
Minimum Time in Grade Met:			
Recent Photo attached			
Current Fitness Report on File			
Current Medical Qualification on file			
Billet Description			
Meets Grooming Standards			
NYNM Application on File			
Age less than 68			

RECOMMENDED FOR PROMOTION

NOT RECOMMENDED

COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:



# SHIP'S STORE INFORMATION

The New York Naval Militia provides this information for the benefit of our members. The NYNM does not endorse any of the vendors' products:

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 1800NAMETAPE.COM




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<https://dmv.ny.gov/custom-plates/naval-militia>



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