

NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER FALL 2020



**Military and
Naval Affairs**

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



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

COMMANDER'S CORNER:

RDML Warren T. Smith
Commander New York Naval Militia



As New York State begins Fiscal Year 2021 on October 1st, we know one thing with certainty: the challenges of the past seven months are not yet behind us, and the demands placed upon the New York Military Forces will continue to stress test our people and our budgets. While the current end of the federal mission is slated for December, subject to a possible further extension, we can expect our state mission to last as long as our state leadership deems necessary. This means that New York Naval Militia members will continue to be called upon to offer our expertise in medical, logistics, personnel support, and other roles as needed. Thank you to all who have stepped up to date, for your willingness to serve and for the outstanding job you have done.

Despite the constraints on state and federal budgets forced by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NYNM was fortunate to have received approval and funding (federal and state) for a second landing craft, LC-351. We are hoping to have that delivered by the end of next year. Our MEBS crewmembers have not had the usual opportunities for training this year, however many have volunteered to put the boats in the water and operated them enough to ensure they (boats and crew) are ready when needed, even if our training readiness metrics do not reflect that. With Navy Operational Support Centers closed for months, training has suffered across the Active Reserve community as well, a deficit partially offset for those on extended State Active Duty. As NOSCs reopen, we too are looking forward to a resumption of annual NYNM exercises and regular MEBS training at some point in Calendar Year 2021.

In Latham, Deputy Commander Dave Hawley deftly manages the staff and day-to-day affairs of the Naval Militia, both onsite and off, aided by Elizabeth Cummings, Administrative Assistant, MEBS Commander Don McKnight, Senior Chief Elizebeth Spain, and NYNM members who have volunteered for extended SAD. Chief of Staff Larry Weill has dedicated his efforts to filling gaps in our N-Code billets, creating a more robust and ready organization with greater breadth and depth, always bearing in mind the need to prepare our next generation of leaders.

The November 3rd, 2020 General Election is less than a month away. I urge all NYNM members to exercise your right and responsibility as citizens to vote. Many people around the world do not share this right, but our nation was founded upon the principle that we can choose our leaders at every level of government. And finally, as the end of year holidays approach, please heed the usual advice to celebrate responsibly, with an added caveat that watching out for your health and that of your friends and family is a responsibility weighted with new meaning and new protocols at least until such time as a safe and effective vaccine is available and widely distributed. Be smart, be safe, and be well.

DEPUTY COMMANDER COMMENTS

News from Headquarters – CAPT David Hawley, Deputy Commander

From March 2020 through the end of the calendar year 2020 Naval Militia has been providing personnel supporting the COVID 19 mission. However, we need to remember the other benefits of being in the New York Naval Militia: all of these programs are described on our web site.

1. Reimbursement time is upon us for SGLI. APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN THE NYNM OFFICE BY NOVEMBER 1ST FOR THE OCT 2019 THROUGH SEP 2020 year. If you have been on title 10 active duty (NOT FOR TRAINING: eg. AT OR ADT) and have paid for SGLI New York State will reimburse you for your SGLI premiums.
2. Fall 2020 Tuition Assistance deadline has ended – but Spring 2021 Tuition Assistance deadline is December 13th. If you are in school and going to get your first Bachelor's Degree or Associate's Degree do not leave this money on the table!
3. Distinctive New York Naval Militia license plates for your car. What better way to show your involvement in the Naval Militia?
4. Thruway passes and MTA bridge and tunnel passes: With New York State going entirely "cashless" these passes are important to send to EZ-Pass for credit on your bill for military travel. Contact your unit Naval Militia representative for these important passes. If your unit does not have a representative – talk to your unit Commanding Officer to volunteer. You can distribute these valuable passes for your shipmates.
5. State Active Duty – I mentioned at the beginning of this message that your Naval Militia has supported the COVID 19 mission - 125 of your shipmates have been on paid active duty supporting the COVID Mission. If it has been a while since you filled out a Civilian and Military Skills Questionnaire from our web site, fill one out and send it in. We look at your civilian skills along with your military rating to find potential matches to mission needs.

Cold weather is fast approaching so be sure you have cold weather gear available if we need you to help in snow removal and other cold weather operations.

Be safe this Winter, develop and practice healthy habits, and have a Happy Holiday Season.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RIRP SPRING 2021 FIRST DEADLINE IS 13DEC!

EXERCISE EMPIRE CHALLENGE '21 20-21 MAY

MILITARY EMERGENCY BOAT SERVICE

CDR Don McKnight

The next major exercise involving MEBS is likely Empire Challenge '21. This multi-service event is slated for May of next year, tentatively around the 21st-22nd. As planned, the focus for MEBS will be on communications, command and control.

The contract to build the second 35' landing craft has been sent to the builder in Washington State. LC 351 will be very similar to LC 350 with the exception of having 4-stroke vice 2-stroke engines. The purchase of the new boat is supported by a FY 2019 Port Security Grant. We anticipate the arrival of this second landing craft in November 2021.

PB 440 is completing a major yard maintenance period. Included is the replacement of the 600HP Cummins Diesel engines, the transmissions, a complete exterior painting, and more. Much of this work is supported by both FY2018 and FY 2020 Port Security Grants.

In other areas, we are working hard to complete Mercury Marine maintenance certification so that we are able to conduct both routine and emergent repairs to our 15 Mercury outboard engines.

We anticipate this number of engines to grow and it only makes sense to have certified maintenance capabilities within our own ranks.

This training and certification is through Mercury University.



BOAT SENSE

The PQS program to become a MEBS Coxswain has many specific requirements to meet. NYNMINST 3501.3 includes the MEBS Coxswain PQS. The instruction is on the NYNM website.

Of all the listed requirements to become a qualified coxswain, the last seven items found in the "Boat Sense" section are the most important. For MEBS, a candidate who inherently internalizes and displays the seven concepts below will become an excellent coxswain:

1. **Constant Bearing, Decreasing Range (CBDR).** This fundamental concept that when used properly will prevent collisions with stationary objects or other vessels.
2. **Seaman's Eye.** A skilled mariner will develop a "Seaman's Eye," the ability to assess distances and angles without the aid of electronic navigation equipment.
3. **Situational Awareness (SA).** Knowing what is going on around the vessel (360 degrees), both internal and external to the boat is a key safety issue. Coxswains who only focus on what is going on ahead of the bow are dangerous. Likewise, attention to the coxswain's duties rather than skylarking, gabbing, and similar activities is part of SA.
4. **Smartness.** A vessel's appearance and boat handling are a clear demonstration of the professionalism of the mariner. There should be no loose gear. Lines are to be properly rigged and stowed. Fenders will be inside the gunwales when cruising underway. Use smooth powering of the boat. Turns will be decisive and not meandering.

- 5. **Etiquette.** Coxswains will demonstrate proper boat etiquette.
- 6. **No wake zones.** Coxswains will demonstrate an understanding of how to operate in a “No Wake Zone.”
- 7. **Common sense.**



EXERCISE EMPIRE CHALLENGE

Exercise Empire Challenge '21 is happening and tentatively scheduled for May 20 – 21. Dates are not set in stone at this point. Camp Smith will be the location. We are developing our training objectives. We know it will be communication centric with additional training opportunities available including forklift certification.

ADMIN AND EDUCATION NEWS

For those of you who are not aware, 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 RIRP, New York State will pay your school a maximum of the current SUNY Tuition rate per semester. The rate for the Fall 2020 semester was **\$3,535**, and should be the same for the Spring 2021 semester.

Deadlines- the RIRP is a semester to semester program, meaning **you MUST re-apply completely each semester** if you would like to be approved. This program 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. This grace period is meant to allow for processing times at HESC and FASFA. All additional remaining requirements should be submitted ASAP to allow HQ time to review them and make sure everything is correct. 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 (1st deadline): The completed DMNA Form 96-1 AND the NYNM RIRP Acknowledgment form **MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 1600** on December 13th in order to be accepted into the application period for that semester.

Want more information about RIRP? Please contact the NYNM HQ (518) 786-4583 or visit our website: <http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=education>

READINESS OFFICER (N31) CORNER

BMCS(EXW) Elizebeth Spain

Help me prevent pay and entitlement issues:

Fall is here and the holidays are fast approaching! The Naval Militia continues to provide service members for the COVID Support mission. I know I sound like a broken record but...if you all could **PLEASE** keep your information up to date it would prevent so many pay problems! 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 or address 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, elizabeth.a.spain.mil@mail.mil Thank you all in advance!

V/R
Senior Chief



Is cooking your passion or your rate?
Interested in learning a new skill?

We are looking for interested members to certified as a NY State Safe Food handler. This certification will make eligible for State Active Duty. Call (518) 786-4583 or email ng.ny.nyarnng.mbx.nynavalmilitia@mail.mil



COVID Alert NY App Ready for Download

Today, New York is thrilled to launch COVID Alert NY – the official Exposure Notification App created by the New York State Department of Health in partnership with Google and Apple. Now you can use your phone in the fight against COVID-19 and get exposure alerts, without compromising your privacy or personal information.

What is COVID Alert NY?

COVID Alert NY is New York State's official Exposure Notification App. This is a free smartphone app for anyone 18+ that lives and/or works in New York available for download in the Google Play Store and Apple App Store starting October 1st. The COVID Alert NY app notifies users if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Upon receiving an exposure notification, the app will encourage users to contact their physician or the State Health Department hotline (1-833-227-5045) to get more information about quarantining and testing.

Anyone who downloads the app does not have to worry about being tracked, identified or having their personal information shared. The app is completely anonymous and does not track your location or movement. No personal data is collected. COVID Alert NY uses Bluetooth proximity-enabled exposure notification technology provided by Apple and Google which is safe and secure.

What can you do?

The more New Yorkers using the COVID Alert NY app, the more effective it will be as a tool to fight against COVID-19. We need your help to rally your community to download and use the app. The COVID Alert NY app puts the power in the hands of New Yorkers to protect their neighbors, friends, family and community at large. Together, we can slow the spread of COVID-19. We are asking you to put our COVID Alert NY Outreach Toolkit to work by using the resources contained as soon as possible. Your influence can make a big difference.

What resources are available?

We designed the COVID Alert NY Outreach Toolkit to make your support of app downloads as convenient as possible. The kit materials use communications channels your organization already has in place and include the following, all of which are ready to use with little to no work on your part:

- Social media posts with companion graphics
- One Pager with FAQ
- Template email blast to send to your membership

To learn more about COVID Alert NY, visit ny.gov/covidalerts.

Thank you for partnering with us to mobilize your community to join our statewide efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

AROUND THE REGIONS

FEMA Online Training Courses – Go Above and Beyond (by CAPT Larry Weill)

One of the things that all NYNM “five percenters” know is that they are required to complete four courses within the FEMA curricula. Those four courses are IS-100.c, IS-200c, IS-700b, and IS-800d. These four fundamental courses all deal with various aspects of Federal Disaster Operations and the Incident Command System. However, not many of us have ever checked out the wealth of training opportunities and topics *beyond* the basic requirements.

FEMA’s educational website, which is found at training.fema.gov, contains listings for hundreds of courses that are open to anyone in our organization to take whenever the time is convenient. Advantages of these courses include:

- They are free. There is no cost to take any of the courses listed online.
- Many of the courses offered (at least half) offer college credit for successful completion.
- These courses are available entirely online, including the final examination.
- There is no schedule; you take the course(s) on your own schedule, day or night.
- The range of course topics is immense; there are courses available to meet everyone’s needs.

The courses vary greatly in subject and length, which you will notice immediately when logging onto the website. You will not need a password to access the main web page. But the variety of courses beyond the basics is truly staggering. Want to know about social media in emergency management? That’s course IS-42. Would you like to become an exercise evaluator? That would be course IS-130a. How about becoming knowledgeable in Community Hurricane Preparedness? That’s course 324a. You name it, and you’ll find it on the FEMA course list.

In order to take classes online, you will need a FEMA SID (Student ID), which you will obtain from the main website page (menu on left side, below the IS Course List heading). It’s free, it’s easy, and you will become an even greater asset to the NYNM and our state for your efforts.

Note: if you decide to pursue any of these courses online, remember to print out a copy of the completion certificate and send it to our HQ office so the staff can add it to your training record.

Cover photo: EO1 MCSPEDON operates a forklift assigned to CSTS Logistics OPERATION SUSTAINED COVID SUPPORT

MEDICAL ADMIN

Let me introduce myself, I am the new Medical Administration Officer. I am currently contacting Medical personnel and updating the roster. The COVID support mission may continue for quite some time. We are asking medical providers to step up and help during future exercises performing or possibly reviewing physical exams. As much as we need participation, if you are not a drilling reservist and part of our 5% force, **you cannot come on orders without a current medical on file.**

Thank you,
MaryEtta Nolan
CAPT, NC, USNR Ret.



NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA BY THE NUMBERS

14-OCT-20	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	137	29	36	202
WARRANT	6	1	3	10
ENLISTED	1778	249	402	2,429
TOTAL	1921	279	441	2,642
NAVY	954	133	259	1,346
MARINE	822	109	149	1,080
COAST GUARD	74	4	4	82
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	28	7	6	41
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	43	26	23	92

