

# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

## NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2018



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



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#### Cover photo:

CDR Don McKnight stands on the bow ramp of LC 350, the new 35' landing craft for MEBS, while conducting a beaching operation on the Hudson River at Rensselaer.

#### Commander's Corner:

Fellow Naval Militia Members - as Commander of the New York Naval Militia I look forward to working with all of you toward the advancement of our organization. Having served many years in the Navy Reserve, I am very aware of the talents, experience, capabilities and commitment that SELRES personnel possess. I intend to actively explore opportunities at all levels and make sure that DMNA leadership continues to recognize and utilize the talents available to them through the Naval Militia. Having now received delivery of our new landing craft (LC-350), we increase our capability and potential for performing new missions. We will continue to hold our quarterly meetings at which I look to include training utilizing both internal and external assets. Funding may be tight for the remainder of this fiscal year, so travel may be limited; we may explore the opportunity for video conferencing. I will discuss my vision for us at our next meeting - until then thank you for your commitment and for all you do. Also, if you have ideas on how we can improve or better employ the Naval Militia, I would like to hear them. Finally, I wish to thank Rear Admiral Powell for his service and leadership under which our organization responded effectively and professionally in completing its assigned taskings. Enjoy the



rest of your summer; look forward to seeing you at RG-18 and/or our next quarterly meeting. Regards, RDML Z.

## NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA CHANGE OF COMMAND



Incoming NY Naval Militia Commander, Rear Admiral Timothy Zakriski (right) salutes outgoing Commander, Rear Admiral Ten Eyck Powell transferring all authority of command, during a traditional ceremony onboard PB 400 at Schodack Island, 22 June 2018. RDML Powell served as Commander, NYNM since December 2014. RDML Zakriski previously served as Deputy Commander, NYNM, following a tour as Commander, NORTHCOM.

## Chief of Staff Comments

Summer is usually busy for the New York Naval Militia: in addition to preparing for a Coastal Storm driving up the eastern seaboard toward New York, we have our Summer Exercise (Rapid Gunwale 2018) and preparing for the

Summer Tuition Assistance (RIRP) deadline – August 15th.

For everyone planning for Fall 2018 College or University classes the RIRP (Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program) tuition assistance program has just decreased the minimum credit hours to three credits per semester. You can take one class per semester leading to your first Bachelor's Degree and the RIRP will help you pay for the tuition. Contact our Education Officer: Elizabeth Cummings at (518) 786-4583 for more information or look on our web site under "Education" (<http://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=education>) for application details.

The mission of the New York Naval Militia is to support the New York National Guard when called upon by The Adjutant General. We are being tasked more often in utilizing our members skill sets based on their military training and their civilian occupations. For this reason we need to know your skills sets. If it has been a while since you filled out the Civilian- Military Skills Questionnaire, take some time to fill it out and sent it to us. The form is available on our web site. (NYNM FORM 1070) This form is part of a complete application, along with your LES and driver's license.

I mentioned above that we need to be prepared for Coastal Storms approaching New York. Part of that preparedness is being prepared to be recalled for State Active Duty: Do you have a current medical exam on file with NYNM HQ? Do you have your uniforms up to date? For your home – have you looked at emergency supplies? Batteries? Flashlights? Water? Nonperishable food?

One last thought: Congratulations to those members that were selected for promotion by the US Military and on our Promotion Board. For those members looking at future promotion, the

number one issue found by the Naval Militia promotion board is an incomplete promotion package. Plan ahead for next year and look at our promotion instruction and be sure all materials needed are complete.

## N.Y. NAVAL MILITIA PROMOTIONS

*The following members were selected by the 2018 Promotion Board. Effective date of promotion is 1 October 2018.*

**CDR Anthony Buanno  
to Captain (O-6)**

**SGT Anthony Egan  
to Staff Sergeant (E-6)**

**LCDR D. Kenny Fellers  
to Commander (O-5)**

**BM2 William Kaul  
to Petty Officer First Class (E-6)**

**EO1 Scott Pease  
to Chief Petty Officer (E-7)**

**MK2 Kenneth Stefandel  
to Petty Officer First Class (E-6)**

## AWARDS

### Conspicuous Service Medal

RDML Ten Eyck Powell, Selkirk



### Medal for Meritorious Service to NYS

CAPT Timothy Zakriski, Scotia



CAPT David Hawley, Johnsonville  
CAPT Bruce Barron, Leroy  
CAPT Lawrence Weill, Walworth  
CWO3 Carl Enriquez, Manalapan  
SOCM Charles Mach, Galway  
MGYSGT Sal Rignola, Staten Island

**NYS Military Commendation**  
MN2 Raymond Arocho, Fishkill  
CPL Malik Duff, Roosevelt  
Lt COL Stewart Smith, Modena



### JOSEPHTHAL TROPHY

The recipients of the 2018 Josephthal Trophy for Naval Militia Member of the Year and Unit of the Year have been announced. The winners are:

### N.Y. Naval Militia Member of the Year:



**LCDR D. Kenny Fellers**

## N.Y Naval Militia Unit of the Year:



### “Team Galley”

CSC Wayne Hurlburt, EOC Tom Gray, EO1 George McSpedon, BM1 Calvin Cumm, EO1 Ernest Drake, HM1 Jason Norris, BM2 Bill Kaul, BU2 Toni Barnett, LS2 Vernetta Taylor, CS2 Miguel LaboyBonilla, MM2 Marck Gallo, MA2 Tim Centeno, SGT Cory Robinson, QM3 Katy DelaRosa, BM3 Leidy PaniaguaBenitez, CPL Santiago Reyes, MNSN Gary Reid, CECN Austin Taylor, ENFA Maria Serani

## MILITARY EMERGENCY BOAT SERVICE



### MEBS DET 2 awarded the U.S. Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation.

MEBS DET 2 is assigned under Joint Task Force Empire Shield, operating PB 440 out of US Coast Guard Station New York.

*The citation read:* “For exceptionally meritorious service on 31 December 2017 in support of Coast Guard Maritime Security Response

Operations in the vicinity of Liberty Island. The crew of PB 440 was initially tasked with using their platform to transport Sector New York boarding team members during the New Year’s Eve fireworks show. This operation included 16 federal and local assets working together to provide ferry security and enforce two Limited Access Areas. Two days prior to the vent, the planned Command and Control Vessel was reassigned and tasked with breaking ices as temperatures in the New York and New Jersey area began to drop significantly. The crew of PB 440 volunteered to deploy as CCV in addition to their originally assigned duties, allowing the operation to continue without degradation. With 30 knot winds and a

record setting temperature of 8 degrees Fahrenheit on New Year’s Eve, on scene assets were unable to combat the freezing sea spray. Several supporting assets were forced to return to base as the cold began causing myriad equipment casualties including frozen fuel lines and heating system failures. Undeterred by the hazardous environmental conditions, the crew of PB 440 adapted and deployed with the Patrol Commander and Sector Boarding Team. Ice



BMC Mike Nilsen, BM1 Kurt Schneider, MK2 Ken Stefandel

began to accumulate as the crew sailed towards the LAAs, forcing them to resort to braving the

icy weather decks and continuously scraping the windows for visibility. Once on scene, an assessment proved that only two other assets were available to support the operation. Undiscouraged and exhilarated by the challenging situation, PB 440 remained on scene enforcing LAAs for four hours in the freezing conditions until the fireworks display was complete. Due to the crew's flexibility, positivity, and experience as maritime professionals, both LAAs were properly and successfully enforced, ensuring the safety of thousands of spectators. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by the NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA PB 440 are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."



### **MEBS Leadership Meets for Training Seminar**

Key MEBS leaders met at DMNA in Latham on



Thursday 19 JUL 18 to discuss improvements in training. New MEBS Training Officer and Safety Officer, LCDR Jay Veronko led the effort to improve standards across the state. The meeting was held as the result of a command assessment conducted by LCDR Kenny Fellers this past spring, which identified areas in need of improvement. In attendance were MEBS Staff, Regional Coordinators, and Detachment OIC's.

### **MEBS takes possession of new landing craft, LC-350**

On Saturday, 21 JUL 18, the New York Naval Militia took possession of its first new vessel in over ten years. LC-350 is a 35-foot landing craft built by the William E. Munson Company, of Burlington, WA.

The boat is equipped with twin Mercury 250HP engines, widely spaced on the transom for increased maneuverability. The vessel is designed to carry up to 3 tons of cargo or personnel. With a 7.5-wide bow door, it can embark a skid-steer, gator, or other types of vehicles, in addition to palletized cargo.

The concept and development of the landing craft project has been in the works for over six years. Networking with the Ulster County Sheriff's office in March 2012 identified the potential for even larger bow-door-style vessels supporting homeland security and contingencies in New York State. With the passage of Superstorm Sandy later that year, it became clear that on-water lift capability was limited, so an effort began to gain approval and begin to search for grants to offset the costs of the purchase of a new boat.

After three attempts to get a FEMA Port Security Grant, it was finally

approved in the FY 2016 program. Then began the designing and contracting process which

a ready force; recruiting, training, equipping, medical fitness, etc., etc.



was completed in 2017.

Sea trials for the new boat took place on Puget Sound in June 2018. CDR McKnight, ENCS Wittenzellner, and SWCS Rogers travelled to Washington State to complete these trials.

The boat was then hauled across country, received at Leeds, and launched onto the Hudson River on 23JUL18.

The boat is currently berthed at Albany.

A 7 AUG 18 christening ceremony is scheduled.

**READINESS OFFICER (N31)  
CORNER:**

A fundamental objective of the New York Naval Militia is to be prepared and ready to respond to tasking by the Governor in times of crisis. DMNA J3 has set 24 hour response as the bar for the Naval Militia. Several elements make up

An etcetera that I'm currently working to improve is our recall capability. I NEED YOUR HELP!

We have a substantial force in sheer numbers; 2896 in the last census. When the call goes out for personnel to meet assigned mission requirements, we've got to be able to reach all 2896 Naval Militia. I have been contacting individuals and units to validate our personnel database and will continue to do so. Our database is a living thing and is in a constant state of change. It requires nurturing.

If I haven't contacted you already, please send me an email or give me a call to validate your personal recall information. My contact information is below.

In addition to being able to reach you individually, we each have a responsibility to maintain our own medical readiness. If you're a drilling reserve, your annual service required Physical Health Assessment (PHA) satisfies Naval Militia annual medical exam requirements. If you're not a drilling reservist, an annual medical exam is required. Necessary forms can be found at <https://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=forms>.

Drop me a line and let's work together to be New York Ready!

CDR(sel) Kenny Fellers –  
Dewey.K.Fellers.NFG@mail.mil – (518) 786-4585

**Education News:**

The next eligible semester for RIRP

education benefits is Fall, 2018.

**The deadline for submission of benefit applications is 15 August 2018.**

## **LOCAL INTEREST:**

### **ALBANY. GOLD STAR MOTHERS.**

On 23 May 2018 a Memorial Day service was conducted at the State Office Campus in Albany at the memorials in front of the New York State Department of Labor (Building 12).

Continuing a custom established circa 1993, uniformed members of the sea services -- including past and present members of the New York Naval Militia -- volunteered as Escorts to the Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Family Members.

IT1 Garrett Aldershoff, BMC Dan Partington, (pictured right) CAPT Mike Perry and CDR Abbie Jackson. Also in attendance and not available for the picture: RMDL (LH) Harold Goldman, NYNM (Ret), and QM1 Jeff Nuzzacco. Submitted by CDR Thomas Rielly, NYNM (Ret)

**ROCHESTER. MASTER CHIEF KOTZ VISITS NOSCS IN ROCHESTER AND BUFFALO. VISIT COMPLETES THE "TRIFECTA"**

NOSC Rochester was visited by Naval Reserve Forces Command Force Master Chief Christopher Kotz on June 2 as part of a tour of upstate New York. His journey took him to NOSC Rochester on Saturday, followed by a visit to the Buffalo NOSC on Sunday. Master Chief Kitz took over his current billet in October, 2017, and is the sixteenth Force Master Chief to serve in this position.



Pictured (left to right) Cindi Roberts who is President of the New York Chapter Gold Star Mothers, CDR Thomas Rielly, LCDR Howard Fox, SKCS Adrienne Daniels, (in the back row)

Kotz arrived in mid-morning and immediately commenced a tour through the NOSC to address the enlisted SELRES members of the facility. An avowed advocate of the sailor, he spent significant time addressing personnel of all paygrades throughout the day. NYNM Force Master Chief Mach, who traveled to Rochester for a face-to-face briefing, was impressed with Kotz's ability to connect to the Chiefs and sailors on a personal basis.

Master Chief Kotz spoke with the Chief's Mess for over an hour, reviewing the role that he sees for the Chiefs in the NOSC in today's Reserve climate. He then spoke at an all-hands assembly on the drill deck, giving the sailors ample time to ask questions and hear the "view from the top." The meeting was extremely well-received by all hands.

Kotz and Master Chief Mach were able to sit down one-on-one for about 20 minutes at the end of the day. Their discussion was focused on a briefing about the New York Naval Militia, it's personnel, organization, mission and resources. Master Chief Kotz was highly impressed with the NYNM's active presence in the Reserve facilities of the state, and posed numerous questions on the SELRES members' dual activity as members of both the Navy Reserves and the NYNM. He was provided with a copy of the new MOU, which was also briefed during the conversation.

Coincidentally, Master Chief Kotz's stop in NOSC Rochester completes the "Trifecta" of visits from top leadership to the area. His call came almost one year to the day from VADM Luke McCollum's trip to the area, which marked the first-ever visit to NOSC Rochester by a Chief of Navy Reserves. In May, we received RADM Thomas Luscher, who was our Guest-of-Honor and keynote speaker at the Armed Forces Week Ball in Buffalo. NYNM leadership has attended the events surrounding each of these visits and has benefitted from the exposure.

## New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

09-Jul-18	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	153	34	36	223
WARRANT	10	3	4	17
ENLISTED	1929	287	440	2656
TOTAL	2092	324	480	2896
NAVY	1061	143	258	1462
MARINE	857	113	187	1157
COAST GUARD	112	4	4	120
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	18	7	5	30
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	38	55	26	119
PENDING ACTION	6	2	0	8

## 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**  
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