

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER FALL 2018



**THE EDUCATION OFFICER
SPEAKS OUT!**

**FIND OUT ABOUT COLLEGE
TUITION BENEFITS. IF THIS
APPLIES TO YOU, READ
ELIZABETH'S COMMENTS ON
PAGE 10**

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

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<http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/>

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



Cover photo:

Flags of New York State and United States flying over the MEBS command post. This was at Great Sacandaga Lake during Exercise Rapid Gunwale 18.

EVENTS CALENDAR

1 November 2018;

Annual NYNM Training Meeting; and
Exercise Rapid Gunwale 2019 Initial Planning
Conference, Camp Smith

1 December 2018; New York Militia Ball, West Point

16-18 May 2019; Exercise Rapid Gunwale 2019,
Camp Smith

Commander's Corner:

RDML Timothy Zakriski, CDR, NYNM

Greetings to all Naval Militia members as we look forward to celebrating both the Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day on November 10th and 11th, respectively. I hope each of you will have the opportunity to get together with family and friends to celebrate the occasion, share your feelings on your service and maybe tell a couple of sea stories. I am proud to serve beside each of you and I look forward to advancing the interests of our organization with your continued support. I will shortly meet with our newly appointed Adjutant General, Major General Shields to share our views on the way forward. Rest assured that I will be mentioning many of the concerns and recommendations you have discussed with me. As winter approaches we all have to relearn and remember our winter safe driving skills. Traffic accidents kill over 33,000 Americans annually. This past year our SGT Christopher Vega was awarded New York State's Highest Honor, the Medal of Valor, for saving the life of a citizen during a winter storm traffic accident. Drive safely and cautiously when the weather changes. The first snowfall of the season is always a potentially dangerous time and these



hazardous conditions will present themselves to you sooner than you expect. Take your time; remember your safe driving training; your safety and that of your passengers is always paramount.

The Naval Militia and New York Guard Militia Ball is December 1st at the West Point Club. Last year all the tickets were sold out and it was a great time for everyone that attended. Excellent food, great comradery, and wonderful entertainment. Tickets are available at: <https://nymilitiaball.org/>. Hope to see you there.

Chief of Staff Comments

By CAPT David Hawley, CoS

A few notes from Headquarters:

1. If you are interested in being promoted in the New York Naval Militia... Please take the time to read CAPT Weill's article on "Time to Think about Promotions". He is right that the Promotion Board Checklist is not the only defining part of your Promotion package... but it is the first part that gets your package in the door. Too many times has a possible candidate skipped a vital piece of the promotion checklist and been told to resubmit their application next year.

2. Keep your recall information up to date with Headquarters: When an emergency is anticipated New York naval Militia may only have a few hours to get orders written and members on the move. We will send out our first notices on email and maybe on text message. If we do not have a current email address or cell phone number we may not call you to State Active Duty.

3. Thruway Passes and Bridge and Tunnel Passes: Yes, we still have them and they are still being honored by the Thruway and EZ-Pass. The TBTA passes are used in accordance with DMNA Memo dated 25 Aug 2017. Your Unit NYNM representative can order passes from

HQ and then in accordance with the DMNA memo send the passes in to the EZ-Pass customer service address as credit for your Military travel. In answer to many questions I have heard... all Military travel not just travel for the New York Naval Militia.

4. SGLI Reimbursement: An almost forgotten New York Naval Militia benefit. Almost \$4,000 is being reimbursed to members for their active duty SGLI payments they made in FFY 2017-18. The deadline is November 1, 2018 for applications. If you were on Federal or State Active Duty between Oct 1, 2017 and Sept 30, 2018 (not for training) there is still time to send the application, your orders and all LESs for those months for reimbursement.

5. RIRP (Tuition Assistance): Now is the time to get your application together for Spring 2019. NYS SUNY Tuition is now \$3,835 per semester. DO NOT LEAVE THIS MONEY ON THE TABLE! The application process is simple and you are eligible for this Tuition Assistance simply by being a NYNM Member! Read the additional qualifications on our web site under Education.

<http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=education>

The deadline is December 13th to get all your application materials to Elizabeth Cummings, our Education Officer.

UNIFORM NEWS

The following updates are being made for the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type III ("Guacamoles"):

The subdued U.S. flag (a) will be placed on the right arm, replacing the full-color New York State flag. The subdued version of either (b) NY Naval Militia or (c) MEBS (if authorized) will be worn on the left sleeve. Subdued versions replace full-color versions for the Type III uniform.

Subdued (b) NY Naval Militia patches are available from NY Naval Militia Headquarters at (518) 786-4583.

PROMOTION NEWS

The Time to Think about the Promotion Board is NOW

By CAPT Larry Weill, NYNM

I received a number of emails following the 2018 Promotion Board about “what happened?” “Why wasn’t I selected for promotion to the next paygrade? Why didn’t I make Chief? What could I have done better?”

This can be a difficult question to answer, but the solution is not always to review the “Promotion Board Checklist” (NYNM Form 1420). True, we ask everyone to ensure that they submit a package with all the records listed on this form. But this is only the start of the process, the “bare bones” minimum requirements to even be considered by the Board.

The question of “how do I do better on the Board” can be frustrating, not only for those doing the asking but also for those officers who are in charge of the Board. All too often there are candidates who are (or could be) worthy of selection, but are simply not meeting all the expectations required at the next paygrade. This takes me back to a time when I was a young Lieutenant serving in a unit in Readiness Command Region Five. Our Commander, in Ravenna, OH, had a saying that has stuck with me to this day. He said, “a promotion is not given in recognition of previous accomplishments. Instead, it is made in the belief of your capability to function effectively in the next higher paygrade.”

So what do we look for when deciding “worthiness” of promotion? To some degree, technical proficiency is a given; if you can’t perform the required tasks in your rate, it’s a non-starter.

But what about participation and leadership in NYNM events, such as operations? Exercises? Emergency response ops? Training? Availability and volunteering when the calls go out?



(a) U.S. Flag Subdued



(b) NY Naval Militia Subdued Patch



(c) MEBS Subdued Patch

Members of the NYNM Promotion (Selection) Board discuss this every time a member's record is reviewed for promotion. "Has this person volunteered on one or two events in the past year?" "Is he/she a leader who can be relied upon to get the job done?" "Are they a role model that junior personnel can look to for sound advice and guidance?" "Have they performed well in leadership roles for us within the past year?" "Do we need this person in the next higher paygrade?"

This probably sounds a lot like "what have you done for me lately," which is partially true. We look for people who care enough to continuously raise their hand and answer the call. People who make it known that they want to be there when the need arises, and then show up when the call is made. People who find ways around obstacles and combine their knowledge and ambition with innovation to get things done. People who are proven leaders, and use their leadership skills to accomplish our missions.

One other piece of advice given to me by a CO long ago was; "adopt at least a couple of my boss' objectives and goals as my own, and try to move them forward." I know, this is tough to do in our NYNM because we are all volunteers who come together on a very sporadic basis. But yet we have people out there doing that very thing. A great example is the MEBS instructors who are out there providing boat training in the various locations across the state. They are putting together the annual training schedule, taking the coxswains and craftmasters-under-instruction under their wings and getting these people underway. In other words, these people are independently leading others and providing critical services for our MEBS community.

Recruiting is another valuable way that members can demonstrate their commitment to our NYNM. While not quite as critical as exercise participation, it certainly adds positive light to a promotion package if a member can show a new recruiting medal earned during the previous year. It's all part of the total package. In summary, the words "total package" are extremely important. How many of the following

boxes can you check?:

- Did you participate in at least one exercise this year? (i.e., RAPID GUNWALE or WESTERN HORIZON?)
- Did you perform any duty this year on SAD orders?
- Did you perform and duty (directly or assist) in the MEBS program?
- Did you attend any leadership conferences?
- Did you participate in any NYNM training events this year?
- Did you function in a leadership role in any NYNM events this year?

If you couldn't check at least a few of these boxes, then it's not too late to get started for next year. The Board is usually conducted in June. Get started now to get yourself noticed and make a difference. Next year, it might just be your name that appears on that list.

MILITARY EMERGENCY BOAT SERVICE



Thoughts on Naval Militia Promotions

By CDR Don McKnight, CDR MEBS

I read CAPT Weill's comments (*above*) on promotions within the NY Naval Militia. I could not agree with him more.

It is my observation that those enlisted members promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer over the past ten years have all had some nexus to MEBS. That means we have been getting our elite and deserving personnel promoted.

If you read closely what CAPT Weill says, it is not just about doing the time, but also being a stand-out. A leader that can be counted on.

Those who have been selected for Chief have all made special and significant contributions, with the expectation for further exceptional performance.

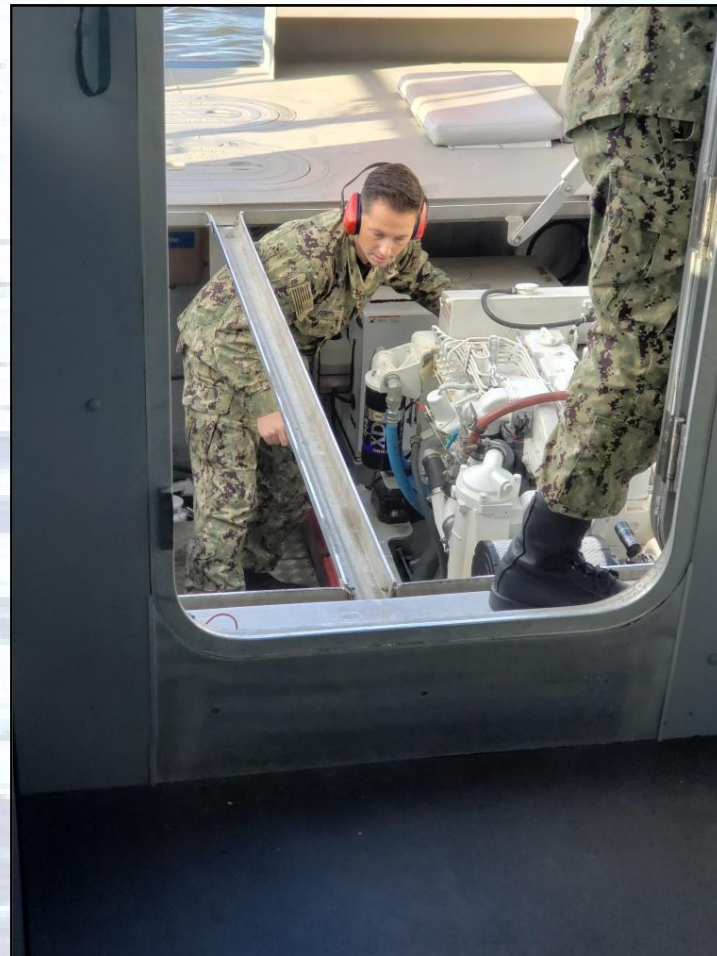
I think of great examples including Chiefs Rick Stacy, Bill Towart, and Bob Morisseau. Jimmy Miller, Butch Hurlburt, Mike Porter, Tom Gray and now Scott Pease have all proven that the promotion board decisions to make them a Chief Petty Officer was the right decision. All of them stepped to the plate and took on the difficult tasks, ultimately making MEBS and the Naval Militia a better organization.

MEBS Awarded 2018 Federal Grants

Once again, the Military Emergency Boat Service has been awarded federal Port Security Grants from FEMA, this year amounting to \$133,439.

Since 2009, MEBS has been effective in acquiring federal grants to offset the costs of operations and maintenance, as well as buying things that greatly improve our readiness. This includes the Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD), mobile training courses, and the new landing craft (LC-350). Overall, we have been authorized \$947,109.98 since 2009 for various programs and projects.

The 2018 grant will support equipment acquisition for LC 350 as well as major rehabilitation work for PB 440.



MK1 Bill Fenty working on the port Cummins Diesel engine on PB 400

READINESS OFFICER (N31) CORNER:

By LCDR Kenny Fellers, NYNM

Reminders to drilling reservists

The majority of the NY Naval Militia are active drilling reservists in one of the 73 reserve units of the Navy, Coast Guard, or Marines in NY State. We have a roster of 2887 personnel, which means things change all the time. Ranks change – 99% of the time in a positive direction. People move, change phone numbers, and get new email addresses...all the time. Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen change units. And, if you hang around long enough – you get to retire from the service and move on in your civilian career.

When any of the above things change,



PB 221 with SWCS Rogers and IT1 Aldershoff embarked during landing craft training on 17AUG18.

it's imperative to let someone in the Headquarters know so that we can make the appropriate change to your record.

Someone = LCDR Fellers, Elizabeth Cummings, CAPT Hawley, or CDR McKnight

But why – you ask?

When operations come up, we need to be able to contact you. Email is our primary contact medium because of its broadcast and tracking functionality. Secondary contact medium is by phone. Much slower. And face it, nobody answers their phone these days.

Member home address is the primary factor in determining our response force. Ideally, Naval Militia personnel closer to the incident will get the alert first. It's imperative that we have a good address for you.

If you're one of the lucky few that get to retire from Federal military service, please let us know. Retirement from Federal service does not preclude you from remaining with the NY Naval Militia. You can remain active with the Naval Militia until 68 years old. What does change however with your retirement, is that instead of the Navy, Coast Guard, or Marines being responsible for your physical and medical readiness, you're now responsible to get an annual physical exam and informing HQ when complete. NYNM forms 88 and 93 are required to be signed by your doctor yearly.

Before you flip to the next article, put the following information in your contact list:

LCDR Kenny Fellers – (518) 786-4585 – Email: dewey.k.fellers.nfg@mail.mil

Do not hesitate to call or email about anything. BE READY!

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

Incident Command System (ICS) Certification

By LT Filipp Khosh, NYNM

One of the main responsibilities of the New York Naval Militia is the delivery of adequate response to civil emergencies, natural and man-

made disasters, and threats to the nation's security. The State Office of Emergency Management Office (NYS OEM) and the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) coordinate the Naval Militia's response to disasters and prepare the state, local governments and residents to deal effectively with any such potential disasters.

To maximize the effectiveness of such response a number of training courses have been developed. The training is designed to meet compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidelines and is available free of charge on line as well as in the classroom environment.

The purpose of NIMS is to deliver a uniformed yet flexible incident management system to empower any responding agency to integrate into the existing incident management process and aid with coordination of the various incident response activities by assuming specific Incident Command System (ICS) responsibilities.

The nature of the ICS is such that a certified member (of any rank) can take over their respective ICS role and effectively manage the incident regardless of the member's original organizational affiliation.

All members of the NYNM in grades E-7 and above must complete the following ICS training: ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800 (series). Additional ICS related courses: ICS 300, 400, 547 and the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) L/G-146, provide a deeper understanding of the NIMS process.

ICS 100, 200, 547, 700 and 800 (series) may be obtained on the FEMA Independent Study website at the following link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/> where the courses can be located by entering the above mentioned course numbers in the Distance Learning Search IS field.

ICS 300, 400 and HSEEP are resident courses offered at different OEM locations across NYS. These courses can be located and requested at the following link: <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/training/calendar/>.

Two important facts to know:

1. ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800 (series) are mandatory prerequisites for ICS 300, 400 and HSEEP.
2. Prior to registering to any course, a FEMA Student ID is required. For any further assistance regarding ICS training and certifications process feel free to contact LT Filipp Khosh, NYNM.



Exercise Rapid Gunwale '18 took place in NORTHCOM on 7 & 8 September 2018. 34 members of the Naval Militia participated in the event on the Great Sacandaga Lake and Hudson River.

Outside agencies were also part of RGX 18, including the 2nd Civil Support Team, NY State Police, NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Fulton County Office of Emergency Management and Fulton Sheriff, Saratoga County Sheriffs, New York Guard Public Affairs, and the Hudson River – Black River Regulating District.

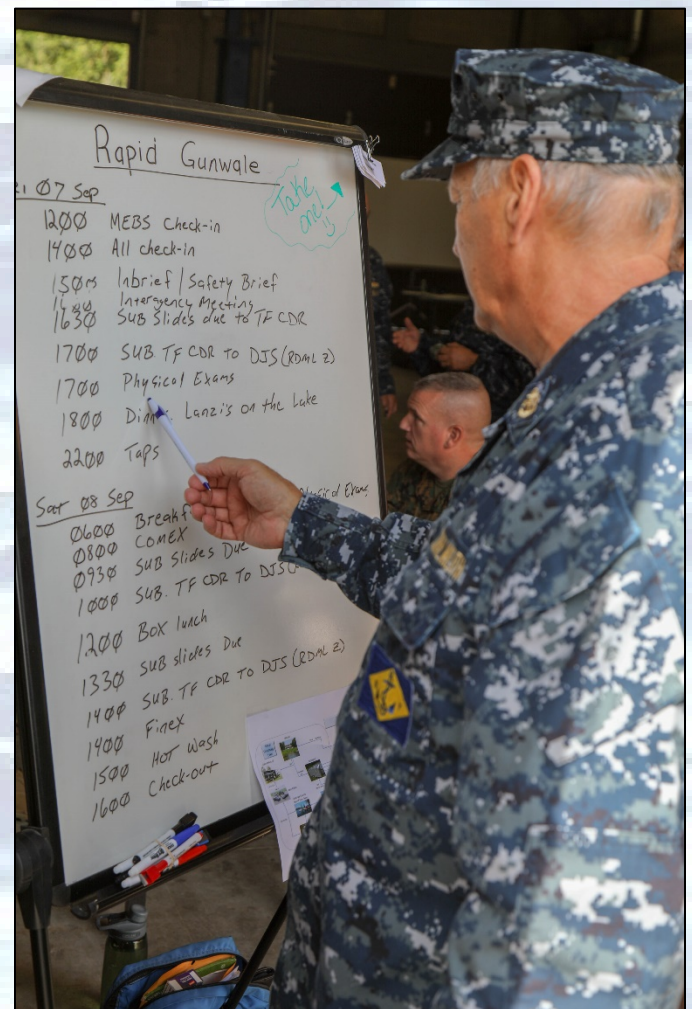
The scenario was split into two sections, with the primary area of operations taking place on the Great Sacandaga Lake at Mayfield, while landing craft operations took place on the Hudson River at Rensselaer and Waterford.

On Great Sacandaga Lake, Naval Militia provided supporting elements to the law enforcement and homeland security agencies with the use of patrol boats and communications equipment.

On the Hudson River, landing craft LC-350 embarked a maritime strike team from the 2nd Civil Support Team and transported them to Waterford, where they went ashore with their gator at an unimproved beach.



EOC(select) Scott Pease at the helm of PB 230 on Great Sacandaga Lake



HMC Russell Post of the Personnel Action Team (PAT) reviews the exercise schedule of events

LOCAL INTEREST:

WESTCOM

NYNM at Rochester Navy Ball

The Rochester NOSC played host to the Navy Ball this month in Rochester, which celebrated the 243rd anniversary of the United State Navy. The NYNM was well-represented at the event, which was held at the Doubletree Inn on Jefferson Road. In attendance were WESTCOM Commander CAPT Larry Weill, Deputy Commander Jay Dutcher, and NOSC LNO

HTC Robert Wright. In addition to the leadership group were dozens of other members from the NOSC, who gathered in full uniform to celebrate the event.

The Ball was coordinated by Rochester NOSC CO, LCDR Susan Burge, with the logistics spearheaded by NYNM member Senior Chief Chris Flores. Local celebrity and radio talk show host Bob Lonsberry was the guest speaker, while "Harmonica Pete" (World War II veteran) played the National Anthem on his harmonica. The event was hosted by 220 guests, which far surpassed any previous year.

New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

3 October 2018	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	152	35	36	223
WARRANT	8	3	4	15
ENLISTED	1940	291	447	2678
TOTAL	2100	329	487	2916
NAVY	1062	146	260	1468
MARINE	869	116	190	1175
COAST GUARD	111	4	4	119
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	19	7	5	31
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	38	56	28	122
PENDING ACTION	1	0	0	1

Happy fall!

I hope you have all been able to enjoy this beautiful fall weather!

Here at headquarters, we have been busy making changes and constantly improving to make our readiness and mission capabilities even better!

LCDR Fellers has been working hard on changing and updating our database, as well as making sure we have accurate information for all of our members and units.

*Recently moved? **New Phone number?** Accepted a promotion? Great news! Congratulations, please contact us so we can be sure we have your current contact and pay information!*

I have been working on updating our forms and making them easier and more relevant.

Because we are doing these updates, I would like to begin gathering feedback from our members about what changes you would like to see happen, so please contact me if you have any suggestions, questions, or comments. I will do my best to get back to you in a timely manner and to implement as many recommendations as possible.

Recently, I have noticed that some members are still sending emails to my **old email address** (Elizabeth.Cummings@DMNA-NYNM.NY.GOV). I have that email address set to forward emails to my **current email address** (Elizabeth.C.Cummings3.NFG@Mail.Mil), however it has become apparent that this process is no longer functioning properly! Please update my contact information so I do not miss any important messages!

In case you are unaware, our application process has changed over the past year.

Incomplete application packets will no longer be accepted or processed, so please do not send them until you have completed all requirements!

If you are unsure what these requirements are, please contact me or visit our website!



RIRP

It's almost that time of year again... You may think I'm referring to the Holidays (because we are giving away a *SUBSTANTIAL* amount of money), but I am actually referring to Recruitment Incentive Retention Program (RIRP) season!

Are you a current drilling reservist? Do you live in New York State? Are you attending college for the Spring 2019 semester and looking to achieve your associates or first bachelor's degree? Can you, or anyone you know, answer yes to all of these questions?

Then this message is for you!

What is the RIRP? Excellent question! The RIRP is one of our most highly sought-after benefits, one that I hate seeing underutilized. This is essentially a *no strings attached* tuition assistance program, and probably the quickest, easiest money towards your future you will ever receive!

How does it work? RIRP is a tuition assistance program funded by NYS for members of the Naval Militia that are current drilling reservists. It is applicable for up to your first bachelor's degree at an approved NYS college or university. As long as you meet the above criteria and you hand in the application packet prior to the deadline, RIRP will provide you with up to the current SUNY tuition rates - this is **ONLY** applicable for tuition (in other words, it does not cover books, room/board, or additional fees). It is simple, you send me the proper forms, we contact your college and pay them directly.

When is the deadline to apply? You have plenty of time to apply for the Spring 2019 semester as the deadline to send me your application is 1600 on December 13th, 2018 and I will start accepting applications about 1 month prior to that.

How do I apply? The application process looks much more difficult than it actually is, thankfully! For additional information on the RIRP and how to apply, please visit our website at <http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/> and click on the Education tab on the left. Please be sure to follow the instructions on that tab completely, or contact me if you run into issues.

I would like to stress that it is solely YOUR responsibility to complete and submit all proper paperwork to apply for the RIRP directly to me BEFORE the deadline each semester; this paperwork WILL NOT get submitted or approved if sent anywhere other than my email, the RIRP email (ng.ny.nyamg.mbx.nynavalmilitia-rirp@mail.mil [preferred]), mailed to HQ attn.: Education Officer, or faxed to HQ. That being said, bringing your application paperwork to your POC to complete and submit for you is unacceptable and will not be tolerated as it is not one of their duties as POC and has caused several issues in the past.

Having trouble? Unsure where to start? Contact me! I am typically in the office Monday-Friday from 8AM to 4PM. My direct phone number is (518) 786-4583, or you can send me an email at Elizabeth.C.Cummings3.NFG@Mail.Mil.

New this semester: Starting November 1st, 2018, HQ will no longer be accepting applications for RIRP from service members that have not been a member of the Naval Militia for **AT LEAST one month**. That means if you know someone who would like to take advantage of the RIRP and they are NOT a member of the Naval Militia already, they need to contact me and submit a complete application no later than November 12th, 2018. **Please spread the word!**

As a reminder, the deadline to apply for the spring 2019 semester is December 13th, please send everything you have to me NLT 1600 on December 13th if you would like to apply for the spring 2019 semester. **Please note, you will need to reapply each semester for the RIRP; one approval does not apply for the entire year.**

As always, thank you for everything you do not only for the Naval Militia, but also for our local communities, our state, and our country. Enjoy this holiday season with your friends and family. I look forward to helping you receive all of the RIRP benefits available.

Very Respectfully,
Elizabeth Cummings



*The Commanding Officers of
The New York Guard
BG David J Warager*

&

*The New York Naval Militia
RDML Timothy G. Zakriski*

*Request the pleasure of your company
at the
2018 New York Militia Ball*

*Saturday, the First Day of December,
Two Thousand Eighteen*

*The West Point Club
United States Military Academy
603 Cullum Rd, West Point, NY 10996 (845) 446-5504*

Cocktail Hour At 1800 hours

*Seating for Dinner and Military Ceremonies
will commence at 1900 hours*

Cash Bar available throughout the evening

Dancing and Camaraderie will follow

Reservations

R.S.V.P. at www.nymilitiaball.org

Attire

*Military Dress Uniform/ Mess Dress
Black Tie or Formal Attire*

SHIP'S STORE INFORMATION

The New York Naval Militia provides this information for the benefit of our members. The NYNM does not endorse any of the vendors' products:

NAMETAPES
 1800NAMETAPE.COM





**NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA
 LICENSE PLATES**

<https://dmv.ny.gov/plates/naval-militia>



**NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA
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 DEVICE**

Contact NYNM HQ to get yours.




B H

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<< Previous in USNSCC & USNLCC Next in USNSCC & USNLCC >>

Your Price: \$4.50

Personalization
 * denotes required field

LINE 1 INFORMATION *

LINE 2: N.Y. NAVAL MILITIA *

Quantity: