

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2022



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



Cover photo:



LC-350 crosses Seneca Lake at sunset on 14 JUL 22. The vessel and crew were part of Exercise Empire Challenge.

End Piece:



MEBS DET FIVE takes a dip in Lake Ontario while transiting from Oswego to Alexandria Bay on 17 JUL 22.

Commander's Corner:



**Rear Admiral (LH)
Lawrence Weill, NYNM**

From the Commander:

The Promotion Process

I'd like to start this column by congratulating every selectee from our recent Promotion Board and Josephthal Award Board. I find it rewarding to see our very best performers recognized for their outstanding work. Well done!

Selection for promotion, both enlisted and officer, has always been an interest and passion for me. Prior to retiring as a naval officer, I was privileged to sit on 14 Statutory Promotion boards and Apply Boards. This gave a first-hand view into "what works." I was amazed, especially early on, at what gets the attention of voting Board members and what get glossed over. Sitting on a Board is truly an

educational experience.

For those NYNM members who are used to the promotion process of the US Navy, you'll find that our Naval Militia process is quite different. As a SELRES, it was all about the "Xs and Os." Where you fit in competition against your peers was everything. If you were continuously graded as EP (Early Promote), and held the toughest jobs (CO, XO, or SEA), you were almost guaranteed the nod for promotion. If you were scored as "2 of 25" or "1 of 10" it was all the better. "Competition in traffic" was the byword that would seal the deal to the next higher paygrade.

However, promotion in the NYNM works a bit differently. Yes, we are always looking for superior performance in your duties. Whether you are serving as Craftmaster on a craft, placed in charge of a medical unit, or supervising a PAT Team, excellence is always recognized in a positive light. Your performance on the job, as recognized by your peers and supervisors is your best assurance of promotion.

One key differentiator on the NYNM Promotion Board is the amount of time and effort you have contributed to our missions, especially those which do not involve paid orders. Many times, we conduct exercises, such as the Exercise EMPIRE CHALLENGE that do not involve paid orders. Yet even as volunteers, we usually see the same people showing up to accept the challenge. These are the people who drive the boats, staff the medical room, serve the food, and man the PAT Team desk. These are the people we know we can count on. And these are the people we really get to know. These people help drive our organization forward, and they are remembered at the Promotion Board.

Participation. It matters. Yes, you still have to be an impressive performer. But being there is at least half the battle.

BZ once again to those selected on this year's Board. I look forward to seeing you at the next higher paygrade!

Deputy Commander News:

Many times, we overlook the BENEFITS of joining the New York Naval Militia. Every Fall a very tangible BENEFIT pops up that unfortunately few Naval Militia Members take advantage of: **SGLI reimbursement.**

The season for **SGLI reimbursement** is October 1st through September 30th. If you were on active-duty orders for other than training, Title 10 for your Federal Reserve component or section 6 for State Active Duty (SAD) the State of New York will reimburse you for your SGLI. For example: anyone on State Active Duty COVID mission for that year, or any part of the year, you could get back up to \$25 per month for 12 months! Family SGLI is not covered only the service member's SGLI up to the maximum premium for the \$400,000 life insurance coverage. The SGLI reimbursement program is described on our Forms and Instructions page on our [web site.](https://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=forms)

I do want to make an appeal for the **Tuition Assistance program.** A benefit offered to New York Naval Militia members that is often overlooked is the Recruitment Incentive and Reenlistment Program (RIRP). This Tuition Assistance program is offered to all New York State drilling Reserve members of the State Organized Militia. It is available to pay up to SUNY tuition (\$7,070 per year) for a member's first Baccalaureate Degree or Associates Degree. As a benefit it simply requires the completion of the application process. The FALL 2022 deadline is August 13, 2022. Get your application in early.

I have been getting many requests for another benefit that is frankly only limited by the number of members we have: **New York State Naval Militia License Plates!** This is a great way to show you belong to the New York State Naval Militia. Details are on our Forms and Instructions web site noted above.

It is difficult to talk about Fall and Winter weather when our Summer Heat Wave is still upon us. However, school is starting in a couple weeks and with that we need to be mindful of sharing the road with school children and school busses. Be safe and watch for everyone you share the road with, you are the most valuable asset New York State has and we want to be sure everyone is ready and able to volunteer for every contingency.

Chief of Staff News:

Have you noticed the recent improvements to the NYNM recruiting and retention webpages? If not, please do. Why? Since every NYNM member can and should be NYNM recruiter. In addition, every NYNM member is responsible for keeping the NYNM advised of their promotions, address changes, additional qualifications, and status. Otherwise, none of these critical updates get automatically passed from their Navy, Marine, or Coast Guard Reserve personnel system to the NYNM.

Specifically, for recruiting, the NYNM has developed a "Go NAVAL MILITIA!" enlistment and commissioning web application to ease its recruiting process. As a result, current NYNM members can easily refer someone to the NYNM recruiting app via a Quick Response (QR) code rather than by reciting a relatively complex web address. Instead, one need only point the camera of any modern smartphone at the QR code until it prompts the user to automatically navigate the browser of the smartphone to the NYNM

recruiting webpage. Even better, applicants can access additional information, securely generate and submit required documents, and even electronically sign their application completely online without the former need to print, manually sign, and fax or mail a pile of hard-copy documents to the NYNM for manual data entry. Rather, resulting online entries automatically populate the NYNM database thereby speeding the efficiency and accuracy of the application process.

Similarly, as BMCS Spain further explains in the, "Readiness Officer," portion of this Newsletter, current NYNM members can use a similar QR code displayed at the bottom of the, "Contact Us," webpage of the NYNM website (<http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=contact>) to securely submit updates regarding their status and qualifications. Specifically, for example, use this portal to upload a current LES when promoted, address change when needed, updated Civilian Skills Questionnaire (NYNMF0RM 1070) as necessary, annual medical forms (NYNMF0RMs 88 and 93) once you retire from Federal service, and/or request for NYNM discharge or retirement. Keeping these mission-critical data updated will substantially increase your chances of being offered periods of State Active Duty (SAD) and ease your subsequent accession to SAD.

In summary, please give the recruiting QR code displayed below and in BMCS Spain's, "Readiness Officer," entry a try and keep the resulting recruiting app bookmarked or perhaps a printed or screenshot of the recruiting app's QR code handy in your wallet or on your phone to ease recruiting referrals. The recruiting app QR code also appears on the "Membership," webpage of the NYNM website (<http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=join>). Finally, as additional recruiting and retention suggestions:

- Definitely follow-up with and keep track of your recruiting referrals to help ensure they follow through and you qualify for a NYNM Recruiting Ribbons as a result of referring only five successful new applicants to the NYNM webpage.
- Remind current NYNM members who are approaching retirement from Federal service that they remain eligible for continued service and possible promotion in the NYNM until age 68 provided they keep us advised of their interest and meet minimum medical requirements.
- Similarly, remind members who move out of the State of New York that they remain eligible for NYNM membership and activation to SAD provided they continue to remain assigned to a Reserve Center located anywhere in New York State.

The recruiting QR code referenced above is displayed below. In addition, please feel free to contact NYNM Headquarters at ng.ny.nyarnng.mbx.nynavalmilitia@army.mil or (518) 786-4583 if you have any questions regarding the new recruiting and retention applications or your NYNM status.



RECENT AWARDS

Josephthal Trophy Award Winners for 2022

N.Y. Naval Militia Member of the Year
BMC William Kaul



N.Y. Naval Militia Unit of the Year
NYNM-COVID 19 Task force J8/MNBF



PROMOTED

Capt **Michael GOLDEN** to MAJOR

SSGT **Paul HAUSCHEN** to GUNNERY SERGEANT

CDR **Pietro “Pete” MARGHELLA** to CAPTAIN

SGT **Jon OLIVERAS** to STAFF SERGEANT

TAPS

RADM Robert A. ROSEN, NYNM; the 18th Commander of the New York Naval Militia, passed on 29 July 2022.



Rear Admiral (Upper Half) Robert A. Rosen was first appointed Commanding Officer of the New York Naval Militia in June of 1995 by former Governor

George E. Pataki and Major General John H. Fenimore V, formerly The Adjutant General of New York. He was also the Chairman of the Division of Military & Naval Affairs Military Facilities Commission and was the Naval Aide to the Governor.

Rear Admiral Rosen joined the New York Air National Guard in 1959. In 1960 he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant, and thereafter served in a variety of positions throughout the following ten years. He also served as United States Air Force Academy Liaison Officer for the New York City area and as a liaison officer from the Secretary of the Air Force to the Chief of Information, U.S. Navy. At the request of the Secretary of the Navy, he transferred to the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1980, after having completed 21 years in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Rear Admiral Rosen retired from the Naval Reserve in 1990 with the rank of Captain (06), having served more than 31 years in the reserve forces of the United States.

His numerous duty assignments included Commanding Officer of NAVINFO East, DET102, The Atlantic Fleet Audio Visual Unit 0193 (Combat Camera), and Executive Officer of the Navy Broadcasting Reserve Unit. He has also served as Information Officer for the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, a member of Chief of Naval Operations Sea Power Presentation Team, and Chairman of the Board of the Navy Recruiting District Assistance Council of New York. He was a former member of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (The Grace Commission), and the Navy Task Force, and Chairman of YPO Navy Presidents Advisory Board on Acquisition, Budgeting and Procurement. He served as Chairman of the Department of Defense and Congressional Stars and Stripes Advisory Task Force. In July 2005 he was appointed as an Advisor to the Disaster Preparedness Commission by Governor George E. Pataki. He presently serves as the Senior Advisor to the New York State Senate for Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs and the Military.



CMC (NYNM) Paul E. RYAN, formerly of MEBS, passed on 31 July 2022, in Albany. Paul was born in Albany, the son of the late William A. Ryan and Anna Evelyn Werking Ryan. He was a graduate of Cardinal McCloskey High School and was employed in the auto services and transportation industry for many years prior to working for Brockway- Smith Distributors until his retirement. He was in the U.S. Naval Reserve for 20 years, including active duty during Operation Desert Storm. He enjoyed wood-working and created some beautiful hand-crafted pieces. He was also a member of the Northeast Woodworkers Association and the Gold Wing Road Riders Association.

CE1 Sean F. MESSMER, formerly of MEBS, passed on 2 August 2022, in Miola, PA.

Military Emergency Boat Service News:



So, let's talk about **communications**. The Naval Militia just completed a full-scale exercise in July that was primarily focused on communications.

For years, we have been trying to get our communications procedures in place. We have come a long way, but we still have issues with procedures and equipment operations.

During Exercise Empire Challenge, we tested a number of our different systems and proved that when set up correctly, they do work.

So here are the issues:

- 1) Starting with **Marine VHF radios**. Everyone of our MEBS boats has at least one Marine VHF radio. They only work line-of-sight, so talking over a distance of about two miles can be expected. We always monitor channel 16. This is the channel every boat should have available. However, it is not a good channel for conducting business. The FCC has designated **Channel 17** as the government working channel. Channel 17 is the frequency that we should be on, especially when dealing with other agencies that may not have other VHF radios. Using Channel 72 for the exercise was not the best choice. It is for general use and thus open to anyone else who has a radio. We need to stick to monitoring Channel 16 and using Channel 17 for business.
- 2) **Kenwood tactical VHF radios** are on nearly all of our boats, with the current exception of PB 220, 221, LC 351 and PB 440. These radios have been tested and work well. Even better, when using the NYNM Hi or NYNM Low channels, no one else is on them. These frequencies are dedicated to the Naval Militia. When we are operational, the Kenwood tactical radios are the **PREFERRED** means of communications between boats, and between boats and the command post.

- 3) **Satellite phones.** We have two operational sat phones. Currently, PB 230, PB 280, and PB 281 have the ability to support the sat phone. Having this capability is especially important when operating on the great lakes, when out of range of cell phones or VHF radio range.
- 4) **HF.** We are working to replace the MICOM HF transceiver in the command post trailer. It appears that we have all of the HF systems in place, and having a better transceiver is the last piece of the puzzle.
- 5) **Repeaters.** We have been using VHF repeaters provided by NYS DHSES Office of Interoperability and Emergency Communications (OIEC) and the Civil Air Patrol. Using the Kenwood's on VTAC 36 (airborne) and VTAC 37 (ground), we have proven that we can talk great distances on these radios that should only be line-of sight.

On another issue, we sent out a recent notice about taking care of the boats we operate, and it is worth mentioning again. We have to do better at treating our assets nicely. We have experienced some damage, particularly to boat engines, that can be attributed to overly aggressive operations. There is rarely the need to jump out of the hole at full speed or conduct operations that inordinately stress the engines. Remember, your maintenance team is just two people and is most likely over a hundred miles away from where your boat may sit damaged. So, let's take care of the equipment.

The last issue for this MEBS update is the new **MEBS LOG application**. It was mentioned in the last NEWSLETTER, and we are bringing it up again since it is TOO SLICK! The URL has changed, so the access to the new MEBS LOG site is through this QR Code:



The MEBS LOG App includes R1 forms, links to tide charts, maintenance request forms, float plans, pre-operational checklists, etc.

TRAINING

The Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) designation offered by the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) is now accepted by the Naval Militia. As such courses under the MEMS umbrella are now an authorized training event. SAD orders MAY be available for MEMS training within New York State.

All non-drilling members in grade E7 and above are required to complete the online Incident Command System courses; IS 100, IS 200, IS 700, and IS 800. Submit copies of completion certificates to NYNM headquarters. Fax number is 518-786-4427.

The quarterly training readiness numbers are below.

READINESS OFFICER

The COVID support mission has transitioned to Operation Enduring COVID Support and at the time of this article we have 43 NYNM service members on mission. Although the need for personnel on

this mission has reduced from the height of the COVID Support mission, we are ramping up our efforts to increase readiness because hurricane season is right around the corner. We need to be prepared to respond if called upon. As always, we rely on your cooperation to keep us updated with changes to your personal information.

To facilitate providing updates to us easier, we have added an App to the "Contact Us" tab of our website. This is HIPPA compliant and works great on your smart phone! There is even a QR code to scan for quick access.



If you are a member who is separated or retired from your federal component, an annual medical is required on forms 88 & 93 to be eligible for State Active Duty orders and remain a member. These can be found on our website under forms and instructions and can be uploaded safely this this QR code or link:

<https://hipaa.jotform.com/app/221514574126148>

Updates can also be sent to ng.ny.nyarng.mbx.nynavalmilitia@army.mil or my email Elizabeth.a.spain.nfg@army.mil

Thank you all!

BMCS(EXW) Elizebeth Spain

Education News:

Fall 2022's Initial deadline is quickly approaching. The **DMNA Form 96-1** and **NYNM RIRP Acknowledgment Form** must be completed and received **NLT 13AUG2022** in order to be considered for this semester. All other documents must be received within 60 days.

Each school's Bursars office will be sent a list from DMNA (on or around the week of **15 October 2022**) of all approved students along with billing sheets for each student. The Bursar's office will then fill out the billing sheets & return them to DMNA. Once received, they will be reviewed and submitted to NYS for payment.

Important note: If your school attempts in any way to encourage you to pay for TUITION for a semester that you were selected to receive tuition assistance via RIRP, DO NOT PAY before speaking to New York Naval Militia Headquarters!

Best of luck with your classes!

RIRP Checklist,

http://dmna.ny.gov/forms/naval/NYNM_RIRP_Chcklist_Spring_2022.pdf

Announcements:

The New York Naval Militia/New York Guard Military Ball.

-West Point, Saturday, September 24, 2022.

New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

August 2022	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	136	24	34	194
WARRANT	8	0	1	9
ENLISTED	1943	253	410	2606
TOTAL	2087	277	445	2809
NAVY	969	129	261	1359
MARINE	961	125	155	1241
COAST GUARD	89	3	5	97
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	27	4	2	33
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	42	16	22	80

New York Naval Militia Training Readiness Report

Ref: NYNMINST 3501.1

	Month:	August	Year:	2022
		NUMBER	PERCENT	
1. Personnel Census				
a. Total Force Census:		2809		
b. Percentage of end-strength (3500):			80.26%	
c. SAL as percentage of total census: (Less than 5% by law)			1.50%	
d. Number of 900 series, E7 and above		61		
2. Training Readiness:				
a. Percentage of 900 series unit members in grade E-7 and above with ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 and INDOC courses:	GOAL	305	179	58.69%
b. Number of trained JTF Liaison Officers (six min):	6	4		66.67%
c. Number of HIPAA trained staff (three min):	3	11		100.00%
d. Number of JRSOI trained PAT members (five min):	5	14		100.00%
e. Number of JOC 101 trained staff (three min):	3	3		100.00%
f. Number of JSTC E-7 and above (five min):	5	5		100.00%
g. Percentage of CDRs/DEP CDRs with Ethics Overview:	7	7		100.00%
				89.34%

PHOTO GALLERY. The Naval Militia in action.



Top left: MK2 Keith White and MMC Bob Hill (underneath) replace a blown tire on the LC-350 trailer, during a transit of the Thruway.

Top Right: SW2 Moe Aung and SSGT Paul Hauschen assist Navy Reserve corpsmen jump into the Saint Lawrence River as part of Operation Commanding Force on 18JUL22.

Lower Left: SGT Jon Oliveras shoots the “nuggie blaster” antenna launcher, at Ovid on 16JUL22.

Lower Right: ENCS Bob Wittenzellner and BU1 Steve Putney in command of LC-350 during a multi-day transit.

EMPIRE CHALLENGE '22



← In the MEBS command post.

↓ A NY Guard/ Naval Militia de-watering team steps off LC-350 for a mission at Willard, on Seneca Lake.





← Stretcher bearers carry a “drowning victim” off LC 350.

↓ The Naval Militia medical team of HM1 Errol Vega and HN Phyllis Pearson, along with N.Y. Guard EMT Andrew Binner assess the “victim.”



