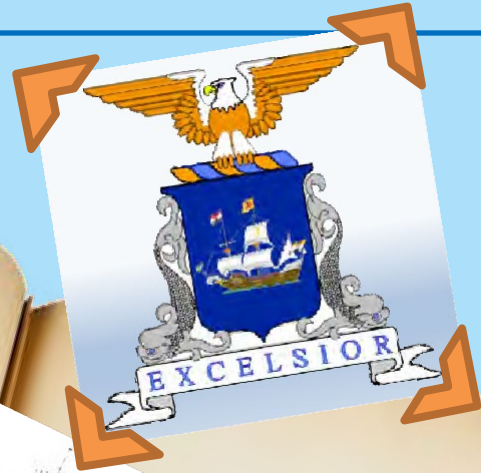


NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2020



Military and
Naval Affairs

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

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA
330 Old Niskayuna Road
Latham, New York 12110
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<http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/>

COMMANDER'S CORNER:

RDML Warren T. Smith
Commander New York Naval Militia



The New York Naval Militia is hiring! We need you to help us recruit drilling reservists in the sea services – Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard – to fill our billet structure and support our expanding mission serving New York State. The Naval Militia is not limited to drilling reservists, however. Up to 5% of our membership may be retired or former members of these services or, in exceptional cases, qualified applicants with equivalent and relevant experience pertaining to the kinds of missions we are assigned.

Bottom line: if you frequent your local American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or other military affiliated service organization, you might know someone who could contribute their skills and experience to state emergency response mobilizations by joining the Naval Militia.

Why are we recruiting? We have a force structure that is broad in scope but shallow in depth. Each of our three current regions (North, West, and South) has vacancies in key leadership roles, both officer and enlisted. When the call comes from the Governor via the Adjutant General, we often have to scramble to find militia members to respond. And if the mobilization lasts for weeks or months, we need to rotate members on and off State Active Duty (SAD.) Federal forces (drilling reservists) must leave SAD for federal duty, such as drill weekends, annual training, or unit mobilization. So maintaining a robust cadre of militia members is key to our ability to support assigned missions.

If you are a drilling reservist, ask your colleagues to join the Naval Militia. There is no downside, and plenty of opportunity to volunteer. Beyond that, spread the word when and where you meet others who might qualify as described above. Finally, if you are ready for increased responsibility and the challenges of leadership, speak up. Call our NYNM office at DMNA and let us know that you would be interested in taking on a billet assignment that can offer you both a chance to distinguish yourself and an opportunity to assume a role where you can make a meaningful contribution to our success in responding to the needs of New York State, whenever and wherever called. Join us in demonstrating our value to the people and the state of New York by sharing our skills, training, and experience with the communities in which we live.

State Partnership Program with Brazil

Under the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP), New York has partnered with South Africa and more recently with Brazil. Normally, the SPP involves Army and Air National Guard

involvement with the land force and air force counterparts in the military of the foreign country.

Starting in April 2019, the New York Naval Militia headquarters was approached by the N.Y. National Guard State Partnership Program office regarding engagement with Brazil, specifically the Marinha do Brasil, or Brazilian Navy. Since that time, we have been in regular communication with U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps representatives both in Brazil and with U.S. Southern Command in Florida.

In December 2019, CAPT Hawley (NYNM Chief of Staff) and CDR McKnight (CDR, MEBS) attended the 4th Fleet Maritime Synchronization Conference in Mayport, FL. It is readily apparent that the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps are ready to have N.Y. Naval Militia engage directly with Brazilian Navy counterparts as subject matter experts and with other exchange opportunities.

Having the New York Naval Militia participate in the National Guard's State Partnership Program is a "first-ever" event. No other naval militia has been involved with the SPP in any state or country.

As we move forward, many questions need to be answered. This includes funding, naval militia member skills and qualifications (including civilian skills), travel authorizations, etc. We are asking ALL members of the N.Y. Naval Militia to ensure that you have updated your contact information and your military and civilian skills questionnaire.



CHIEF OF STAFF COMMENTS

The next promotion cycle is less than six months away. If you are retired or separated from your branch of service you are eligible to be considered for promotion within NYNM. Soon we will be forwarding to Regional Commanders and Senior Enlisted Advisors the names of members that are potentially eligible for promotion in the 2020 NYNM Promotion cycle.

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

http://dmna.ny.gov/forms/naval/NYNMINST_1410_1C_PROMOTION_POLICY_AND_PROCEDURES_2019.pdf

The checklist located on our website provides a simple guide to follow to ensure all your documents are included in your application.

A Walkthrough for the applications package follows:

1. Recommendation for Promotion: This is from your Regional Commander or your MEBS Commander.
2. Narrative Justification: This is a letter from you to the Board President
3. Minimum time in grade: From the instruction (usually 3 years)
4. Recent Photo: this shows you in Dress Uniform. Show the Board you have good Military Bearing
5. Current Fitness Report: Probably written by your Commander (can be more than 1 year)
6. Minimum of Five years of Fitness Reports or Evaluations: If you have Reserve evaluations within 5 years include those (Do Not send more than 5 years)
7. Current medical exam on file: Check with NYNM HQ
8. Civilian Skills Questionnaire: From the web site fill out a new one to ensure your current skills are represented to the Board.
9. Individual Training Record: This Form is no longer used – HOWEVER – Write to explain to the Board what you have done in recent years to support the Naval Militia
10. Billet Description: Explain what you do now and what you expect to do when promoted
11. DD-214's: contact HQ to ensure we have your DD-214s
12. Meets Grooming standards: this check in the box is from your photo submitted above
13. NYNM application on file: contact HQ to ensure we have your application
14. Age less than 68: this check in the box is taken care of by HQ

(Do not submit extra "I love Me" stuff. However, A photo of you on State Active Duty is good and copies of additional FEMA (or rate related) course training certificates are acceptable)

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 20 this year. Please have complete promotion packages submitted by 30 May 2020, to the "President, 2020 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 or private personal information by email.

A very important First Step in 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. Fitness reports and Evaluations for NYNM members may encompass more than one year.

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.

Applications for promotion to E7, E8 and E9 must be reviewed by the Command Senior Enlisted Advisors before the Board reviews your application. Contact our Command Senior Enlisted Advisors: Master Chief Mach; Master Chief Niemitalo and MGySgt Rignola for guidance.

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 the NYNM activities you have participated in over 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 CAPT David Hawley, the Chief of Staff if you have any questions.

MILITARY EMERGENCY BOAT SERVICE

MEBS PERSONNEL NEWS.

For 2020, the MEBS program will have some changes in the way we do business.



Left - CDR McKnight presents a MEBS plaque to CWO2 Nolan on the occasion of his retirement from the New York Naval Militia Bottom – Boats put to bed for the winter



In January, we held our first MEBS Mid-winter Staff meeting at Leeds. This event brings together MEBS Staff members and regional coordinators to discuss and plan out the coming year.

We are planning for the annual MEBS Training Summit to take place in early August 2020. This event brings together MEBS Leadership including all Detachment Officers in Charge to discuss training strategies and solutions.



RDML Smith addresses the leadership at the MEBS Mid-winter Staff meeting in Leeds, NY

In 2020, we will not be holding the annual Kick-Off Weekend. Instead, we will be conducting a MEBS Basic Crewmember Course of Instruction. This event is slated for Camp Smith between 12 and 17 April 20. The intent is to focus training on twelve students with dedicated instructors providing in-class and on-water training. The goal is to

standardize training and allow each student to work toward the goal of becoming an independent coxswain.

Most students and instructors will stay on-base at Camp Smith, where we will also provide food service just for our team.

We are in the planning stages to move MEBS DET 21 (Lower Hudson Valley) from Verplanck to New Rochelle. Once established, this will be the first regular MEBS presence on Long Island Sound. BM1 Kaul is DET 21 Officer in Charge.

For long-term planning, we intend to keep PB 280 and PB 281 in WESTCOM through the boating season and into the next winter storage season. PB 281 will be re-located from Buffalo to the Patriot Way Armory in late October and will over-winter there.

We are working to replace all four 2006 Ford F-350 dually trucks in our MEBS inventory. These trucks have proven to be very useful, but they do not meet emissions standards and must be replaced by 31 DEC 2020.

EXERCISE PLANNING. The Naval Militia “Big” exercise for 2020 will be Empire Challenge tentatively planned for 17-19 September. The location for MEBS will be at Willard, on Seneca Lake. The initial planning meeting was held on 29 January.

EXERCISE EMPIRE CHALLENGE

Exercise Empire Challenge '20 (ECX20) is in the planning stage. It will be a joint exercise again involving all New York Military Forces (NYMF) units and civilian agencies.

Exercise dates are not set in stone yet but **September 17-19** has been proposed and the identified location is Western NY. Willard Correctional Facility, Seneca Lake has been proposed as the sight.

Admin and Education News:

NYNM JRSOI TRAINING

PREVENTING PAY ISSUES FOR FUTURE MISSIONS **Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, & Integration**

The New York Naval Militia conducted our first round of JRSOI (Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, & Integration) Team Training in December and January. Over the course of this 2 day training, we were able to completely train 6 members on the JRSOI process. Our goal is to have a large pool of Naval Militia members all across New York State trained so that in the event of an emergency, we will be fully prepared to take care of our own members, as well as augment the Army & Air National Guards.

JRSOI is a process that transitions personnel, equipment and materials into forces capable of meeting the operational requirements. It is the process that identifies incoming personnel, their mission capabilities and assets they have, transports personnel and equipment to their requested locations, and then pairs them with the support requests from civil authorities during a crisis or natural disaster.

The complete life cycle of the JRSOI process begins with receiving personnel and equipment (where we come in), then focuses on transporting assets to their requested locations and providing the logistical support required to safely conduct operations. The final step is to return personnel and equipment to their home station when support is no longer required, all while maintaining 100% accountability.

The process that DMNA is working on establishing with regard to JRSOI dictates that the Air National Guard Attack Wings will be hosting all JRSOI missions (except when it is geographically logical for Camp Smith Training Site to host). This means that the Attack Wings will be handling the majority of the functions involved with JRSOI. We may be tasked with augmenting the receiving of personnel and equipment, which is the main focus of our JRSOI team trainings.

NYNM has requested additional funds for the new Fiscal Year (starting in April) for money dedicated to JRSOI training. This is a big deal, this is the first time a request for training money has made it this far in the NYS budget request process! If these additional funds get approved, we are planning on hosting a PAID 2-day JRSOI Team Training each quarter with different SM's each time. At these trainings, we will be instructing a maximum of 12 people each quarter, these members will have to be current drilling reservists with working CAC cards. When HQ is made aware of an activation, these JRSOI Team members will be the first people called to arrive.

During the first training, JRSOI Team members received training from myself and Senior Chief Spain where we discussed our experiences with JRSOI/SAD missions, training from members of MNBF (Budget & Finance) for things like travel claims, training from National Guard members in the J3 & J4 departments, and hands on training with DOJPAAS.

This is such a fantastic opportunity for NYNM members! DMNA is relying on us more and more frequently because we have proved that we will show up and do the job. The National Guard is very excited about our JRSOI training, and I believe they plan to utilize us for JRSOI frequently in the future. In fact, they are so excited that before we finished our training they asked us several times if we had anyone trained and able to provide JRSOI assistance for various missions that NYNM was not even involved in!

With NYNM jumping in to assist with JRSOI, we will hopefully be able to eliminate (or significantly reduce) the pay errors/issues, BAH confusion, LOD confusion, and make sure the missions are all closed out correctly, accurately, and in a timely manner.

Many people have asked how they can be more involved and can receive more paid orders, the JRSOI Team is a great way to accomplish that! If you are interested in learning more or participating in a training, please send an email to myself or Senior Chief Spain expressing your interest.

As always, thank you all for your dedication and support. The Naval Militia wouldn't be able to do it without you!

Very respectfully,
Elizabeth Cummings

READINESS OFFICER (N31) CORNER:

BMCS(EXW) Elizebeth Spain

The importance of readiness:

The Naval Militia is a State defense force that can be counted on to provide reliable, capable service members who perform State Active Duty professionally. This means we are called upon more and more every day. I cannot supply the personnel needed to fill the mission at hand without your help. The response to the State Partnership Program with Brazil has been outstanding and I appreciate each and every one of you who has updated their contact information and civilian/military skills. We have been able to provide an awesome capabilities proposal for our meeting in May but I was shocked at how inaccurate the majority of our member information was! The State and Federal data bases/pay systems do not talk to each other. If you advance, move or change cell numbers and email address' the only way we know is if you tell us. If you separate from service or retire you can remain a member of NYNM until age 68 but please let us know your status has changed. Updates can always be emailed to me directly, elizabeth.a.spain.mil@mail.mil Thank you all again!

V/R
Senior Chief



JRSOI training 13 DEC 2019 held at DMNA HQ



The Director Division of Military and Naval Affairs Budget and Finance, Robert Martin and Maria Gallerie, Associate Purchasing and Contracting Administrator MNBF provide an over view of the importance of following standard operating procedures during JRSOI.

AROUND THE REGIONS

Pinning on the Medals in WESTCOM (By CAPT Larry Weill)



RDML presents the Humane Service to NY State Medal to BU2 Toni Barnett at NOSC Rochester

There is no doubt that one of the most enjoyable responsibilities in our service is to pin medals on our outstanding and deserving personnel. That opportunity has come up a lot lately as we distribute and award the Humane Service to New York State Medals to those Militia members who participated in this summer's operations.

While almost 100 members of our NYNM were awarded this medal, not all of them were members of the Western Region. However, ceremonies have already taken place in Syracuse (NOSC and 4th LAR Marines) and NOSC Rochester.

“For many of these people, it is their second or third award of this medal” said CAPT Larry Weill, Western Region Commander. “We have so many great people who are always ready to raise their hand and report on short notice. They truly are hometown heroes who help to protect our citizens around the state.”



One of the Militia members receiving this honor was LCDR Jamie-Lynn Smerka, who served as one of our Officers in Charge for Operation Lake Effect 2019. Smerka distinguished herself by volunteering for the duty *in her first week of membership in the NYNM*. “The ink was barely dry on her membership signature before she was on station” commented RDML Smith, who pinned on Smerka’s medal in front of her unit at NOSC Rochester. “It is people such as her who really make a difference to our organization. Thank you for a job really well done.”

CAPT Weill presents the Humane Service to NY State Medal to members of Company E, 4th LAR Marines at their facility in Syracuse, NY

Admirals Meet at NOSC Rochester (By CAPT Larry Weill)

There aren’t a lot of Flag officers circulating around most NOSC facilities, so it is even more unusual to find two of them standing together in the same room. But that is exactly what happened inside NOSC Rochester the weekend of January 11-12.



RADM Mary Riggs discusses issues with RDML Warren Smith in front of the Naval Hospital medical personnel at NOSC Rochester.

RADM Riggs serves as the Deputy Director, Research and Development (J-9) of Defense Health Agency. She visited NOSC Rochester to get together with NOSC CO Commander Susan Burge, for whom she serves as a career mentor. However, she also took time to talk with the assembled medical personnel, who seldom get “face time” with a Flag officer inside their community. RADM Riggs also met with the entire SELRES population of the NOSC to conduct a Flag call, which was well-received by all hands.

RDML introduced RADM Riggs to the New York Naval Militia, and explained our missions and structure. She was highly impressed that we were present in such force across the state, and involved in the disaster-related operations that crop up on an annual basis. The meeting also generated interest amongst several people in the room who were not yet Militia members.

Calling on CAPT Littlejohn at Coast Guard Sector Buffalo

(By CAPT Larry Weill)

There's been a lot of turnover since our last official call to the station at Coast Guard Sector Buffalo. RDML Zakriski was still our NYNM Director, and CAPT Joe DeFresne was just being relieved as Section Commander. With this in mind, RDML Warren Smith and CAPT Larry Weill ventured out to the facility to meet with CAPT Lexia Littlejohn, the new Commanding Officer.

Coast Guard Sector Buffalo is located within the Coast Guard's Ninth District, which is CAPT Littlejohn's responsibility. CAPT Littlejohn has served as an officer since her commissioning in 1997, and is an esteemed member of the Coast Guard's surface community. She has completed numerous successful command and staff tours around the country. She also commented at the rapid contrast of environment between her last tour (Deputy Commander of CG Sector Key West) and her current command, located within the icy confines of Upstate New York.

During the 90-minute meeting, CAPT Littlejohn received the full NYNM briefing on our organization's structure, missions, key resources and personnel. She was very impressed with our benefits and the opportunities we bring to the table. "I will certainly provide you with full access to our SELRES personnel whenever you can make it here," promised Littlejohn. "I never knew much about the NYNM, but you offer some great benefits that will definitely benefit our people, and they need to know about them."

Also attending the meeting was CDR Robert Kistner, who serves as Deputy Commander for CAPT Littlejohn. The session served as a great introduction between the two services, and set the ground for mutual support and cooperation in future exercises and operations.



(Left to right) CDR Robert Kistner, CAPT Larry Weill, CAPT Lexia Littlejohn, RDML Warren Smith



MNCM Niemitalo with Major General Shields and other invited State Service Members at Governor Cuomo's State of the State Address, 08 January Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1600 11 FEB 2020
RIRP SPRING 2020 FINAL DEADLINE

1345 25 FEB 2020
USS FLUSSER (DD-289) bell rededication ceremony DMNA
Headquarters, Latham

13-17 APR 2020
MEBS Basic Crewmember Course, Camp Smith

1600 AUG 2020
RIRP FALL 2020 FIRST DEADLINE



RADM Smith awards the Medal for Meritorious Service at the NYNM quarterly leadership meeting 15 JAN 2020 DMNA HQ, Latham to:

Top left – CAPT Anthony Buanno

Top right – CDR Dewey (Kenny) Fellers

Left – CWO2 Arthur Nolan

2019 RECAP

These are the significant events that occurred in 2019 for the New York Naval Militia:

Operations and Exercises:

- 1) Joint Task Force Empire Shield, 1JAN-31DEC19: 7 personnel supporting boating operations in the Port of New York and Indian Point.
- 2) Operation January Snow Storm, 18-25 JAN 19: 3 personnel
- 3) Operation January Snow Storm II, 31JAN-4FEB19: 3 personnel
- 4) Operation February Winter Storm, 24-27FEB19: 3 personnel to JFHQ-NY J4.
- 5) Operation Lake Ontario Flooding 2019, 6MAY-9OCT19: 100 personnel to Rochester, Buffalo, and Latham.
MEBS Det 5 was stood up on 24MAY and lasted until 14JUN19. 5 MEBS personnel to Sodus Bay. LC-350 was first used for an actual, real-world mission on 2JUN to deliver sand-bags to Johnson Creek, on the shoreline of Lake Ontario.
- 6) Operation Lake Ontario 19-2 Recovery: 10-23SEP19: 6 personnel to Syracuse.
- 7) Operation November Winds, 2-20NOV19: 3 personnel to Latham.
- 8) Operation December Winter Storm I, 3-8DEC19; 5 personnel to Stratton ANGB.
- 9) Exercise Empire Challenge 2019, 16-18May; at Camp Smith and Norrie Point.
- 10) Operation Tall Ships, 3-7JUL19; 4 MEBS personnel, at Buffalo.

Personnel: GRAND TOTAL 7,645 SAD MAN-DAYS!

- 1) Man-days location/positions:
 - a. Full-time support to NYNM and JFHQ-NY:
N31 Readiness Officer SAD
MNBF (Budget & Finance/J8) SAD
MNL (Logistics/J4) SAD
MNHS (Human Resources-State) SAD
 - b. MEBS (all SAD)
N00 Commander, Latham
JTFES J3, Ft. Hamilton
N4 Maintenance, Leeds
Det 1, Indian Point

Det 2, Staten Island

2) MEBS:

Authorization for a Maintenance Assistant at Leeds was granted. Starting in May 2019, GM2 Neuhoff started. He was replaced in August with BU3 Pringle.

SWCS Rogers stepped down in September and was replaced as Maintenance Supervisor by AMC Miller in October.

Awarded FY19 federal Port Security Grant for the purchase of a second landing craft.

Awards:

1) Josephthal Trophy:

New York Naval Militia Member of the Year: STGCS Nichols Tarulli

Unit of the Year: MEBS Landing Craft Development Team

2) Personal Awards:

a. Conspicuous Service Medal:

RDML Timothy Zakriski

b. Medal for Meritorious Service:

CDR John Trombetta

STGCS Nicholas Tarulli

c. Military Commendation Medal:

IT1 Garrett Aldershoff

Initiatives:

1) Brazil State Partnership Program. NYNM was approached by the NYNG SPP program to commence a partnership with the Brazilian Navy. In December 2019, headquarters leadership participated in an initial meeting with personnel from U.S. Southern Command, at NAVSTA Mayport.

Change of Command: RDML Warren Smith relieved RDML Timothy Zakriski as Commander, New York Naval Militia during a ceremony at Latham on 18 October 2019.



EXPANDED PATRONAGE:

All service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers are now eligible to shop at commissaries worldwide!

For more information on this new program, go to www.militaryonesource.mil/expandingaccess, or to determine eligibility, visit a local VA medical facility: call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday from 0800 – 2000, EST or apply online at www.VA.gov/healthcare

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA BY THE NUMBERS

25-NOV-19	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	133	29	34	196
WARRANT	6	2	3	11
ENLISTED	1745	251	387	2,383
TOTAL	1884	282	424	2,590
NAVY	935	131	246	1,312
MARINE	803	110	139	1,052
COAST GUARD	69	4	4	77
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	28	7	9	45
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	49	30	26	105



MEBS Det 2, onboard PB 440 approaches a commercial freighter at Ambrose Anchorage during USCG boarding mission Monday, 03 FEB 20

Cover photo:

USS FLUSSER (DD-289) bell rededication ceremony to be held at DMNA Headquarters, Latham February 25, 2020