

NEW YORK
NAVAL MILITIA
NEWSLETTER — WINTER 2024



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330 Old Niskayuna Road,
Latham, New York 12110
(518) 786-4583
Fax: (518) 786-4427
<http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/>

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



Cover photo:

A Boatswains Mate 1st Class, of the NY Naval Militia 1st Battalion,
onboard the NYNM training ship, USS NEW HAMPSHIRE.
Circa 1891-1901.



Commander's Corner



**Rear Admiral (LH)
Michael Perry, NYNM**

From the Commander:

The Fall of 2023 NYNM Newsletter urged candidates to apply for several current or anticipated Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL) and Regional Commanders vacancies.

In particular, Force SEL Niemitalo sought candidates to complete a gradual turnover with him throughout the rest of this year. Like the gradual turnover that he completed with prior Force SEL SOCM Charles Mach back in 2020. Given the hundreds of days of State Active Duty that Force SEL Niemitalo has devoted to the NYNM over the past four years, filling his shoes will neither be

quick nor easy. In addition, whoever relieves him will undoubtedly need to help recruit and turnover their current SEL duties to their relief. As a result, I am pleased to announce that our calls for candidates have yielded superb selections to fill at least two of our most important anticipated SEL vacancies.

First, acting NORTHCOM Regional Commander and current Chief of Staff CAPT Nolan has selected QMC Timothy Petersen to relieve current NORTHCOM SEL GySgt Paul Hauschen as NORTHCOM SEL upon GySgt Hauschen's retirement in July of 2024. The NORTHCOM portion of this Newsletter provides further details. However, congratulations and well done to QMC Petersen!

Second, I have selected MGySgt Salvatore Rignola to relieve Force SEL Niemitalo upon MNM Niemitalo's retirement in December of this year. Like Force SEL Niemitalo at the beginning of his Force SEL tour, MGySgt Rignola first joined the NYNM in the early 1980s, is a nearly a 40-year multiple combat tour veteran of his parent federal service, is nearing the culmination of a long and successful civilian career with the NYC Fire Department that includes service at Ground Zero during 9-11 and has served as our SOUTHCOM SEL since 2010. Most recently, he has tirelessly made the rounds between the dozens of Migrant Asylum Support (MAS) sites located throughout all five Boroughs of NYC, visiting thousands of members drawn from all four services affiliated with the MAS Joint Task Force, equally ensuring their wellbeing and mission accomplishment. He will also be the first Marine Force SEL since SOCM Mach relieved MGySgt Frederick Green in 2015. Thus, we are truly lucky to have him stepping forward to begin transitioning into the Force SEL role.

However, additional opportunities are and will become available. Thus, the challenge remains the same for additional members to step-up and volunteer like QMC Pedersen and MGySgt Rignola have done to fill additional current and anticipated senior leadership vacancies. In

particular, we are still seeking a new NORTHCOM and WESTCOM Commander to relieve CAPTs Nolan and Dutcher and someone to turnover with MGySgt Rignola as SOUTHCOM SEL. We also need a telecommunication savvy officer to relieve current N6 CAPT Pedersen prior to his forthcoming retirement. Contact the Chief of Staff or Force SEL if you are interested in those opportunities or stepping up otherwise however you wish.

Finally, please continue working on your promotion packages, remembering that:

- There is no need for routinely spaced annual NYNM evals or FITREPs. While annual evals and FITREPs are best, a single eval or FITREP from your Regional Commander covering the period since your discharge or retirement from federal service or last NYNM eval or FITREP will suffice. Just ensure that the eval or FITREP highlights well quantified details regarding the full range of your accomplishments during the uncovered time period as best as possible.
- NYNM careers tend to be more of a marathon up to age 68 than a sprint to beat the "up or out" high year tenure and above zone limits of our federal services. Rather, the process tends to reward patience and persistence. Thus, please do not let non-selection in a prior year negatively sway your decision to submit a package this year. Rather, hang in there, keep seeking guidance and improving your package, and chances are more likely than not that you will eventually be successful.
- If you are wondering, "Can I make 30 BMI?" The answer is, "Oh yes you can!" Specifically, if 30 BMI is a concern, I suspect you can recall doing whatever it took to make weight for your biannual Physical Fitness Assessments while still on active duty or drilling. The only difference is that you only

need to make 30 BMI once to be considered by the NYNM promotion board and until you assume your new rank. While we would certainly hope that you would keep the weight off thereafter, there is no requirement to prove you are 30 BMI or below again unless you seek another promotion. Thus, hit the gym and don't look back!

In summary, congratulations once again to SEL selects QMC Petersen and MGySgt Rignola and best wishes to all our promotional candidates!

Executive Officer News:

Notice to all Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members of the New York Naval Militia...

With the unprecedented State Active Duty (SAD) activations in the past couple years since the COVID-19 Pandemic activation began in March 2020 we have had over 500 members join the New York Naval Militia. We have had over 1,000 members activated for the Emergencies of COVID-19, Asylum Seeker, and smaller emergencies. All GREAT News!

However, with the increased activations we have also had our share of problems and issues. Some are relatively minor. Unfortunately, the following have been major issues, and everyone should be aware:

1. While on State Active Duty all members are responsible to the New York State Adjutant General's General Order #1. We have had members drinking in their Hotel Rooms, inviting unauthorized guests in their Hotel Rooms, fraternizing with civilians and with other Military Service members, and other General Order #1 violations.

In all instances of these infractions violating members are sent home and many times prosecuted if also in violation of New York State Law.

2. If Military Reserve members on State Active Duty violate either NY State Military Law, General Order #1 or Local Laws... the Member will be prosecuted accordingly and referred back to their Parent Reserve Unit for UCMJ and possible NJP.

Recent issues:

1. A Service member modified their Orders with Adobe Acrobat (this is easily discovered by AI Software used at Headquarters). The Service member was discharged by the Mission, they lost their Job, the home loan they modified the Orders for was rejected, and the former member was referred to New York State Police for Federal Prosecution for Wire Fraud.

2. A Service Member took a second civilian job while on State Active Duty for the Asylum Mission. This violation of General Order #1 was referred to the Civilian employer – they lost the civilian job. They were discharged from the Asylum Mission. They were discharged from the Naval Militia. They were ordered to pay back the two months of pay they received for violating NY Military Law.

3. A Service Member used Adobe Acrobat (again easily discovered) to create false Promotion documentation. They received over \$3,000 in back pay before it was discovered. They were referred to the New York State Police for Wire Fraud, Grand Larceny, and falsifying an Official Document. They were discharged from the Mission, discharged from the Naval Militia, referred to their Parent Service (United States Marine Corps), Reduced in Rank, Dishonorably Discharged from the Marine Corps.

4. A Service member was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated (DUI). The Service Member was discharged from the Mission, discharged from the New York Naval Militia, referred to their Parent Military Service, Pending NJP and Discharge.

The bottom line: Do not violate General Order #1. Do not falsify documentation, it will be discovered. When it is discovered the State of New York, and the United States Military Services will prosecute to the fullest extent of the Law.

Chief of Staff News:

by CAPT MaryEtta Nolan

This is the year of the Dragon and NYNM has started the year on fire! For three days in January, the Command Staff visited NYC and the dedicated men and women serving on Migrant Asylum Support Mission. The day started with the skillful driving of RDML Perry through inclement weather and dodging several accident sites arriving safely at SSgt Tjornhom's house, the rally point for MGySgt Rignola, the SOUTHCOM SEL and CAPT Marghella, the new SOUTHCOM Regional Commander.

The adventure began at the Armory in Staten Island. CWO3 Pugh and Senior Chief Hosmer explained the management of 2,247 service members at 52 mission sites. We continued to a couple of sites in Staten Island the Ramada Inn, housing 120 single females and a former Veteran's Home that turned into a family residence housing 94 families.

Newly promoted PO1 Knuth performed pushups



with MGySgt Rignola before

becoming our tour guide.

Day two started with visits to Command Posts at Brooklyn's Fort Hamilton and the Armory in Queens (once the location of one of several Na-



val Militia armories located across the State). RDML Perry spoke to members attending a monthly update. We met and spoke to many NYNM members before traveling to the Holiday Inn. This hotel was one of the most active places we visited in the three days.

With 964 people making up 295 families, 490 of them children, it was chaotic. We noted that metal detectors and security guards were in place to help ensure the security of the residents as well as our members. Just down the block, the hotels The Villa and The Capital were much smaller and quieter, housing a total of 394 people combined. The final hotel of the day was the Fairfield, a family hotel that needs renovations and has cleanliness problems. Needless to say, the mission is challenging, but our members are dedicated and truly want to help the asylum seekers. Many service members are first or second generation Americans themselves and are committed to the mission.



Day three started in Harlem at the TPS Application Center where Venezuelan Asylum Seekers are in the final process prior to release to start their new life in this country. They meet with lawyers, social workers, get biometrics and fingerprints for work visas. The NYNM does not currently have a presence there but likely will over time.

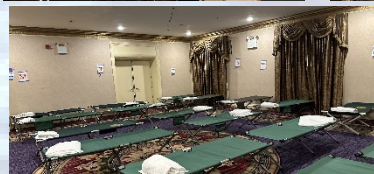


MGySgt Rignola, SC Hosmer, CWO3 Pugh, RDML Perry, CAPT Nolan, 1stLt Morales, CAPT Marghella and 1stLt Samabustin



The Command Center for Harlem and the Bronx is at the Harlem Armory, home of the 369th Infantry NYNG Harlem Hellfighters. Rich in history, this museum is worth a visit. NYNM member Cpl Blair received a coin from RDML Perry.

The final destination on our visit was the Welcome Center at the Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan. This is the starting point for the asylum seekers who arrive by buses and trains



all hours of the day and night. Upon entering the hotel, they are separated into 3 groups:

singles, families and returning (every 60 days they must reapply for shelter and benefits). Here they are evaluated by medical personnel, given immunizations, needed supplies, social services, temporary shelter, and reconnection services. If the asylum seekers have family in other states or a contract for a job, they will transport them anywhere in the 50 states. About 150 SMs support this facility to process the 500-600 people arriving per day.

As an unrelated and very sad note, one of our service members was arrested on DUI, manslaughter, vehicular manslaughter and reckless driving. He sustained injuries and was transported to the hospital. This is devastating on so many levels. Our prayers go out to both families affected by this life altering poor decision. In this age of "Ubers", taxis, subways, etc., why are people

still getting in their car after drinking? It is everyone's responsibility to stop this cycle of irresponsible behavior. **Just don't do it! Nor let your shipmates do it!**

N6 Communications:

The New York Naval Militia (NYNM) maintains several radio communications capabilities in the Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS) program. We are looking for an individual (preferably E7 or CWO2 to O6) who is interested in becoming the next communications officer (N6) for the NYNM.

A strong interest in radio communications and a background either in military communications or a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) amateur radio license would be very helpful. We have several very high frequency (VHF) radios for communications with the boats in the MEBS fleet, and two high frequency (HF) radios for long-distance communications. An understanding of antenna theory, standing wave ratio, and propagation would be essential to becoming the N6, as well as an understanding of data communications using Fldigi and Winlink.

Please contact the current N6, CAPT Pedersen, at (585) 613-4360 (days) or (585) 469-1084 (evenings and weekends) to learn more about this opportunity and have your questions addressed.

NORTHCOM NEWS

by CAPT MaryEtta Nolan

We are still looking for someone to step up and take command of the NORTHCOM Region. This is one of the best ways to become involved in your home state's Naval Militia as well as working with some of the finest people in our organization. As NORTHCOM Regional Commander, it enables you to meet and inform our Sailors and Marines about

all the benefits we can provide for them financially and militarily. Promoting the Military Emergency Boat Service, and the training available to qualify as Coxswain, reinforces the love of the sea coursing through our veins. Having the opportunity to experience MEBS equipment and missions, is exhilarating! Isn't that why we joined the Navy in the first place?

The mission of the Regional Commander is to form bonds with the Reserve Center's Commanding Officers, so we don't lose access to our 95%ers who make up the Naval Militia. In the past year, the NORTHCOM team, consisting of LCDR Alan Gutman, GySgt Paul Hauschen, Chief Robert Lipp and myself, have visited our Marines in Syracuse and our Sailors in Schenectady as well as starting an annual Militia Day, with the help of MEBS providing the ultimate recruiting tool, boats on the river.

Accepting the position as Regional Commander is a steppingstone to future assignments within headquarters. Members do not need to be from NORTHCOM to be considered for this position. If you are interested, please contact me at maryettanolan@gmail.com for more details.

This is the time to work on promotion packages for the non-drilling members. Review the new Promotion Instruction NYNM INST 1410.1F for eligibility and guidance. Just a reminder, applicants cannot be considered for promotion if obese (over 30 BMI). There is still time to get within standards. **So, start your packages now!** Enlisted members can contact GySgt Paul Hauschen for guidance at pHauschen@hotmail.com.

Gunny Sez: New SEL for NORTHCOM

From the LC350 midnight run from Albany to NYC to the 180-mile canal trip from Seneca Lake to Alex Bay, I've had a great time in the Naval Militia. I've been fortunate to meet a lot of great shipmates, have a few adventures, and I learned a lot from all of you. But now it's time for me to age out and

hand over NORTHCOM Senior Enlisted Leader.

QMC Timothy Petersen has volunteered for the position. I'll be working with the Chief as we transition, along with the NORTHCOM leaders, CAPT Nolan and LCDR Gutman. Chief Petersen already works full time in the NYNM HQ as our office manager and his knowledge and expertise is a great resource not only for NORTHCOM, but NYNM as a whole.

Chief Petersen joined the Navy Reserve in 2012 and completed Quartermaster School at Great Lakes. Reporting to the Schenectady NOSC, he's had assignments with the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 2, and Navy Region Southeast. He joined the New York Naval Militia in 2012 and MEBS in 2017.

It doesn't feel like I'm that old and I'd stay if they'd let me. I have been privileged to serve with you all. Remember old Marines never retire, they just advance in a new direction!

READINESS OFFICER

Looking for lost records?

Your first step should be to reach out to your last command's personnel department. If you hit a dead end, you can find out where to request what you need from National Archives Veterans' Service Records



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

The site is very user friendly. Most requests can be done online, by mail or by fax.

Other Methods to Obtain Military Service Records

- Recently separated veterans may be able to find their records through the joint [Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense eBenefits Portal](#).
- **Write a letter to request records:** If you are not able to obtain form SF-180, you may still submit a request for military records. Please see [Military Records Requests: Standard Form SF-180](#) for details on what information is required in your letter.
- **Contact your State or County:** Some veterans may be able to obtain copies of certain military records from their state, county or municipality. Contact your [state or county veterans' agency](#) for more information.

NOTE: Some companies advertise "DD Form 214 research services" and **will charge a fee for obtaining copies. Don't fall for this scam!** Generally, there is no charge for basic military personnel and health record information provided to veterans.

Remember, your federal branch of service does not share information with NYNM, or the State pay office. Our database is where pay information comes from. Keep us updated with any changes to pay, address or contact information so you receive the correct pay if on SAD.

Updates can be uploaded to our document upload portal on the website <https://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=contact> Or emailed to ng.ny.nyarnng.mbx.nynaval militia@army.mil

Chaplain's Corner

Greetings! My name is Ensign (Chaplain Corps) Daniele Engome and I could not be more proud to join the Headquarters Staff of the NYNM as your new Chaplain.

My journey from serving as a Boatswain's Mate assigned to Charlie Company of Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 8 at Navy Reserve Center NYC

to becoming your new Chaplain began with shipmates encouraging me to join the NYNM and volunteer for service in support of Operation COVID 19. I was subsequently activated in support JTF Javits in New York City from January to September of 2021 where I had the supreme pleasure of attending religious services conducted by Chaplain (MAJ) John R. Muniz of the Chaplain Corps of the New York Guard. Chaplain Muniz noticed my dedication and devotion to the JTF's weekly masses as well as heard about my having volunteered to support more than 300 funeral honors detachments and assist and pray for my shipmates during times of need. Thus, he approached me with a suggestion that would change my life forever.

Specifically, Chaplain Muniz recommended that I pursue chaplaincy as a career. Both with the Navy and NYNM. I was surprised and honored by his suggestion, began researching what it would take to pursue this path via the Direct Commission Officer program of the US Navy Reserve, and discovered that I could gain a commission while completing its final education and experience requirements via the Navy Chaplain Candidate Program.

As a result, Chaplain Muniz recommended that I obtain a Master's Degree in Divinity with a focus on military chaplaincy from Liberty University. Following his advice, I enrolled in the Professional Chaplain Military Program at Liberty University, began working towards the completion of my degree, applied for a Direct Commission via a Navy Chaplain recruiter, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the Chaplain Corps of the USNR a few months later. All thanks to serving my country as a Navy Reservist and state as a NYNM member and the deep faith that led me to follow Chaplain Muniz's guidance and support.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and for the encouragement and support of Chaplain Muniz. His suggestion has changed my life, and I am excited to see where this path takes me in the future. Hopefully, I can use

this column and service as your Chaplain to similarly inspire you to follow your faith and improve yourself as well as the lives of others.

HISTORY BUFF

DUNKIRK

Guest contributed by Nicholas McKnight

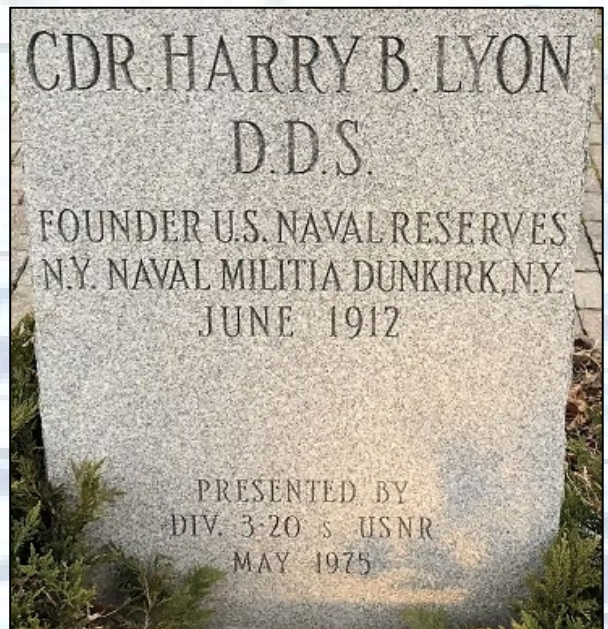
Dunkirk is a city approximately fifty miles southwest of Buffalo, on the shoreline of Lake Erie in Chautauqua County and a center of naval militia activity from 1912 to 1974.

Since its founding, Dunkirk has served as a minor steamship and railroad hub and is currently the home of a branch of Jamestown Community College.

Before the 1890s, the United States Navy possessed no reserve components, so the states took it upon themselves to create naval militias to fill this role until the founding of the United States Naval Reserve in the mid-1910s. While closely coordinating with the federal navy, the naval militias would remain under the control of the states, while the state of New York would build armories for use by both the Naval Militia and the Navy Reserve. The New York Naval Militia was organized as a provisional naval battalion in 1889 before being mustered for state service in June of 1891. Since its founding in New York City, the New York Naval Militia has come to establish numerous bases and armories across the entire state. One such armory was located in the city of Dunkirk.

Key to the Naval Militia presence in Dunkirk was Doctor Harry B. Lyon, a navy officer, postmaster and dentist, who would oversee the creation of the Naval Militia in Dunkirk in 1912, as well as facilitate the creation of the Dunkirk armory. Lyon himself would go on to become mayor of Dunkirk in 1912 and 1920.

Known originally as the 12th Fleet Division, the Naval Militia organization in Dunkirk would later come to be known as Division 3-20.



Monument to Harry B. Lyon, in Dunkirk

Once America entered World War I, the naval militia would be mobilized in April of 1917 to serve, while many men from Dunkirk would go to fight in the war, with no casualties to report.



1916 Dunkirk N.M. basketball team with LT Lyon.

Under the command of Lyon, the 12th Fleet Division would achieve the highest figure of merit in short range battle practice in

1934. After decades as commander of the Dunkirk division, as well as serving as mayor of Dunkirk in 1912 and 1920, Lyon would ultimately retire from the naval militia in 1937. His role would be filled by Ensign Casper Zacharias, who would eventually be lost in action during World War II.

Another man of note regarding the Naval Militia in Dunkirk was Kenneth J. Hartley. Hailing from Jamestown, the 1927 graduate of his high school class would go on to study at the Naval Academy in Annapolis and serve his father's wood finishing company. With the outbreak of war, he would join the Naval Militia at Dunkirk and quickly rise to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Having been left in command by Zacharias, Hartley would transport the former sub-chaser, YP-52, to Tonawanda to receive repairs



YP-52 (ex CG-160) was assigned as a training vessel at Dunkirk before World War II

before escorting the vessel to New York City to be delivered to Navy control at Norfolk. Afterwards, Hartley would take command of a new destroyer escort boat to be chiefly used against German U-boats in the Atlantic. He was ultimately placed in command of a corvette, having been on board this vessel when he was eventually killed in action. Other individuals of the

Dunkirk Naval Militia include Captain Jack Walters, who would rescue teenager, John Bordas, from drowning in Lake Erie in October

of 1912. Walters would go on to serve on the board of supervisors before he was eventually found dead in the naval militia boathouse near Central Avenue dock on August 12, 1930, likely from heart disease.

After a proposal in 1937, the Dunkirk armory was created at the expense of \$250,000 to replace the rented quarters which previously housed the division. Beforehand, the division was located at the Heyl building, at 220 Central Avenue in Dunkirk, which was damaged by a fire on April 25, 1932.



Dunkirk Armory in 2014.

Throughout its history, men from the Dunkirk Naval Militia would serve in both the Second World War and the Korean War, while the Dunkirk armory would drill approximately sixty Navy reservists, which would become a great source of pride for them. Division 3-20 would also win the Josephthal Award for small unit for the years of 1963, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974 and 1975. Throughout its existence, the Dunkirk division would always be among the leaders in state militia competitions. In 1971, then under the

leadership of Commander Walter S. Sherman, Division 3-20 would be rated the best in the nation, being awarded the Admiral S.C. Hooper trophy as a result.

The Dunkirk armory would continue to operate for decades after. In 1957, the division was separated into two electronics divisions, NRSD 3-8 and 3-9, until they eventually rejoined in 1966 as a small service division, NRSD 3-20.

Starting in the 1960s, the state naval militia armories would be turned over to Navy control, and by the early 1970s, plans had been made to reduce and eventually dissolve the naval militia at Dunkirk. In 1973, nine assemblymen under John W. Beckman made efforts to restore naval militia programs and funding, even sending a letter to

Governor Nelson Rockefeller. However, between 1974 and 1976, the Dunkirk armory was finally closed down and transferred to another state agency. Even so, the memory of the Naval Militia presence would remain alive in the city, as it would continue to host numerous Memorial Day parades. One such parade in 2008 hosted LCDR James P. Whalen, who spoke before the parade and emphasized Dunkirk's heritage and contributions to the naval arena.

The armory building, which is located just near the Dunkirk Lighthouse, currently serves as an office for the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York.

New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

6-Feb-24	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	142	18	28	188
WARRANT	9	0	1	10
ENLISTED	2383	248	383	3014
TOTAL	2534	266	412	3212
NAVY	1070	115	240	1425
MARINE	1240	131	150	1521
COAST GUARD	101	3	6	110
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	74	4	2	80
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	47	14	15	76

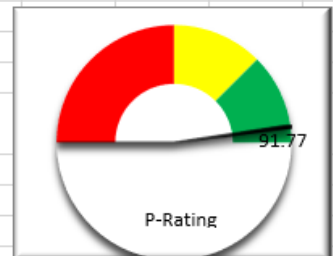
New York Naval Militia Training Readiness Report

Ref: NYNMINST 3501.1

Month: February Year: 2024

1. Personnel Census

	NUMBER	PERCENT
a. Total Force Census:	3212	
b. Percentage of end-strength (3500):		91.77%
c. SAL as percentage of total census: (Less than 5% by law)		2.49%
d. Number of 900 series, E7 and above	63	



2. Training Readiness:

	GOAL	NUMBER	PERCENT
a. Percentage of 900 series unit members in grade E-7 and above with ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 and INDOC courses:	315	171	54.29%
c. Number of HIPAA trained staff (three min):	3	11	100.00%
d. Number of JRSOI trained PAT members (five min):	5	13	100.00%
f. Number of JSTC E-7 and above (five min):	5	5	100.00%
g. Percentage of CDRs/DEP CDRs with Ethics Overview:	7	5	71.43%
			85.14%

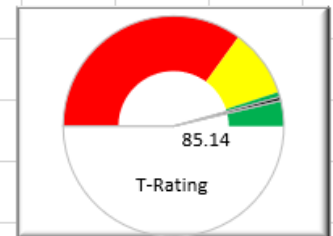


IMAGE GALLERY

The New York Militia Ball, at West Point in December 2023

