

# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

## NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2020



**Military and  
Naval Affairs**

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



**NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA**  
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## COMMANDER'S CORNER:

### RDML Warren T. Smith Commander New York Naval Militia



During the course of the last few extraordinary months, I have had the opportunity to meet with many of our Naval Militia members who have responded to the call to State Active Duty for the COVID-19 pandemic. In every instance, I have been impressed and proud of the outstanding job our Naval Militia has been doing. From the personnel staffing the testing sites in Albany, the Bronx and on Long Island to the pop-up hospital and warehouse activities at the Javits Center, and from our JRSOI and medical teams at Camp Smith to those auditing and processing payments at Latham, every Militia member has been professional and enthusiastic about their role in facing down this challenge. At the same time, our MEBS crew members have carried on with their daily missions maintaining our NYNM fleet of boats at Leeds, patrolling the Hudson at Verplanck, and working with the Coast Guard in and around New York harbor. While the number of Army and Air National Guard members on duty has waxed and waned, the Naval Militia and New York Guard have been a fairly steady presence – one that is frequently noted and greatly appreciated by the Adjutant General's office. Operation Lake Ontario never fully materialized before it was called off, but we recognize that hurricane season is underway, and the need to bring more of our Militia members on duty on short notice remains a real possibility. We have been fortunate that some of our Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen and women have been able to serve longer than usual, with educational institutions closed and many civilian jobs on hold. How this will play out in the coming months remains to be seen, but most have chosen to extend their active duty assignments when given the opportunity to do so.

With the national observance of the Fourth of July behind us and as November approaches, I ask you to bear in mind the oath we have all taken to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York.” This allegiance is not to specific individuals but rather to the principles articulated in those documents – principles of freedom, of fairness, of equality, of respect for others, of courage to do what is right, and of fundamental humanity. As private citizens we are free to express our personal views, however when we don a military uniform we become de facto and visible representatives of the organizations to which we belong, and that is how the public perceives us. As we navigate this current period of reassessment, introspection, and national dialogue in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, remember that media inquiries about our role and mission should always be referred to the DMNA public affairs office, and personal social media posts should not imply the author is speaking for the military forces of the State of New York. In fact, the most effective way to express your personal opinions is to exercise your right to vote at every opportunity, never forgetting that many of our forebears fought and died to achieve just that right.

I am proud to serve with all of you as we continue our work together to keep the people of New York State safe and fulfill the obligations of military service to our State and our Nation.

## DEPUTY COMMANDER COMMENTS

First of all "Congratulations!" to our recent Promotion Selectees and winners of the Josephthal Awards for 2020.

This year we were once again able to promote New York Naval Militia members. The applications displayed outstanding candidates for selection and please join Headquarters in wishing them every success in their increased rank and responsibilities.

In March of 2020 Governor Cuomo declared a state of emergency in New York and your Naval Militia responded by recalling members to help fight the COVID-19 crisis. The New York Naval Militia has been able to provide 113 personnel to: Human Services; Finance and Budget; Logistics; the JOC; Naval Militia administration; and to every Joint Operations Task Force in New York. Many of the members were requested by specialty: Officers; Hospital Corpsmen; Logistics; Equipment Operators; Personnel Specialists; Operations Specialists; and General Purpose support. Many of the personnel that responded were selected for recall based on their civilian specialties: logistics; economics; medical; engineering; transportation; and others. It is vital that Naval Militia headquarters has up-to-date resumes and civilian skills questionnaires on file. PDF fillable (NYNM Form 1070) Civilian-Military Skills Questionnaire forms are available on our web site <http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=forms>.

Your New York Naval Militia is being called on to support the military forces of New York in many more ways than ever before. When disasters happen you may get notified by email or more recently by TEXT MESSAGE. Text messaging requires that members provide us with a Consent for Use of NY-Alert Notification System. This form is also located on our web site above. This may seem like we are winding down for the year even though the year is only half over. The year is only half done! Hurricane season does not end until November! Snow storms begin as soon as Hurricane season ends. Your New York Naval Militia is active and needed. Be ready and be prepared, if you want to volunteer watch for announcements of emergencies and operations.

## AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

Please join me in congratulating the following members for promotion and this year's recipients of the Josephthal Awards!

**The 2020 New York Naval Militia Screening, Promotion and Retention Board**  
met on 22 June 2020

I hereby approve the findings of the Board and do hereby announce the results.

Name	Promotion to
Miller, James	AMCS
Vega, Christopher	SSGT
Vega, Errol	HM1
White, Jerry Keith	MK2

These individuals will be advanced effective 01 SEP 2020, providing all requirements are met.

**2020 JOSEPH TAL AWARDS; INDIVIDUAL AND UNIT**

The 2020 New York Naval Militia Josephthal Awards Board met on 21 June 2020

I hereby approve the findings of the Board and do hereby announce the results.

New York Naval Militiaman of the Year: **LCPL Alexander DeCianni**

New York Naval Militia Unit of the Year:

**MEBS DETACHMENT FIVE:**

- a. BMCS James Bruce
- b. ENCS Robert Wittenzellner
- c. EMC John Gerard
- d. BMC Gregory Lowery
- e. EOC Thomas Gray
- f. IT2 Anthony Brott
- g. MNCM Glenn Niemitalo

These New York Naval Militia members have distinguished themselves as outstanding representatives of New York and of the State Defense Forces. All New York Naval Militia members join me in congratulating these deserving volunteers.



Left: MEBS DET 5  
Right: LCPL DeCianni

## MILITARY EMERGENCY BOAT SERVICE

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has created significant issues for MEBS boat operations, essential missions with Joint Task Force Empire Shield continue. Maintenance of boats, trucks and trailers at the Maintenance Facility in Leeds continues. Administrative and logistics support continues.

### Here are the “take-aways” for this summer:

-Congrats to MEBS DET FIVE, the team that manned LC 350 and PB 230 during Operation Lake Ontario Flooding last summer. The team of Senior Chiefs James Bruce, Bob Wittenzellner; Chiefs Greg Lowery, John Gerard, Tom Gray; Petty Officer Anthony Brott; and Master Chief Glenn Niemitalo performed admirably in support of the sand-bagging operations on the shores of Lake Ontario. The detachment was selected as the 2020 Naval Militia Unit of the Year, earning the Josephthal Trophy.

-Congratulations are also extended to those members of MEBS selected for promotion by the Naval Militia board in June 2020. MEBS Selectees include James Miller, to Senior Chief; Christopher Vega, to Staff Sergeant; and Keith White, to Petty Officer Second Class.

-We have not been provided a budget for this year due to the ongoing fiscal restraints created by the pandemic. We have purchase orders in place for several large-scale jobs, and we do not anticipate that they will be effected. Other purchases are for essential needs only.

-Once again, MEBS has been awarded a federal Port Security Grant. The FY 20 grant supports reimbursement of maintenance for PB440 for three years. MEBS has been very successful in winning Port Security Grant awards. Since 2009 and including the forthcoming 2020 award, MEBS has been authorized nearly \$1.4 million in federal monies to support our program. These grants have supported not only maintenance and training, but also new landing crafts (2 awards) and other equipment such as radiation detection equipment, and a long range acoustic device (LRAD).

-The PB 440 powertrain replacement project was delayed due to the pandemic, but is now being planned for August 2020. This project is being offset by a FY18 grant.

-MEBS has established a new Readiness Metric to track our overall ability to respond to emergencies and contingencies. Frankly, this was driven by the negative effects of the pandemic which has pushed our training readiness down to the lowest levels. The readiness numbers take into account the readiness of our personnel and their qualifications; equipment readiness including boats, trucks, and trailers; communications capability; and training. The below table is a snapshot of our readiness taken on 8 July 2020.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RIRP FALL 2020 FIRST DEADLINE IS 13 AUG 2020



MEBS Readiness Rating		Minimum Standard	Actual	Rating	Goal
Personnel Census	P-Rating	90	92	1	120 MEBS Members
Personnel Staff	S-Rating	8	8	1	10 Key Staff
Training Qualifications	Q-Rating	30	32	1	45 Qualified Coxswains
Training Proficiency	T-Rating	184	56	4	240 Proficiency Mandays (2/member/year)
Communications Reliability	K-Rating	90%	100.00%	1	100% Functionality
Equipment Maintenance	E-Rating	90%	98.57%	1	100% Operational
Equipment Vehicle Quantity	V-Rating	11	8	3	11 Trucks
<b>Overall Readiness R-RATING</b>			1.71	2	
<b>Date:</b>		8-Jul-20			

**EXERCISE EMPIRE CHALLENGE**



**Exercise Empire Challenge '20** has been cancelled due to the pandemic. We will post updates for 2021 as soon as they are available.

**Admin and Education News:**

**PLEASE read this very important NEW information regarding RIRP for the Fall 2020 semester.**

**Elizabeth Cummings**

\*\*\* As some of you may know, I will be taking maternity leave shortly and could be starting as soon as the middle to end of July. It is in your best interest to submit your application and all additional requirements ASAP so I can process them before I leave! For this reason, it is VERY important that all communication regarding RIRP be sent to the RIRP email box ([nq.ny.nyarnq.mbx.nynavalmilitia-rirp@mail.mil](mailto:nq.ny.nyarnq.mbx.nynavalmilitia-rirp@mail.mil)) ONLY as the person who will be relieving me has access to that email as well. \*\*\*

The application period for the Fall 2020 semester is now open! However, due to COVID-19 pandemic NYS is on a budget freeze and we are still waiting to hear if that will have any effect on RIRP for the Fall 2020 semester. NYS may choose to stop funding RIRP at any point if the budget does not allow sufficient funds. You are welcome and encouraged to apply, but just be aware that it may not be funded for the Fall 2020 semester. At this point, we will continue to move forward as if the semester is going to be funded until we hear otherwise. As soon as we know anything additional, we will pass that information on to you so you are able to make an educated decision on your future.

For those of you who are not aware, the RIRP is a tuition assistance program available to members of the New York Army & Air National guards, and the New York Naval Militia. The RIRP is a program funded by New York State with the intention of retaining and recruiting drilling reservists within New York State. If approved for the RIRP, New York State will pay your school a maximum of the current SUNY Tuition rate per semester. The SUNY tuition rate is expected to increase from \$3,535 to \$3,635 per semester for the Fall 2020 semester, and should be the same for the Spring 2021 semester.

When submitting your application, the subject line of your email containing your application needs to state "last name, first name FALL 2020 RIRP". **NOTE: ALL documents MUST be sent in PDF format and attached DIRECTLY to the email (not through sites such as google chrome) as all other formats will be blocked prior to reaching my inbox!**

**Eligibility-** In order to qualify for the RIRP, you MUST:

- Be a current drilling reservist, in good standing both with your Federal component, and the Naval Militia (meaning no AWOL's, not flagged, etc.), and remain a drilling reservist for the duration of the time you are receiving the RIRP benefit
- Be a current resident of New York State
- Be working to achieve your first Bachelor's degree, or an Associate's degree (**\*members that already have a bachelor's degree are not eligible for RIRP\***)
- Be a member of the New York Naval Militia for a MINIMUM of 1 month (30 days) prior to the deadline date for the current semester you want to apply for

**Deadlines-** The RIRP is a SEMESTER to SEMESTER program, meaning you MUST re-apply completely each semester if you would like to be approved, and it currently covers the Spring and Fall semesters only. The deadline dates listed are subject to change. **Late applications will not be accepted under any circumstances.** Beginning the day after the first deadline, you will have a 60 day grace period to collect all final requirements and submit them to NYNM HQ for approval. **Please note: your college/university will not receive notification about RIRP from NYNM until we have received all requirements & approved your application, therefore it is crucial you submit all documents as early as possible.**

**Spring Semesters (1<sup>st</sup> deadline):** The completed DMNA Form 96-1 (version attached to this email) **AND** the NYNM RIRP Acknowledgment form (attached to this email) **MUST BE RECEIVED** by Elizabeth

Cummings, Naval Militia Education Officer, NO LATER THAN 1600 on **December 13<sup>th</sup>** in order to be accepted into the application period for that semester.

**Fall Semesters (1<sup>st</sup> deadline):** The completed DMNA Form 96-1 (version attached to this email) **AND** the NYNM RIRP Acknowledgment form (attached to this email) **MUST BE RECEIVED** by Elizabeth Cummings, Naval Militia Education Officer, NO LATER THAN 1600 on **August 13<sup>th</sup>** in order to be accepted into the application period for that semester.

**Please note, FAFSA & TAP are the ONLY requirements that are allowed to be used for two semesters in a row, as they apply for the entire school year as opposed to the individual semester. For the Fall 2020 semester, you will have to apply for a new 2020-2021 FAFSA & TAP (if applicable) and what is submitted MUST be dated 2020-2021. This means they are good for the Fall 2020 semester AND the Spring 2021 semester, so you should save these if you plan on applying for the Spring 2021 semester!**

I appreciate your patience and understanding in my delayed responses as I typically have about ~150-200 applicants per semester. Again, I will be out on maternity leave at some point prior to the final deadline so it is in your best interest to submit your application and all additional requirements ASAP so I can process them before I leave! Thank you!

Very respectfully,

*Elizabeth Cummings*

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA  
OFFICE MANAGER & EDUCATION OFFICER

**READINESS OFFICER (N31) CORNER:**

BMCS(EXW) Elizebeth Spain

Help us prevent pay and entitlement issues:

As the summer marches on, the Naval Militia continues to provide service members for the COVID-19 mission. If there is one message, I wish I could make you all hear it would be keep your information with us up to date! The State pay system is fed from our database. If your address is incorrect when you accept a set of orders, your paycheck and W-2 will not be delivered to you. Direct Deposit is not automatic unless you have it on file from a previous mission. If your pay grade is incorrect, you will be under paid. Remember, 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, [elizebeth.a.spain.mil@mail.mil](mailto:elizebeth.a.spain.mil@mail.mil) Thank you all in advance!

V/R  
Senior Chief





**See The Following Memorandum From The Office Of The Assistant Secretary Of Defense**

**SUBJECT: 2020 DoD Public Affairs Guidance for Political Campaigns and Elections**

The 2020 DoD Public Affairs Guidance for Political Campaigns and Elections reflects the Department of Defense (DoD) expectations for military members and civilian DoD employees participating and/or engaging in activities relating to federal, state and local political campaigns and elections. This guidance rescinds the 2018 DoD Public Affairs Guidance for Political Campaigns and Elections and will remain in effect until amended.

**General Guidance to the Force:**

- Political candidates and other elected or appointed officials may access installations to conduct official business (e.g., business not related to campaigning) and to take advantage of activities, services or resources that are available to him or her by virtue of law or policy.
- All members of the Armed Forces, including active duty members, members of the reserve component not on active duty, and retired members, are prohibited from wearing military uniforms at political campaign or election events.
- Do not engage in any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating with the DoD, or any component or personnel of the department, with a partisan political activity or is otherwise contrary to the spirit and intention of this policy guidance.

All inquiries to DoD components from political campaign organizations shall be directed to a public affairs officer (PAO) for awareness and appropriate action



## AROUND THE REGIONS

### NOSC Rochester Conducts Change of Command in Middle of Pandemic

(by CAPT Larry Weill)

It's part of the "new normal." People behind face masks, maintaining proper distances, and keeping your hands in your pockets. But it's a little different when you're trying to conduct a Change of Command, which is exactly what took place at NOSC Rochester, NY, over the week of June 19. CDR Susan "Susie" Burge was relieved by LCDR John Weaver in a small ceremony on Friday, June 19.

CAPT Jay Dutcher, the incoming Western Region Commander, and CAPT Larry Weill, the new NYNM Chief of Staff, paid a visit to CDR Burge and LCDR Weaver the day prior to the Change of Command. The visit was scheduled to provide a brief introduction and orientation about the NY Naval Militia to LCDR Weaver, and also to present a plaque to CDR Burge for her outstanding support to the NYNM organization. She accepted the plaque with the new-normal "elbow bump" in lieu of the traditional handshake.

LCDR Weaver comes to the Rochester area from his previous billet in the Pentagon. Originally from Texas, he is a Surface Warfare Officer who has been in the FTS community for only one year. This will be his first NOSC command, and he said he is looking forward to becoming part of the Rochester Reserve community.



*CDR Burge accepts her plaque from CAPT Weill with a socially-distanced "elbow bump" while CAPT Dutcher (left) looks on.*



*CDR Burge (middle) stands with LCDR Weaver (right), her relief at NOSC Rochester, the day before the Change of*

CDR Burge is heading south to join an air group located out of New Orleans, LA. An experienced pilot with over 2,000 hours of air time, she distinguished herself with an outstanding tour at NOSC Rochester, finishing in the top NOSC facilities in the state in almost every important metric.

NOSC Rochester has provided superb cooperation with our NYNM over the years, and we anticipate more of a good thing in the future. Fair winds and following seas to CDR Burge!

## **CURRENT BILLET POSITIONS OF NYNM**

RDML Warren T. Smith, Commander

CAPT David H. Hawley, Deputy Commander

CAPT Lawrence Weill, Chief-of-Staff

CAPT Marylynn Marrese, Commander NYNM SouthCom

CAPT Anthony Buanno, Commander NYNM NorthCom

CAPT Jay Dutcher, Commander NYNM WestCom

CDR Donald McKnight, Commander, Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS)

CAPT John Hunter, N9 (Force Medical Officer)

LT Daniel Marciniak, Public Affairs Officer (PAO)

CAPT Anthony Buanno, N1 (Admin Officer)

CAPT Michael Perry, N2 (Intelligence Officer)

LCDR Jamie-Lynn Smerka, N3 (Operations Officer)

CAPT Kenda James, N4 (Logistics Officer)

CAPT Grant Staats, N5 (Future Operations)

CAPT Mark Pedersen, N6 (Communications Officer)

CDR Kenny Fellers, N7 (Training Officer)

LCDR Alan Gutman, N9A (Medical Administration Officer)

Lt Filip Khosh, Exercise Coordination Officer

MNCM Glenn Niemitalo, Force Master Chief

BMCS Elizebeth Spain, N31 (Readiness Officer)



## NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA BY THE NUMBERS

14-JUL-20	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	137	30	36	<b>203</b>
WARRANT	6	1	3	<b>10</b>
ENLISTED	1770	253	406	<b>2,429</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1913</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>2,642</b>
NAVY	951	131	257	1,339
MARINE	812	111	147	1,070
COAST GUARD	70	4	4	78
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	31	8	10	49
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	49	30	27	106



### 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](http://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](http://www.VA.gov/healthcare)



**Cover photo:**  
PB 440 at Ambrose Anchorage