



NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018

**ATTENTION NAVAL MILITIA
MEMBERS THAT WERE ACTIVATED
ON S.A.D. DURING 2017:**

If you were called upon for state active duty and have not yet been paid (to include travel pay), please contact Elizabeth Cummings at Elizabeth.Cummings@DMNA-NYNM.NYGOV or by phone at (518)786-4583. She will be the “go-to” for Naval Militia pay issues going forward.



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NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018

Commander's Corner:

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

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



2017 was quite some year! From lake flooding response, to hurricane relief support, to individual acts of heroism, the New York Naval Militia has once again proved itself to be an invaluable asset to the great state of New

York. I could not be more proud of the efforts all of you have made. There is one statistic, 4,000 + man/days of support to the state in 2017, that is remarkable. The things we have done this year, in many cases, are things we have never done before, such as standing up a fully functioning galley in 48 hours. What we, together, have shown is what we as Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, in our Federal roles, already knew; when we go to sea, the most important skill we bring is resourcefulness. If there is flooding we all fight it, if there is a fire, we all work to put it out, if for no other reason than we can't walk home.

This skill is trained into all of us, and what a skill it is to bring to the military forces of the state! It is that mindset that there is nothing we can't do, is very powerful. For this, I commend you all, and encourage you to use that spirit every day.

I encourage all of you to read the comments by CAPT Hawley, our Chief of Staff. Our ability to recall people by individual skill set becomes more critical every year, and the key is for each of us to take just a few minutes, whenever there is a change of



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Cover photo:

MNSN Gary Reid, a member of Team Galley preparing a meal for NY National Guard and State Guard personnel during Operation Maria Response, at Camp Smith Building 505.

information about us, and inform Headquarters or our Unit Liaison. Our Headquarters staff exists to serve us and the state. The more current info they have, the easier it is to process important things such as educational benefits and orders.

Finally, I would like to commend SGT Vega on his valorous action that not only saved a man's leg but his life. That this occurred during a blizzard, in windy, cold weather is all the more remarkable. His bravery that day is something that I believe we all are capable of. We are volunteers. We want to be helpful. We do our civilian jobs, and our reserve jobs, and our militia jobs, and our family jobs, because we are the people that others count on. When I look back over the last year, it is very clear that all of us in our great state can count on you. Excelsior!

Chief of Staff Comments

A Year of Great Work –

CAPT Dave Hawley, Chief of Staff

Our Winter newsletter is highlighting many events in which the New York Naval Militia has participated. Geographically from our highly successful Western Horizon, Buffalo & Binghamton Donation support for Hurricane Maria and Lake Ontario Flooding Operation all the way to the far Eastern Edge of Long Island with a Joint Law Enforcement/Military exercise: Blue Trident. Personnel were activated on paid State Active Duty in 2017 from every corner of New York State from O4 through E1. In other parts of this newsletter you may read about Operations Lake Ontario; Hurricane Maria Donations; Hurricane Maria Food Service Warehouse Support; Blue Trident; Empire Shield and Personnel support at DMNA HQ.

For Naval Militia Administration we learned a lot this year about how to effectively mobilize our personnel. For example: New

York State prefers to pay by Direct Deposit, a voided check is no longer the preferred method of collecting accurate Bank Routing information. Members are directed to bring a copy of their most recent MYPAY LES. This has your routing information and if you are receiving BAH with or without dependents. Also many times the information in our database is out-of-date and can adversely impact your paycheck: is your Home of Record (HOR) up-to-date?; how many dependents are you declaring?; have you been promoted?; have you gotten married?. These questions and more impact your pay and we are learning to ask these key questions before we deploy you for State Service. Some members found out the hard way that some employers do not recognize New York State Active Duty for Military leave. The best way to find out is to ask your employer before you are called to serve in a New York State emergency or disaster.

Another key lesson we learned is to be sure a member reads their orders. If the orders say “One round trip POV travel authorized for members over 35 miles from HOR” it does not mean round trip airplane fare will be reimbursed. If the orders say: “Foul Weather gear required” you can expect bad weather.

A financial question was answered: “New York State pays a minimum of \$125 per day” this includes all pay and allowances.

Overall, the Naval Militia was involved in State Activations for pay almost continuously between May 3rd, 2017 and December 31, 2017. More and more our members are being utilized by their specific skill sets and leadership. Be ready! If 2017 is any indication of the future... 2018 could be a very busy year for the New York Naval Militia.

Headquarters, NY Naval Militia welcomes our new Office Manager and Education Officer.

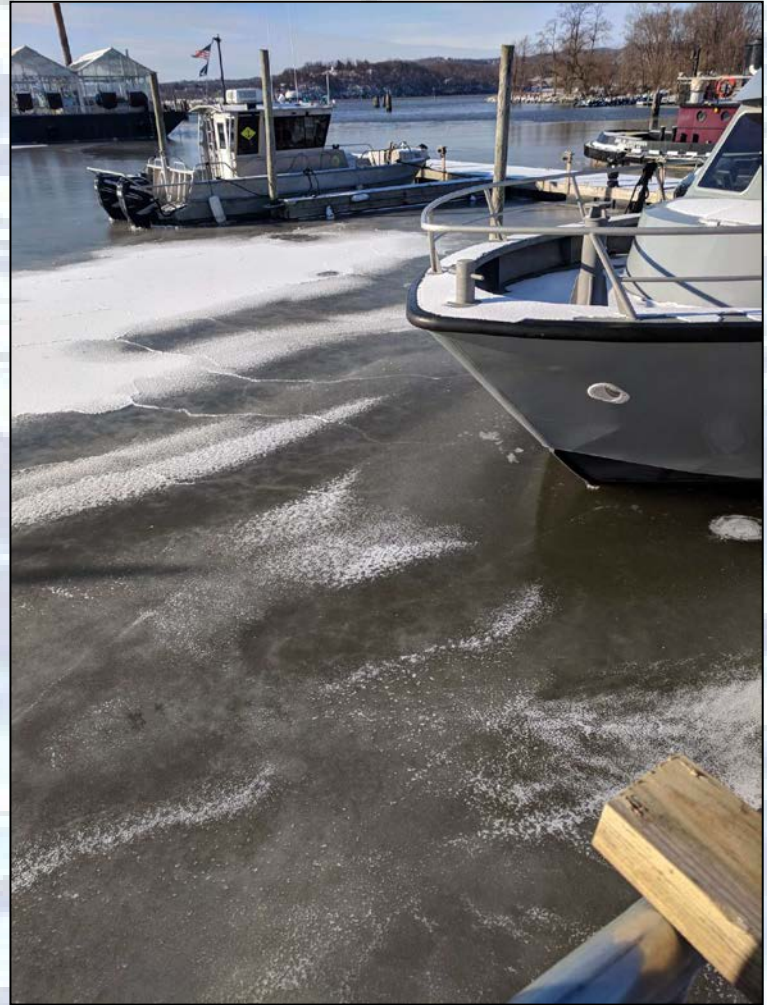
Elizabeth Cummings started in the headquarters office at DMNA on 14 December

2017. She comes highly qualified to the position and is ready to go.



Elizabeth grew up in Dutchess County where she attended local community college and worked at her parents' hardware store. She later moved to the Capital Region with her husband, SFC Garrett Cummings (NYARNG), and their two dogs. She is an avid boater and water sports enthusiast. Her grandfather was a former LTJG of the USS LSM 200 in WWII, in his later years he purchased land on a lake in Averill Park which is where her love of the water began. She is excited to help grow the Naval Militia as well as continue helping our members strive for success with the Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program. After learning about the Army from her husband, she is looking forward to expanding her knowledge of the different branches through the Naval Militia, even though she promised to still cheer for the Black Knights come football season!

MILITARY EMERGENCY BOAT SERVICE



Icy conditions for MEBS DET ONE



Sergeant Christopher Vega of MEBS Det ONE saves life of driver in Peekskill



On the morning of Thursday, 4 January 2018, Sgt VEGA was enroute from his JTFES assignment with the boats supporting the security zone at Indian Point. The area was experiencing the “bomb cyclone” that impacted much of the Northeast that day.

Travelling in his hometown of Peekskill, he turned a corner and came across a truck accident on Main Street (Route 202). In snowy conditions, a box truck had struck a wall alongside the roadway as well as a telephone pole, shearing it off from the ground. Wires were draped across the crashed truck and Sgt VEGA found the 34-year-old, male driver pinned inside the cab.

While another witness called 9-11, Sgt VEGA moved to save the victim. Not knowing if the draped wires carried live electrical current, he without concern for his own safety quickly decided that he had to remove the driver from the vehicle. He had to forcibly move

the damaged metal shell of the cab from around the man, cutting his own hands in the process. With the help of a third witness, he carried the man to safety away from the truck.

As a result of the accident, the telephone pole had entered the cab of the truck, nearly severing the driver’s leg below the knee. With aortic bleeding, the lower part of the man’s leg was hanging by tendons only. The man was pale from the loss of blood.



With emergency training from his civilian occupation with the New York Police Department Counter-terrorism unit, Sgt VEGA was equipped with a tourniquet in his personal vehicle. He raced to get and apply the tourniquet, which likely saved the man’s life. His Naval Militia uniform covered in the victim’s blood, he attended and comforted the driver for approximately six minutes until the arrival of local police and EMS.

The victim was rushed to New York – Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, in Cortlandt, where the leg was re-attached. He was subsequently moved to Westchester Medical Center for specialized treatment. As of this writing, the medical professionals believe that the man may someday walk again.

ELSEWHERE IN MEBS:

Senior Chief Bob Wittenzellner of MEBS Det 52 is awarded the NYS Military Commendation Medal



His citation read in part: He “displayed exceptional initiative and professionalism during the period 2-31 July 2017, while assigned to Joint Task Force Ontario.

Upon the activation of the Military Emergency Boat Service Contingency Detachment FIVE as part of Joint Task Force Ontario on Sunday, 2 July, he directly assisted in arranging to get personnel and boats mobilized. On 5 July, he went on State Active Duty and became the leader of Team Olcott, the DMNA response to the Governor’s call for assets to protect the fragile shoreline during the Lake Ontario flooding in Niagara County.

Over the course of this period, he was relentless in resolving numerous boat, truck, and trailer maintenance issues. When Truck 46 suffered an engine casualty, he spent numerous hours dealing with the auto dealer working to resolve the issue at a cost savings to the state. He led the effort to resolve various repairs on the trailers for both PB 280 and 281, and he resolved engine issues on both PB 280 in Rochester and PB 281 in Olcott.

He led his team to exceptional on-water performance, resulting in adulation from the U.S. Coast Guard for two separate incidents, involving distressed boaters on Lake Ontario.

He coordinated all manning efforts for the rotation of personnel into and out of Team Olcott, ensuring complete mission accomplishment for the duration.”

ABH1 Bhola earns the MEBS CRAFTMASTER device



Petty Officer Fred Bhola is presented with Craftmaster device number #7 while onboard PB 301 near the Bear Mountain Bridge. 15NOV17.

OFF-SEASON MAINTENANCE BY THE MEBS N4 TEAM.



Chief James Miller and Senior Chief Frank Rogers work on PB 280 engines as part of a recent maintenance availability.

Operation MARIA RESPONSE

Hurricane Relief Collection Across the State



Members of the NYNM have continued to serve on State Active Duty orders as they work to provide much-needed relief to Americans living in Puerto Rico. The small island territory was hit hard during the storm in September, 2017, which became the 10th most intense storm in the history of the Atlantic Ocean. At one time, winds were measured at 174 MPH, and the storm accounted for almost 600 deaths.

The NYNM had two teams operating in Upstate New York, one in Buffalo and the other in Binghamton. The teams consisted of between 6-10 individuals, each of whom was tasked with getting donated food, water and supplies from the point of donation to being packaged and moved onto the trucks for transport. "It's really not bad duty," said

BMC John Reimer, the senior member of the Buffalo effort. "We packed up three full trucks the other day, which is barely a drop in the bucket when compared to the overall effort. But I think the people here are gaining a great appreciation of just how bad the need really is."



Members of the NYNM Hurricane Relief Team at the Connecticut Street Armory, Buffalo, gather essential food, water and supplies for shipment to Puerto Rico.

The amount of donations had fluctuated from day-to-day, and sometimes the volunteers working the facilities were much busier than at other times. "We've had days when it's all about unloading, stacking, packaging and shipping, while other days have been really slow," said LCDR "Kenny" Fellers, the senior officer at the Binghamton site. "When it's slow, we've been able to get in some great cross-training with the members of the staff down here. Everyone's been able to maximize the use of their time, even if they've just worked on correspondence courses."

The members of the NYNM who have volunteered for these orders have expressed a uniformly proud and dedicated attitude towards helping our friends in need in Puerto Rico.

Team Galley a highlight of Operation Maria Response

New York Military Forces consistently provided exceptional support for Operation Maria Response, especially those members of

the NY Naval Militia serving on Task Force Donation in Binghamton, Buffalo, and Camp Smith.

Team Galley was the element of the task force that provided meals to the NY National Guard and NY State Guard conducting the warehousing operations at Camp Smith. Prior to their arrival in early November, the task force was being fed by a local catering service. By all accounts, the cost was prohibitive and the quality marginal. In response to numerous concerns, the joint operations directorate at Joint Force Headquarters – New York ordered the Naval Militia to stand up a team of food service professionals to provide full-service, daily meals.



From 10 November to 20 December, the ten-member team led by CSC “Butch” Hurlburt and EOC Tom Gray transformed the dining facility in Camp Smith Building 505 into a high-quality, exceptionally-lauded organization.

The team provided more than 4300

meals, including a special Thanksgiving Day meal, Army-Navy Game party, and developed a POW/MIA memorial for the Building 505 facility.

With an average cost of only \$2.97 per meal, they reduced overall operating expenses by two-thirds.

The positive response from the National Guard and State Guard customers was overwhelming and sustained throughout the period.

BZ to Team Galley!

WESTCOM News:

WESTCOM Holds Expanded Fall 2017 Leadership Dinner



Members of WESTCOM leadership team gathered at the Fall Leadership Dinner, October 2017.

The Northside Inn in East Rochester, NY served as the venue for the 3rd semi-annual WESTCOM Leadership Dinner. The get-together, which was started in 2016, was hosted by the popular local Italian restaurant and attended by an ever-growing number of leaders from across the NYNM Western Region.

It featured the first time in its existence when

members of the Coast Guard and the Marines were in attendance. Marine Staff Sargent Chad DiBiase (C Co., 1/25 4thMARDIV) and BMCS Roger Rebman (Coast Guard Sector Buffalo) both joined us for the dinner, which enhanced the evening and served to widen our circle of leaders. “I’m still new to this organization, so any chance I get to meet with other enlisted leaders and officers from across the region is a good thing,” said Senior Chief Rebman.

The dinner is held once every six months in WESTCOM, and serves as a forum for leaders to discuss the happenings in their respective units, as well as to exchange ideas on making the NYNM a better organization. “It’s really about 25% business and 75% social,” said CAPT Weill, WESTCOM Commander. “However, even when we are sitting around just trading sea stories, much of it involves the NYNM and how we can become better organized and more efficient. It’s a win-win for all hands.

This was also the first time that the group has gathered at the Northside Inn, a popular Italian restaurant in East Rochester. The previous venue, Joe’s Crab Shack (Rochester) closed as arrangements for the dinner were being finalized. However, the Northside Inn, a fourth-generation landmark establishment, we extremely accommodating and reserved a private room for the gathering.

The idea of a regional leadership conference has firmly taken root, and is an extremely useful and well-attended function in the Western Region. “It almost a necessity in WESTCOM,” commented CDR Jay Dutcher, Deputy Commander WESTCOM. “We’re not like the other two regions. We have NOSCs in Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo, not to mention two locations for the Marines plus Coast Guard Sector Buffalo. It’s almost impossible to stay in touch with everyone from all the various locations, but these dinner meetings give us the perfect opportunity to overcome all that.”

The next WESTCOM Leadership dinner will take place in either February or March, 2018. We look forward to an even bigger and better group as we move into the New Year.



Syracuse NOSC Change of Command

Members of the NYNM were in attendance at the Change of Command ceremony at NOSC Syracuse this past month to welcome the incoming CO and say farewell to the outgoing skipper. The event saw LCDR Amber Brandt being relieved by incoming CO, LCDR Clark A. Petri.



RDML Powell presents a plaque to LCDR Amber Brandt prior to her Change of Command ceremony

In attendance with the guests were RDML Ten Eyck Powell, Commander NYNM, CAPT Larry Weill, WESTCOM Commander, and BMC Robert Lipp, NYNM Liaison Officer for NOSC Syracuse. RDML Powell presented LCDR Brandt with a plaque from the Naval Militia to recognize her contributions to the growth and organization of the NYNM in her Center.

“It’s important that we get out to the events like these across the state,” said RDML Powell. “It’s more than just handing someone a plaque and saying thanks. It’s showing the SELRES population that we are an ongoing presence; a

partnership with the Navy that benefits everyone. The ‘ongoing presence’ is a critical part to our growth and success.”

The ceremony was presided over by Commander Mark Smith, Chief Staff Officer, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Reserve Component Command, Norfolk. In addition to her recognition from the New York Naval Militia, LCDR Brandt was also presented with the Meritorious Service Medal for her outstanding performance during her two years of command.

In addition to the Change of Command ceremony, NYNM leaders were provided time to brief the incoming CO, LCDR Clark A. Petri on the Naval Militia and its associated benefits. LCDR Petri expressed his appreciation of the NYNM, and is looking forward to working together in the future.



“Back with a vengeance” were the bywords of the day last weekend when the Navy commissioned its newest ship, the USS LITTLE ROCK (LCS-9) into service. The service took place at the Canalside waterfront park, which also serves as the setting for the Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Military Park.



USS LITTLE ROCK (LCS-9) positioned next to pier at Buffalo Naval Park (photo taken 12/16/2017)

The ship had arrived the prior weekend, and served as the perfect backdrop for the ceremony which lasted about 90 minutes. The New York Naval Militia was well-represented, with RDML Powell, CAPT Hawley, CAPT Zakriski, CAPT Weill, and CDR Dutcher all in attendance.



CAPT Zakriski, RDML Powell, CAPT Hawley, and CAPT Weill

“There were almost 9,000 people at the ceremony,” commented CAPT Hawley, “so all things considered they did an outstanding job of managing the crowd and keeping the ceremony on schedule.” Dignitaries on the platform included several military VIPs including VADM Luke McCollum, Chief of Navy Reserve, who spoke to the crowd about the significance of the ship and the direction of our modern day Navy.

Also speaking to the attendees were U.S. Senator John Boozman (Arkansas), as well as the mayors of both Buffalo (Byron Brown) and Little Rock, Arkansas (Mark Stodola).

The commissioning was also historic in that it marked the first time in the history of the United States Navy that a ship had been commissioned next to its namesake. The previous LITTLE ROCK, a light cruiser commissioned in 1944, resides permanently in the Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Military Park. A small group of tourists gathered on the deck of the retired ship to observe the ceremony taking place just a few hundred feet away.

The detachment of NYNM leaders in attendance managed to remain comfortable despite

the freezing conditions. Although a light snow continued to fall throughout the ceremony, the lack of a breeze off the water kept conditions tolerable. “Things could have gotten a lot worse if we’d had a 20-knot wind blowing in,” remarked RDML Powell. It was the first time many of the guests had ever attended a ceremony where the chairs were set up in snow. Regardless of the conditions, the commissioning was a momentous and historic event that will be remembered forever by the military and city alike.

Education News:

For the Fall 2017 semester, there were 147 NYNM applications for RIRP benefits. Of those, 137 were approved.

For the Spring 2018 semester, there were 136 NYNM applications, of which 96 have been approved to date.

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

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

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.

Application check list:

1. DMNA FORM 96-1 signed by applicant and Unit.
2. FAFSA (SAR report)
3. TAP HESC Report

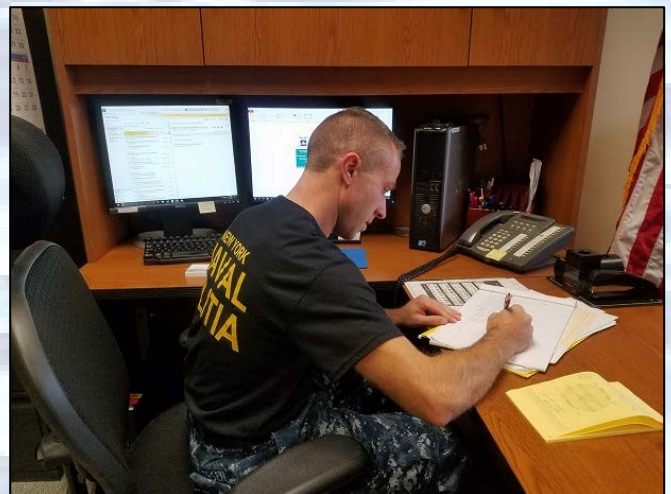
4. Class schedule (or college acceptance letter)

If you are taking less than 12 credits you must fill out the college’s Aid for Part Time Study (APTS) application and send the application to the Naval Militia.

Details about how to apply can be found on the NYNM website at <http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=education>.

UNIFORM NEWS

Black NY Naval Militia T-shirts in either short or long-sleeves are now authorized for wear in the working uniform of Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps component members, while in a State Active Duty status. NYNMINST 1020.1 is being updated to reflect this change.

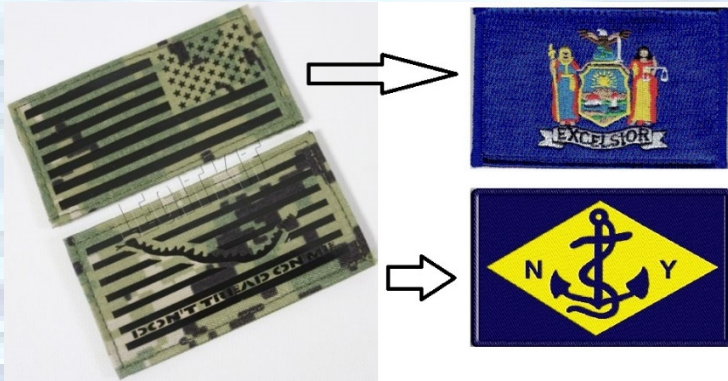


Mobilization Coordinator, QM1 Tim Petersen wearing the NYNM T-shirt.

NWU TYPE III Patches With the roll-over to NWU Type III (“guacamole”) uniforms in coming years, the NY Naval Militia is ready. The uniform instruction reflects changes to the US Navy uniform to meet NY Naval Militia standards. Make the following changes while in State Active Duty

(SAD) status:

- 1) Remove subdued USA flag on right shoulder Velcro and replace with full-color New York State flag.
- 2) Remove subdued DTOM patch from left shoulder and replace with NY Naval Militia full-color patch (or MEBS full-color patch if eligible).



New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

5JAN18	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	152	33	37	222
WARRANT	11	4	5	20
ENLISTED	1881	280	404	2565
TOTAL	2044	317	446	2807
NAVY	1034	153	255	1442
MARINES	842	116	159	1117
COAST GUARD	112	3	5	120
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	13	7	5	25
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (RETIRED)	36	36	22	94
PENDING ACTION	7	2	0	9

SHIP'S STORE INFORMATION

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