

# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2021



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### WINTER 2021

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



#### Commander's Corner:



**Rear Admiral (LH)  
Warren T. Smith, NYNM**

#### From the Commander:

With the start of a year unlike any other in our memories, we can look forward to both more of the same in the short term, and perhaps to the beginning of post-pandemic life later this year.

Responding to the call to mobilize additional NYNM members to assist the efforts to vaccinate citizens statewide, our standing COVID support mission of some 185 or so members has now ramped up to over double that number towards a currently targeted end strength of nearly 200. In addition to ongoing medical support, security and logistics assignments, our militia members working at DMNA in Latham continue to help track and process critical pay and allowance issues.

Whether or not financial aid to states is ultimately forthcoming from the federal government, funding

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<https://www.facebook.com/NYNM.admin/>



#### Cover photo:

MEBS maintenance at the Leeds Armory. Preparing for the 2021 boating season with outboard engine lower end water pump replacement.

for training is unlikely to be restored in FY21. Those members on State Active Duty receive OJT on a daily basis, but the rest of our militia members are understandably falling behind in qualifications related to their billet assignments. This is especially true for our MEBS team. Volunteers put many of our boats in the water for a day this summer, highlighting needed maintenance for the vessels. On a positive note, Deputy Commander Captain Dave Hawley and I met with Captain Eva Van Camp, Commanding Officer of CG Sector Long Island Sound, in January, complementing our affiliations with CG Sector New York and CG Sector Buffalo. Captain Van Camp was very interested to learn of our capabilities and share information on her facilities and area of responsibility. It appears that new training opportunities with our Coast Guard colleagues may be on the horizon, since Station Jones Beach has dock space available that is suitable for our MEBS craft. In addition to this south shore initiative, we continue to explore the possibility of berthing a vessel in New Rochelle, on the north shore of Long Island Sound. And Chief of Staff Larry Weill gave a presentation on the Naval Militia to regular and reserve members of CG Sector Buffalo, also in January, with a prospect of recruiting new Coast Guard members in that region.

We join our New York Air and Army National Guard colleagues in mourning the loss of three ARNG members when their search and rescue training flight crashed in a field near Rochester. Knowing the risk exists never lessens the shock and grief that follow such a tragic event, and we offer our condolences to their families and friends.

In Latham, Captain Dave Hawley, Commander Don McKnight, and Senior Chief Elizabeth Spain, ably assisted by Petty Officer Wilson Osborn, keep our HQ office running. We thank Elizabeth Cummings for her dedicated service to the NYNM, and wish her much success in her new position at DMNA. We also thank P.O. Osborn for jumping in and deftly managing the RIRP application submissions. Finally, a new order writing and member tracking database system is on our close

horizon, which should simplify and speed that process when it is fully operational. If you are interested in applying for State Active Duty, remember to ensure your medical exam is current, and that records to that effect are submitted promptly to DMNA. Also key is keeping your contact information current – phone, email, address, etc. Chances are we're going to need you this year. Stay tuned.



## Deputy Commander News:

In our electronic world most people do not correspond with hand written letters. Email and text messaging are more common. In today's military environment you may not see your senior members or ever talk to them directly – but you will probably send the typed messages. The best way to ruin a first impression is to send messages that appear to be disrespectful.

Begin and end your correspondence appropriately. Address them by their Rank and Last Name. Be respectful and watchful of your wording. Be careful not to appear overly aggressive or demanding in your message. Remember your audience and gauge your tone. Read and re-read your message! You are guaranteed to make a poor impression by sending a message filled with grammatical errors. Additionally, learn the art of using and when to appropriately use V/R (Very Respectfully) and /R (Respectfully) in your signature line. In the military close your emails with V/R, for ranks above your own and /R, for ranks below yours. However, when in doubt or for

simplicity sake, use V/R, in your premade signature. You can never be too courteous!

A visit to CAPT Eva Van Camp, Commanding Officer/Captain of the Port, Coast Guard Sector Long Island, USCG Station Jones Beach Long Island was made by RDML Warren Smith and CAPT David Hawley on 19 January 2021.



left to right: CAPT Hawley, RDML Smith, CAPT Van Camp. All dressed in Mustang suits for a demonstration ride in the USCG STA Jones Beach 45 foot Response Boat – medium

## PROMOTION NEWS

The next promotion cycle is less than six months away. Soon we will be forwarding to Regional Commanders and Senior Enlisted Advisors the names of members that are potentially eligible for promotion in the 2021 NYNM Promotion cycle.

You must submit a Promotion Application in accordance with New York Naval Militia instruction 1410.1C to be reviewed for promotion.

[http://dmna.ny.gov/forms/naval/NYNMINST\\_1410\\_1C\\_PROMOTION\\_POLICY\\_AND\\_PROCEDURES\\_2019.pdf](http://dmna.ny.gov/forms/naval/NYNMINST_1410_1C_PROMOTION_POLICY_AND_PROCEDURES_2019.pdf)

The 2019 checklist located on our website provides a simple guide to follow to ensure all your documents are included in your application.

[http://dmna.ny.gov/forms/naval/NYNM\\_Form\\_1420\\_Promotion\\_Board\\_Checklist\\_2019.pdf](http://dmna.ny.gov/forms/naval/NYNM_Form_1420_Promotion_Board_Checklist_2019.pdf)

A Walkthrough for the applications package follows:

1. Recommendation for Promotion: This is from your Regional Commander or your MEBS Commander.
2. Narrative Justification: This is a letter from you to the Board President
3. Minimum time in grade: From the instruction (usually 3 years)
4. Recent Photo: this shows you in Dress Uniform. Show the Board you have good Military Bearing
5. Current Fitness Report: Probably written by your Commander (can be more than 1 year)
6. Minimum of Five years of Fitness Reports or Evaluations: If you have Reserve evaluations within 5 years include those (Do Not send more than 5 years)
7. Current medical exam on file: Check with NYNM HQ
8. Civilian Skills Questionnaire: From the web site fill out a new one to ensure your current skills are represented to the Board.
9. Individual Training Record: This Form is no longer used – HOWEVER – Write to explain to the Board what you have done in recent years to support the Naval Militia
10. Billet Description: Explain what you do now and what you expect to do when promoted

11. DD-214's: contact HQ to ensure we have your DD-214s
12. Meets Grooming standards: this check in the box is from your photo submitted above
13. NYNM application on file: contact HQ to ensure we have your application
14. Age less than 68: this check in the box is taken care of by HQ
15. **Unique to 2021: many members have supported the COVID mission this past year. A letter of recommendation by an Officer or Senior Enlisted member in your COVID -19 chain-of-command supporting your COVID-19 work can be helpful**

(Do not submit extra "I love Me" stuff. However, A photo of you on State Active Duty is good and copies of additional FEMA (or rate related) course training certificates are acceptable)

The New York Naval Militia is fortunate to have dedicated men and women that give up their time in the service of New York State. As we know the opportunities for accolades, rewards, and pay are few and far between. However, for those members that are no longer part of the Drilling Reserves there is still a measure of recognition and appreciation: Promotion.

The referenced instruction provides the guidance on submitting a promotion package to Headquarters. The Promotion Board will meet after 1 JUN 21 this year. Please have complete promotion packages submitted by 30 May 2021, to the "President, 2021 Promotion Board c/o CAPT David Hawley, Deputy Commander, NYNM, DMNA, 330 Old Niskayuna Rd., Latham, NY 12110." If you believe that you are eligible for promotion you are encouraged to submit your application. The first duty of the Promotion Board is to verify eligibility.

**Applications for Promotion should be sent via US mail, email with .gov or .mil addresses, or by FAX. (you may also drop off the application to the NYNM Office) Do not send your SSN or private personal information by email.**

A very important First Step in any promotion package is a letter of recommendation from your reporting senior. In most cases this will be your Regional Commander. This is in addition to a current evaluation or fitness report. Fitness reports and Evaluations for NYNM members may encompass more than one year.

I cannot stress enough to talk to your Regional Commander about what you can do to improve your promotion application.

It is extremely important that members that wish to be considered for promotion provide a complete promotion package. Nothing provides the promotion board with a better "first impression" than a complete and well organized promotion application.

Applications for promotion to E7, E8 and E9 must be reviewed by the Command Senior Enlisted Advisors before the Board reviews your application. Contact our Command Senior Enlisted Advisors: Master Chief Niemitalo and MGySgt Rignola for guidance.

Key on last year's Promotion Board was the question:

"What has this individual done for the New York Naval Militia lately?"

If you cannot answer that for yourself then contact your Regional Commander to get involved. The answer is not: "Once I get promoted I'll do lots."

If your NYNM activities in the past year are not obvious then explain what you have done in the past year in your letter to the Board President.

## COVID 19 OPERATIONS UPDATE

On February 02, 2021, the mission is at 330 days and continuing.

The New York Naval Militia has mobilized 230

personnel and expects to mobilize an additional 50 by the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.

Personnel are being replaced on State Active Duty (SAD) continuously due to work and personal commitments. These one-for-one replacements are ongoing and your Naval Militia needs to have accurate and timely information to place you on a standby list for this continuous mission. In a recent Operations Update call, the New York State Adjutant General, Major General Ray Shields, expressed the belief that we are only about HALF WAY THROUGH this vital operation for New York State.

Members of the New York Naval Militia have been, and continue to play vital roles in this mission. Examples of duty positions include: Operations; Logistics; Budget and Finance; Human Resources; Developing Alternative Care facilities; Security around COVID Test sites; Access Control around Vaccination Sites; Warehousing Operations; Medical Assistance (Nurses & Hospital Corpsmen); and other Administrative duties. Paid duty has been at all ranks from E2 through O6.

If you have not served on SAD yet, but may be willing and available for extended duty, contact the Naval Militia office at: [NG.NY.NYARNG.MBX.NYNavalMilitia@Mail.Mil](mailto:NG.NY.NYARNG.MBX.NYNavalMilitia@Mail.Mil), DO NOT CALL the office. Our phone lines are very busy getting personnel on duty.

It is vital that you keep the Naval Militia office up-to-date on your email address and your current rank (for rank we need a current LES). If you are no longer drilling we must have a current medical exam on file.

2021 has just begun and the Seasonal Operations may still be active this year: Operation Lake Ontario Flooding, severe weather and possible Hurricanes.

## Military Emergency Boat Service

### News:



#### **MEBS RIGHT-SIZING**

For those of you who have been in and around the U.S. Navy, you may be familiar with the term “right-sizing,” a term used to encapsulate the concept of re-organizing personnel and ratings to meet the needs of the future. Within MEBS, we have begun a similar process of adjusting to future needs. Rather than looking at personnel, we are looking at our boat assets and other equipment.

The very different waters across New York State demand different capabilities. Some of our fleet do very well in the salt-water environment of the lower Hudson

River, Port of New York, Long Island Sound and Atlantic Ocean. Others of our fleet do very well on the fresh-water Great Lakes. We also have smaller vessels suitable for upstate rivers and lakes. We know that having a variety of boat classes makes sense to meet all potential missions that may come our way.

The MEBS fleet of boats is aging. Our oldest boats have been in our inventory since 2003, and many of the original vessel acquisitions were made with the purpose of supporting the mission at the Indian Point Energy Center, on the Hudson River at Buchanan. Since then our missions have expanded across the state and are broader in nature. Rather than just performing deterrence patrol operations, our assignments are more varied; including high value escort, commercial vessel boarding, law enforcement augmentation, border security ops, and more recently personnel movement and cargo lift. Our original fleet was not designed to meet all of these requirements and we are actively looking to update the squadron with more capability.

Superstorm Sandy back in 2012 proved that we did not have the right combination of boats available. That led to the acquisition of landing craft LC 350 and the pending receipt of LC 351 expected in November 2021. Having two 35-foot landing crafts in our fleet will provide tremendous capability, but we are not stopping there. We are proposing the acquisition of a 30-foot patrol catamaran designed to be easily trailer-able, but still operate on big waters such as the Great Lakes or the Port of New York.

On the other side of this process will be the decommissioning of lesser capable craft. Some of our smaller craft will likely go away. Our operational usage of our smallest boats shows that they have little to offer. Our initial proposal will be to eliminate one of the two PB 220 class boats if we are able to acquire a 30-foot patrol landing craft.

The process of right-sizing is by no means certain nor immediate. The process has begun, but it will be contingent upon budgetary approvals as well as the awarding of federal grants that we hope to seek.

### **WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THE 2006 DUALLIES?**

For those of you who pay attention to the recent MEBS OPSUM you will have noticed that the four 2006 Ford F-350 dually trucks in our

inventory have been “**red-lined**,” being placed out of service. This is unfortunate as they are all fully-capable and have generally done a pretty



good job for us.

The problem is that these trucks are subject to the 2006 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), which calls for the removal of certain pre-2007 heavy-duty diesel vehicles from New York State roadways. In 2019, we received a one-year waiver for our trucks, but that expired on 31 December 2020. At this point, we effectively have five prime movers instead of nine. Our inventory goal is 11 trucks. The four trucks are available for emergency use only and will remain at the MEBS Maintenance Facility in Leeds until further notice.

### **Education News:**

The next eligible semester for RIRP Education benefits is Fall, 2021.

The deadline for submission of benefit applications is 15 August 2021.

### **Announcements:**

Free Entrance to National Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Families (U.S. National Park Service)

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>

U.S. military veterans free access to national parks, wildlife refuges and other sites managed by the Department of the Interior commencing on Veterans Day.

What is the Military Veterans and Gold Star Family Free Access Program? U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt announced a Secretarial Order on October 28, 2020, granting Gold Star Families and

## New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

4JAN21	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	134	29	37	200
WARRANT	6	1	3	10
ENLISTED	1790	247	396	2433
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>2643</b>
NAVY	951	152	259	1362
MARINE	837	112	151	1100
COAST GUARD	76	4	4	84
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	24	7	3	34
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	23	21	19	63

## PHOTO GALLERY. The Naval Militia in action.



MEBS wraps the 2020 season on the Hudson River. Location is New Hamburg.





SSGT's Egan and Tjornhom at the South Beach COVID Test Site



Left: BM1 Bill Kaul at the old Naval Militia armory in New Rochelle, on Veterans Day 2020.

Right: EO2 DiCiccio operates a forklift at the COVID Support mission at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

