

# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018



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An entity of the  
New York State Division of Military & Naval Affairs



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### Cover photo:

Sergeant Christopher Vega is presented with the New York State Medal for Valor on 14 March 2018, at Camp Smith.

## Commander's Corner:

Excelsior! The motto of the State of New York and the New York Naval Militia. Translated from Latin as "Onward and upward!" this one word describes what we have accomplished together during the last three and one half years. When I review the accomplishments of my time as Commander, what strikes me is the unceasing willingness of our volunteers to sacrifice time from family and work to initiate new ideas, while mobilizing to serve their neighbors and friends.



When our staff believed that our Military Emergency Boat Service could better serve the Military Forces of the State by providing a landing craft, they figured out how to apply for a grant, design the boat and supervise the construction. When we decided that the best way to exercise our ability to recall Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, while providing valuable training, was to conduct our first ever exercise, at minimal expense to the State, at Camp Smith. When the Department of Military and Naval Affairs asked if NYNM could provide food service for up to 400 recalled troops, we found a way not only to meet, but exceed their expectations.

This is the true meaning and spirit of Excelsior, and is in fact what it means to be a member of a sea service. When we go to sea, all of the people that can solve problems, fix things and do things, go with us. If the ship is on fire or flooding, we have two choices: fix it or swim. It is this “can do” spirit that we, as a group, bring to the table.

As I turn over command of NYNM to RDML Zakriski, I am confident that the men and women of the New York Naval Militia will continue to climb onward and upward. Excelsior!

## **NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA CHANGE OF COMMAND**

Rear Admiral Ten Eyck B. Powell, III will be relieved as Commander, New York Naval Militia by Rear Admiral (select) Timothy G. Zakriski.

The ceremony will take place on Friday, 22 June 2018 at 1300 hours. The location is Schodack Island State Park, Castleton on Hudson, N.Y. (Rensselaer County)

Rear Admiral Powell has served as Commander, New York Naval Militia since 6 December 2014.

## **Chief of Staff Comments**

Many changes for the New York Naval Militia – In 2017 the Naval Militia saw personnel being asked to provide Culinary Specialist skills for the operation of a kitchen at Camp Smith for Hurricane Maria Support and then repeated the Food Service Support in March supporting the massive snowstorms that caused power outages and downed trees across the Southern portion of NY State.

How is this a change? For many years the Naval Militia was tasked in emergencies and

disasters for “General Purpose” personnel. Now we are asked to provide lists of specialists for upcoming missions. We are still asked for general purpose personnel but for the next emergency we have been asked if we can provide: Culinary Specialists; Communications Specialists; Operations (watch standers) Specialists; and others. We need to know your specialties so we will be asking. You do not have to wait to be asked - on our Forms web page we have a Military and Civilian Skills Questionnaire you can fill out and send to us anytime.

Summer is here and the Hurricane Season runs from June through October. If a storm is approaching New York we will be looking for volunteers and we will need to know the additional expertise you bring to the fight.

## **Operation MARCH DEBRIS CLEARANCE**

*By LCDR Kenny Fellers, NYNM N31*

In early March, a Nor’easter blew through the Lower Hudson Valley yielding a significant heavy snowfall downing trees and powerlines, which resulted in power outages for thousands of households and businesses in the area. The Naval Militia was mobilized to provide chainsaw teams and a food service team to Operation March Debris Clearance based out of Camp Smith Training Site (CSTS) in Cortland Manor, NY 5-15 March. Some neighborhoods were without power for up to two weeks.

Chainsaw training and operations are not a core competency for the Naval Militia. But with the help of NY Guard certified chainsaw trainers in a compressed training timeline, thirty motivated Naval Militia were trained and certified to conduct clearance operations. Several teams deployed with Rockland County and Westchester County Highway Departments to effect roadway clearance to allow local traffic, emergency vehicle, and

power company access.



*BM2 Wilson trains on the chainsaw at Camp Smith*

After manning up and training to clear debris from one Nor'easter...another Nor'easter arrived. The same area that had received such a blow, and was still recovering from the storm a week earlier, had to deal with yet another significant snowfall. Naval Militia personnel augmented the Yorktown Police Department and conducted welfare



checks on vulnerable population once the storm subsided. The Naval Militia was lauded by the Yorktown Chief of Police for outstanding service to his town.

In order to feed upwards of 250 National

Guard, Naval Militia, and NY Guard personnel, the crack Naval Militia food service team sprang into action. Under the guidance of CSC Wayne Hurlburt, the reliable and highly dependable team of Naval Militia sailors and marines provided three hot meals a day for the duration of the operation. With little time to ramp up to full strength, and in the case of one breakfast during a power outage, every soldier, sailor, and marine were sustained with excellent food and unmatched service.

The NY Naval Militia can be assured to be called on again to help New York communities recover from natural disasters. Now that we have a bench of thirty qualified sawyers, there is an expectation of chainsaw capable rapid response from the Naval Militia. We should expect it and we should plan for it.



*TEAM GALLEY preparing meals in the dark*

## AWARDS

### NYS Medal for Valor

SGT Christopher Vega,  
Peekskill



## Medal for Meritorious Service to NYS

CAPT Timothy Zakriski, Scotia  
SOCM Charles Mach, Galway



Board will be held in June 2018. The period of performance for the Award is 01 April 2017 - 31 March 2018. See attached

The available awards are:

1. Naval Militia Member of the Year
2. Naval Militia Unit of the Year

## NYS Military Commendation

HT1 Robert Wright, Webster  
MN2 Raymond Arocho, Fishkill  
CPL Malik Duff, Roosevelt  
EOC Tom Gray, Dexter  
IT1 Joseph Teson, Colonie  
CSC "Butch" Hurlburt, North Granville  
OS1 Rachel McGarry, Caroga Lake  
BU1 Steven Putney, Rensselaer  
MM1 NNaedozie Agbasonu, Brooklyn  
CAPT Lawrence Weill, Walworth  
LT Joseph Painter, Rochester  
ITC Joseph Williford, East Rochester  
MA1 Samuel Carrigan, Montour Falls



These awards go to the Individual or Unit that has distinguished themselves during the past most recent State Fiscal Year. Reserve Units awarded must have at least 50% membership in the NYNM.

Each carries a cash award of \$300 and a plaque designating the recipient.

No formal nomination package is required other than a write up addressed to the Josephthal Awards Board of the award nominee's outstanding achievements of SFY 2017-18.

Please submit award nominations no later than May 30th, 2018

## Humane Service to NYS Medal

*Operation Lake Ontario  
Flooding participants*



## MILITARY EMERGENCY BOAT SERVICE



## JOSEPHTHAL TROPHY

THE SFY 2017-18 Josephthal Awards

1. Environmental Review completed with outstanding results!

On 9 February 2018, MEBS N4 – Logistics

received an environmental compliance review by DMNA Facilities and Engineering directorate. As the result of the hard efforts of SWCS Frank Rogers (MEBS N4 Maintenance Supervisor), the review was nearly flawless. There was one minor discrepancy which was immediately corrected. MEBS takes environmental compliance seriously, and has proven to be a standard bearer for other military organizations to emulate.

## 2. 2018 Boating season deployment plan.

PB 220 Camp Smith, Det 21/1  
PB 221 Leeds/Albany, DET 30/31  
PB 230 Whitehall, Det 32  
PB 280 Rochester, Det 51  
PB 281 Buffalo, Det 52  
PB 300 Verplanck, Det 1, 21  
PB 301 Massapequa Park, Det 12  
LC 350 Albany, LCDT  
PB 400 Verplanck, Det 1, 21  
PB 440 Staten Island, Det 2

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Rear Admiral (select) Timothy G. Zakriski Prospective Commander, NY Naval Militia

Currently assigned as Deputy Commander, NYNM, Captain Zakriski directs the three NYNM regional commands, South, North and West. A member of the New York State Naval Militia since 1980 and a Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer, Captain Zakriski first served in an advisory capacity to the NYNM Commander on Naval Construction Force (Navy Seabees) capabilities. Subsequently he was appointed as Deputy Commander, and then Commander of Northern Command. In 2016, Captain Zakriski was appointed Deputy Commander, NYNM. He participated in New York Naval Militia response to Hurricanes Irene, Lee, and Tropical Storm Sandy, during which 300 Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve

personnel were mobilized for service as militiamen, throughout the affected areas of the state.

Captain Zakriski is a native of Glenville, NY, a graduate of Niskayuna High School and Hudson Valley Community College. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Union College. Formerly serving in the Marine Corps Reserve, Zakriski was commissioned an Ensign, Civil Engineer Corps, Navy Reserve in 1982.

As a junior officer, Zakriski served with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 12 (NMCB-12),



Davisville, Rhode Island in a variety of capacities including Company Commander of detachments at Albany and Glens Falls, NY. He served as Course Director at Civil Engineer Corps School, Port Hueneme, CA for Junior Officer Development. Subsequently he reported to NMCB-13, Camp Smith, NY and was then further assigned as Projects Officer at Second Naval Construction Brigade, Little Creek, VA. In 1994 he was placed on active duty and was assigned to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Special Operation Former Yugoslavia (SOFY) in Bosnia as an advisor on engineering matters supporting humanitarian operations. Returning to reserve status, he served at NMCB-21, Lakehurst, NJ

as Operations Officer, Executive Officer and for an interim period Commanding Officer. Subsequently, Captain Zakriski served as a staff officer with Engineering Field Division Atlantic, Navy Yard, Washington, DC. Two weeks after the events of 9/11/01, he was appointed Commanding Officer of NMCB-21, where he mobilized over 275 personnel for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. While so assigned, he also coordinated the completion of the TWA Flight 800 Memorial on Long Island using construction personnel under his command. Subsequent to his command tour he served with Officer in Charge of Construction and in 2007 was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served at Umm Qasr, Iraq as an advisor to the Iraqi Head of Navy on infrastructure and base development matters. Retiring in 2011, Captain Zakriski's final assignment was as Staff Civil Engineer to NATO.

In civilian life, Captain Zakriski is the owner of Aero Engineering, offering professional consulting services to government, industry and the military. He began his professional civilian career performing construction management and engineering for consultants and contractors. He entered the public sector in 1980, working at the NY Department of Public Service for thirty years, retiring in 2011 as Chief, Telecommunications Programs. Subsequent to his retirement he worked with FEMA in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene as a technical specialist on infrastructure recovery. He is a registered professional engineer in New York.

He is slated to relieve RDML Powell as Commander, NY Naval Militia later this spring.

## WESTCOM NEWS

“Oh the weather outside is frightful...” So what better time to hold the semi-annual WESTCOM Leadership Dinner, which is

exactly what took place in the middle of the latest Rochester blizzard. The senior enlisted and officers of Western Command gathered once again at the Northside Inn in East Rochester to enjoy another evening of camaraderie and info sharing. Even with the wind howling and the snow blowing horizontally, most of our leaders managed to brave the elements to make it to the event.

In addition to the normal agenda of news and updates, several presentations were made to members assembled at the dinner. BMC Lipp was presented with the NYNM Recruiting Medal for his outstanding work at NOSC Syracuse. “Chief Lipp has performed superbly in all aspects of his work inside the Syracuse facility,” said CAPT Weill. “He has set the standard not only for his recruiting efforts, but for maintaining the organization and ensuring the continuity of membership from one NOSC Commanding Officer to the next.”

RDML Powell was a special guest at the dinner, and was already in Rochester to attend the NOSC Change of Command ceremony. Admiral Powell was presented with a copy of the framed photos now on display in the Latham HQ office showing several of the historic benchmark moments of 2017. These included the photograph of Powell shaking hands with VADM Luke McCollum, Chief of Navy Reserves, and of himself signing the historic MOU with Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Reserve Component Command Norfolk.

These Leadership Dinners are a relatively new event in WESTCOM, with this being the fourth of its kind. However, since all hands have enjoyed the food and the outstanding company, plans are already underway to continue these well into the future.

## Education News:

The next eligible semester for RIRP education benefits is Fall, 2018.

**The deadline for submission of benefit applications is 15 August 2018.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Employment opportunities** for Veterans in NYC. Anyone interested please reach out to SSGT Erik Tjornhom, NYC Representative - Marine for Life Network. [tjornhom.usmc@gmail.com](mailto:tjornhom.usmc@gmail.com)

\*\*\*There are companies looking to place Veterans in job opportunities in New York City in the coming months. There will be warehouse and fork lift driving positions that will be full time, with benefits and paid vacation. It will be a 24 hours a day and 7 day a week operation.

Anyone directly interested in the above job description please contact Peter Romano and cc SSGT Tjornhom.

Peter Romano (USMC)

Veterans Specialist

Staten Island Workforce1 Career Center

120 Stuyvesant Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Staten Island, NY 10301

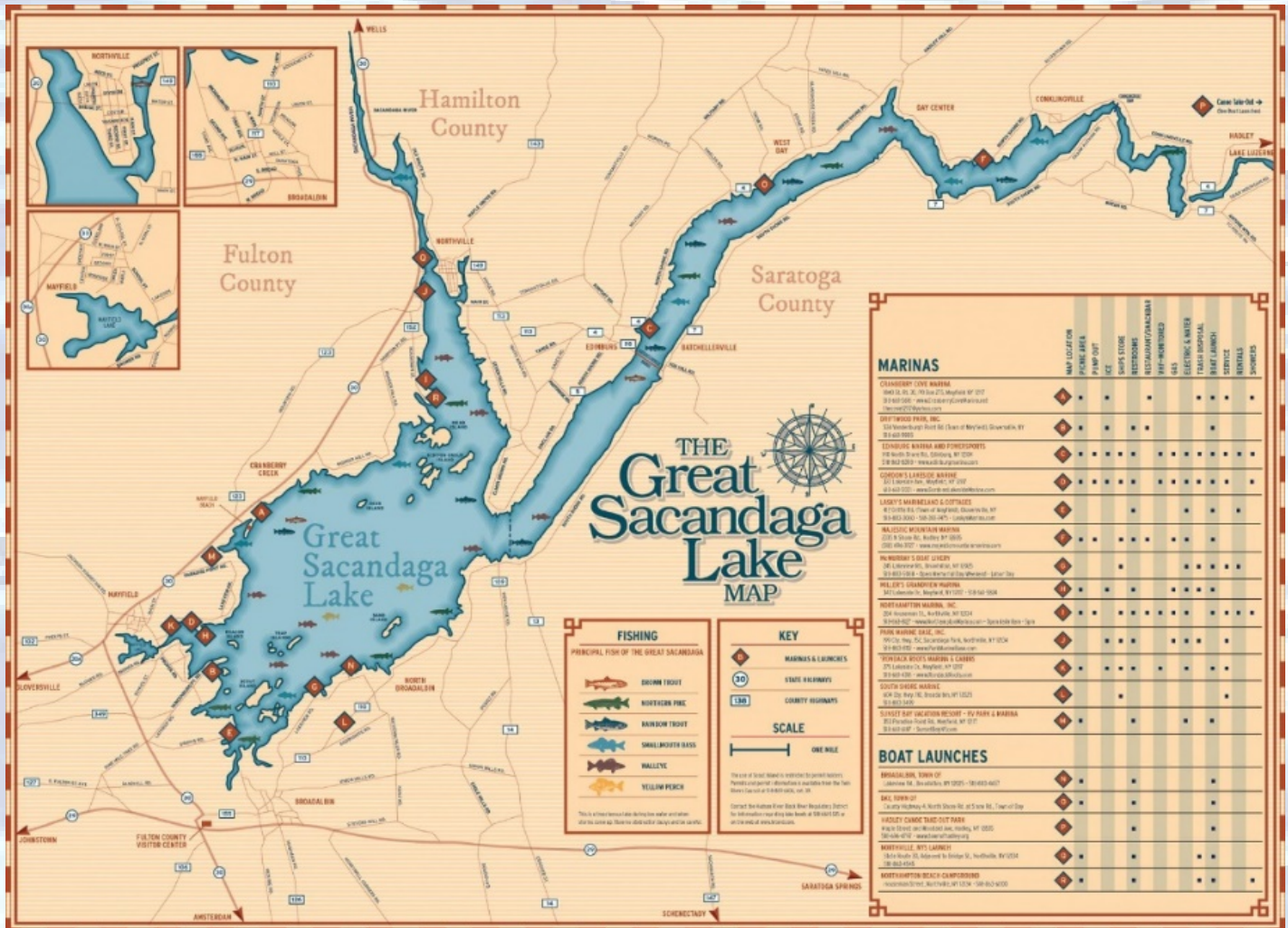
T: 718 – 285 - 8431

F: 718 – 981 - 8367

E: [promano@edsolutions.com](mailto:promano@edsolutions.com)

## Exercise Rapid Gunwale '18 Planning.

RGX'18 will take place on the Great Sacandaga Lake in Fulton and Saratoga Counties on 7-8 September 2018.





## New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

01 MAY-18	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	153	33	38	224
WARRANT	11	3	5	19
ENLISTED	1893	285	437	2615
TOTAL	2057	321	480	2858
NAVY	1038	153	261	1452
MARINE	850	119	187	1156
COAST GUARD	112	4	4	120
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	15	6	5	26
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	36	37	23	96
PENDING ACTION	6	2	0	8

## 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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