

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2019



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



Cover photo:

PB 440 in the slings at Brooklyn, during repairs to the port water jet impeller. January 2019.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Exercise Empire Challenge
16-18 May 2019, Camp Smith Training Site

Exercise Western Horizon '19
September 2019, Seneca Lake

Commander's Corner:

RDML Timothy G. Zakriski
Commander
New York Naval Militia

As we start 2019, let me begin by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

There are many changes within DMNA which have occurred in the last half of 2018 which will affect us as the Naval Militia. We have a new Adjutant General, MG Raymond Shields and a new Special Assistant



(State), BG Patrick Center. Brig Gen Timothy LaBarge has been appointed Commander of NY Air National Guard. Colonel John Andonie, recently promoted to BG, now serves as Director of Joint Staff. Although these changes are centric to our Army and Air Guard counterparts, they will have a positive effect on the Naval Militia. The new leadership understands and appreciates our skills and capabilities and is prepared to utilize our personnel when the need arises. This means that we must be prepared to answer the call, often on short

notice. I ask that you make sure that your contact information is current and inform your regional command staff on any changes. If you're an individual who can quickly respond to a call-up, let your NYNM leadership know that. There will likely be some changes in the way we operate, in order to allow us to be more responsive in an emergency. As these changes occur, I will share them with you. I look forward to seeing and working with all of you during 2019. Until then best wishes and take care.

Chief of Staff Comments

I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

As the New Year begins there are a few notable personal events with constant bearing and decreasing range: the 2019 Promotion Cycle is quickly approaching and the nominations for the 2019 Josephthal Award.

The 2019 Promotion Cycle: The best guidance is our NYNM INST 1410.1B Promotion Policy. Once you are sure you meet the time in grade requirements read the Promotion Policy to be sure you can put together the best Individual Promotion Package before the Promotion Board. The Board will meet in June 2019 and all Individual Packages must be complete to my office no later than May 31st. The best guide for Individual Packages is the "Board Promotion Checklist" in the back of the Promotion Policy:

1. Recommendation for Promotion: This recommendation comes from your Regional Commander or MEBS Commander.
2. Narrative Justification: This is your chance to speak to the Board. It is a letter from you to the Board President explaining your qualifications for promotion.
3. Minimum time in grade: When did you earn your last rank?
4. Recent Photo: Within the past year a full color photo of you in uniform, full length and uncovered.
5. Current Fitness or Evaluation report: This report is by your reporting Senior (for most Naval Militia members this is your Regional Commander)
6. Minimum of 5 years of evaluations or fitness reports: The New York Naval Militia does not have "Annual Evaluations" so your reporting Senior can provide multiple year reports.
7. Current medical on file: verify your annual is up to date.
8. Individual Training Record: NYNM Form 1570 provides a line by line ability to verify you have been currently serving the NYNM over the past few years.
9. Billet description: If you are applying for promotion that also involves increased duties and responsibilities – describe these.
10. All DD214's: If you have activated since the time you joined the NYNM perhaps we do not have all your DD214's – call the office or send an email to see if we have all of your DD214's.

It is your responsibility to ensure your promotion package is complete. The most frustrating part of attending a Promotion

Board is to find a good candidate has not completed their application package. For those enlisted members applying to be promoted to E7 and above: additional recommendations by current Naval Militia E7's and above add to the weight of your application.

The Josephthal Award:

In 1929 Rear Admiral Louis Josephthal passed away and in his will created the Josephthal Award to recognize an outstanding Naval Militia Individual and an outstanding Unit each year. All Naval Militia members and Units are eligible to be awarded the award. Units of the Reserve Forces of the US Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are eligible if at least one member of the Unit belongs to the NYNM. Recognition is based on an individual or unit that has performed in a manner that reflects mission accomplishment of the NYNM or Federal service.

Nominations shall be made by any commander, commanding officer, or officer-in-charge of a NYNM unit or Federal Unit that has at least one NYNM member. Nominations should be made on standard military letter format with enough documentation to support the nomination.

MILITARY EMERGENCY BOAT SERVICE

In 2019, MEBS will continue to focus on training and operations as we have in the past. We are increasing our awareness of safety and operational procedures.

LCDR Jay Veronko is the MEBS Training Officer and Safety Officer.

You will see new and interesting avenues for training being made available to MEBS members, including online programs.

As a result of LCDR Veronko's efforts, you will see a new risk assessment plan that is to be used state-wide for all boat operations. One of the key notions of this plan is that boat teams must be able to determine if the conditions and environment they plan to operate in is safe enough. As always, the member in charge has the authority to call off training or operational events if the conditions (i.e. weather, equipment readiness, personnel readiness) are not safe.

This year, the MEBS Kick-Off Weekend, normally held in late April will take place in conjunction with Exercise Empire Challenge in May. The actual days of the Kick Off will be on Saturday and Sunday, 18-19 May at Camp Smith.



PO1 Freddie Bhola of MEBS DET 1 gives LC 350 a fresh water wash-down, at Haverstraw.



MEBS personnel assigned to JTF Empire Shield: ABH1 Bholia, BM1 Schneider, BMC Nilsen, MK1 Fenty, BMC M O'Sullivan, SGT Vega, MK1 Stefandel

EXERCISE EMPIRE CHALLENGE '19

Exercise Empire Challenge '19 (ECX19) is a joint communications exercise involving various New York Military Forces (NYMF) units
 Exercise dates: 16-19 MAY 2019.

Location: Camp Smith, Cortlandt Manor; and Norrie State Park, Staatsburg (MEBS).

The purpose of the exercise is to demonstrate full communications capabilities among all participating units in an operational environment, in accordance with CONPLAN (Contingency Plan) 7.0. As part of this exercise, we shall test each communication system to identify and address shortfalls to fully understand what works and what does not.

As background, we have repeatedly conducted NYNM exercises where lack of communications became an issue. We have attempted to make various communications work, but due to lack of proficiency, lack of the right people being involved, and lack of the

right equipment, we rarely experience success. Often, we simulate things are working, which would not be of any use should a real contingency exist. Frequently, we settle for reliance on cell phone communications, which requires advance knowledge of cell numbers, and relies on an infrastructure that may be unavailable in a real contingency.

Based on lessons learned from both real world operations and exercises over the past five years, an internal and inter-service communication gap has been identified as a trend. This exercise will focus on both internal (within one branch of NYMF) and inter-component (NYMF MIL-MIL) communications, but will not include interagency (MIL to CIV) objectives.

Primary Exercise Objectives

Test all NYNG and NY State Defense Force communications platforms (30-300 miles)

HF radios

MERN

JISCC

MERC

Develop and or review SOPs for NYMF communications

Secondary Exercise Objectives

Food services training to support CSTS exercise participants (NYNM, NYG)

Develop service specific EXORDs based on J35 EXORD

Exercise TOC operations

Exercise CSTS JRSOI plan

Additional NYNM and NYG METL tasks

Debris clearance training (Chainsaw)

Forklift training

HMVW driving training

Truck driving training
Review and update communications METLs

Update CONPLAN

Admin and Education News:

- Updates from Elizabeth -

Happy winter! I hope you are all enjoying the snow as much as I am.

For those of you that are not aware, our enlistment and commissioning applications have recently changed (hopefully for the last time) and are much more user friendly. They are all on our website under the Forms/Instructions tab and they are fillable PDF's complete with the option to email them directly to me from the form. Due to the changes in the application, previous versions of the applications will no longer be accepted. Please note, NYNM HQ no longer accepts partial applications, so be sure you are familiar with what a complete application consists of before telling your friends!

In addition to changes to our application, the process for applying for tuition assistance through the Recruitment Incentive & Retention Program (RIRP) has also changed. The RIRP is a process that still needs further improvement, but we have come a long way in the past year. New for the Spring 2019 semester (and all future semesters) is a mandatory NYNM Form 96-1 Acknowledgment that all RIRP applicants of the Naval Militia will have to read and sign to be accepted. This form is available on our website and is also being emailed out to everyone who has applied for the current semester. Additionally, going forward the RIRP deadlines will be firm and I will not accept late

applications under any circumstances, please be sure to spread the word regarding the deadline dates!

The deadline dates are subject to change, but as of right now the FIRST deadline date for the Spring semesters will be 12DEC by 1600 and for the Fall semesters it will be 12AUG by 1600. This first deadline date is what confirms that you will be applying for the RIRP, and in order to be counted by this date I have to have your DMNA Form 96-1 (please be sure you are filling out the current version). The FINAL deadline date for the Spring semesters will be 11FEB by 1600 and for the Fall semesters it will be 11OCT by 1600. In order to be approved for this program, I have to have all final requirements by this final deadline date.

Additionally, if your friends would like to use the RIRP and they are not already members of the Naval Militia, please let them know in order to use this program, **they have to be a member of the Naval Militia for a minimum of 30 days prior to the deadline date of the semester they are trying to apply for.** For example, if they would like to apply for the Fall 2019 RIRP semester, they will have to be a member of the Naval Militia NLT 12JUL19.

I have ran into this several times this semester, so I will make sure I mention it here (although it should go without saying): For each semester you would like to receive tuition assistance from the Naval Militia, a BRAND NEW DMNA Form 96-1 will be completely filled out and submitted to me, to include completed MOU (pages 1-3) and signatures on page 5. On page 5, question 4a needs to be signed by someone in your unit (other than yourself) that can verify that you are a current drilling reservist, in good standing, and will continue to be drilling for the duration of the time you are receiving RIRP benefits. This person is typically an LNO, NCO or CO. You cannot copy the signature from last semester and paste it onto the application for this semester, you

have to have it re-signed each semester. This signature is a required part of your RIRP application process. It is to verify that you are still a drilling reservist in good standing and will continue to be a drilling reservist in good standing for the duration of the time you will be receiving these benefits, therefore it has to be re-signed each semester. Due to recent events & to further ensure this does not happen again, starting for the Fall 2019 semester, a signature alone will no longer suffice on DMNA Form 96-1. Going forward, the signature from the person in your unit will either be electronically signed with a CAC card, or they will print their name & rate/rank, sign their name and date it, or it will not be accepted.

Thank you for your patience and understanding with all of the changes, please let me know if you have any questions regarding the above information or any recommendations on things to improve!

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” - Frederick Douglass

Respectfully, Elizabeth

UNIFORM NEWS

The NYNM Uniform Regulations instruction (NYNMINST 1020.1D) has been updated and can be found at http://dmna.ny.gov/forms/naval/NYNMINST_1020.1D_Uniform_Regulations.pdf.

Significant changes in the uniform regulations include manner of wear for NWU Type III uniforms for Naval Militia members. Some of these changes include:

All members wearing the NWU Type III will wear the subdued United States Flag on the right arm.

All members wearing the NWU Type III will wear the subdued command (or authorized unit)

patch on the left arm.

NWU Type III uniforms will have the rank tab affixed to the front of the 8-point cover. For some hats, the rank tab covers the USN Anchor-Constitution-Eagle embroidered logo.

READINESS OFFICER (N31) CORNER:

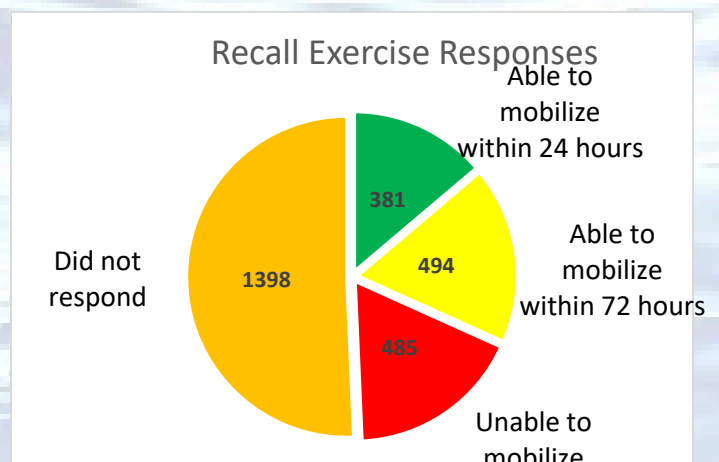
(By LCDR Kenny Fellers)

December Recall Exercise

“After Superstorm Sandy, if the Naval Militia would have had 3000 people ready to go, I’d have put them all on orders.”
BG(Retired) Patrick Center, NY Army National Guard former Director of Joint Staff

The NY Naval Militia is in the business of being prepared to respond to emergencies when mobilized by the Governor. Specific ordered personnel numbers are distilled to us by the Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) J3. As a general rule, we will attempt to mobilize a response based on geographic location. Naval Militia members closer to the fight, based on home address, will get contacted first. If we’re unable to fill the required manning with local members, then we’ll expand outward from the incident location as necessary until we fulfill the demand by the Governor.

In order to practice and track our ability to mobilize, we will conduct periodic digital recall exercises. Our first exercise was 11 December 2018. All active Naval Militia were sent texts and/or emails based on databased contact info. Results are below:



Clearly we have work to do to call our force "Ready". The response timeframes (24 hours, 72 hours, unable) are based on work, family, and parent service demands. All conditions normal. The troubling number is those that did not respond at all. Fully 51% of our members didn't respond to the recall exercise. Reasons for non-response include:

- Some members are mobilized with parent services and either unable to receive email or unable to mobilize with the Naval Militia.
- Some member contact data is out of date.
- Text alert system is not 100% effective.
- Official NY Naval Militia emails are routed to SPAM folders on some individual systems.
- Some members received email and/or text and chose not to respond.

FOG OF WAR

Civil Support Operations (CSO) – Mobilization Expectations

(By LCDR Kenny Fellers, Readiness Officer)

NY Naval Militia mobilized three personnel for J4 & J8 support in response to Operation January Snowstorm 19-25 January, which turned out not to be as destructive as the potential suggested.

It is New York State leadership's intention to lean forward with NY Military Force response to damaging weather predictions instead of reacting after the fact. In the interest of protecting civilians and helping communities recover after a natural disaster as quickly as possible; leadership would rather be ready and send troops home without using them, instead of needing NY Military Forces and not have

troops postured to respond. The January snowstorm mobilization of a small cadre of NY Naval Militia as part of a larger NY National Guard and NY Guard mobilization was indicative of the type of call-up that we can expect. Greater damage typically results in greater mobilization.

Uncertainty is a substantial factor at the beginning of any operation. Normally, the number of unknowns are reduced the longer an operation continues, but there are always unknowns. Taskings change, personnel are relocated, and equipment is repurposed in order to meet mission demands. The enemy is the weather in most cases. The enemy has a vote.

One of the unique qualities that Naval Militia members bring to the fight, that is appreciated by DMNA leadership, is our individual and collective ability to problem-solve and our robust roster of mature self-starters. In the absence of direct guidance, we possess the ability to digest commanders' intent, and we are depended upon to figure it out.

It is incumbent on all of us, to not only be ready to respond when needed, but to be flexible in our expectations. Things change, and they can change quickly. What you think your mission is, where you think you're going, and what your accommodations may be, can change.

In addition to flexibility in mission assignment, I would encourage all NY Naval Militia that execute State Active Duty (SAD) orders to be prepared for austere conditions. Bring a sleeping bag. In most cases, it's not needed, and accommodations will be in a hotel or a barracks room with linens provided. However, there are no guarantees, and we should all be prepared to be expeditionary in the short term.

BE READY!

LOCAL INTEREST

WESTCOM Hosts Fall Leadership Dinner

(by CAPT Weill)



Participants of semi-annual WESTCOM Leadership Dinner, held at Northside Inn in East Rochester

Senior enlisted and officer leaders from across the Western Region Command gathered together at November's Leadership Dinner. Once again, the forum was the Northside Inn, located in East Rochester.

This event, which has become a semi-annual fixture in WESTCOM, was joined by Master Chief Mach, marking his first trip across the state to attend the event. "It's great having the Force Master Chief visit us to attend this dinner," said CAPT Weill. "As our Force Master Chief, he has his finger on the pulse of the entire organization, State-wide, so he brings a well-rounded perspective to our conversation.

The Leadership Dinner, which is always "25% business and 75% social," focused on a number of topics including recruiting, awards, and grooming our next generation of NYNM leadership. "It was really nice to see our Chiefs coming from all three WESTCOM NOSCs: Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse," said BMC

Robert Lipp. Our leaders need to have the most current information about where we stand as an organization, and where we hope to grow in the future."

The next Leadership Dinner will be conducted in March, with even more of our leadership in attendance.

BU1 Steven Putney Retires with Distinction at NOSC Rochester

(by CAPT Weill)



BU1 Putney (right) receives three medals from CAPT Weill at retirement event at NOSC Rochester

It isn't often that a NYNM member retired with as much distinction and fanfare as BU1 Steven Putney. A long-standing member of the New York Naval Militia, Putney was pinned with three medals at a brief ceremony in the Rochester facility. Included in his awards were the Humane Service medal for his outstanding

contributions to the Lake Ontario sandbagging operations, and his long-overdue Defense of Liberty Medal for his efforts in NY City during the disaster of the destruction of the Twin Towers in 2001.

BU1 Putney was also awarded the NY State Military Commendation Medal for his leadership role in the Lake Ontario sandbagging operation, in which he stepped in to fill the role of a Chief Petty Officer. Putney's superb leadership and management capabilities were cited by the Officer in Charge,

LT Painter, as being critical to achieving the overall level of success throughout much of the event. "Petty Officer Putney was my right-hand man throughout the entire two months on the lake," said Painter. "I could not have achieved the same results without him."

BU1 Putney will be missed, both in the Rochester NOSC as well as on the various operations and exercises across the State each year. Fair winds and following seas!

New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

02-Jan-19	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	139	35	37	211
WARRANT	8	3	3	14
ENLISTED	1842	281	423	2546
TOTAL	1993	323	460	2771
NAVY	1006	135	248	1389
MARINE	806	115	152	1073
COAST GUARD	72	5	4	81
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	48	11	27	86
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	58	52	32	142



Early morning 25 October,
Viking Boat Yard, Verplanck.
Full moon setting over PB400