

# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020



**Military and  
Naval Affairs**

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



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## COMMANDER'S CORNER:



RDML Warren T. Smith  
Commander New York Naval Militia

### **To All Members of the New York Naval Militia:**

All of us understand by now that we are in the midst of a state, national, and global emergency the scale of which we have never experienced before. While comparisons to World War II and the Spanish flu pandemic following WWI give some historical context, the unprecedented nature of virus transmission facilitated by international air travel and global commerce as well as the rapid dissemination of information – some accurate, some speculation, and some nonsense – means that we are in uncharted waters. No one is or will remain immune from the effects, whether physical, psychological or economic, which will be long lasting. The health care system of no city or country is adequately prepared to administer to the numbers of people who require care. The good news is that our Naval Militia members have responded. The number of Militia men and women on active duty has grown to 81 as of this writing, some working at Latham, others with the various Joint Task Forces deployed around the state. While the primary demand has been for medical and logistics specialties, some general purpose Militia members have been working side by side with the NY State Guard and National Guard helping with the transport of test samples from collection sites to labs, the cleaning of public facilities, and the distribution of food to communities in need.

Our focus is necessarily on the COVID-19 pandemic, and whatever can be done to slow its spread and protect our friends, our neighbors, our families, and ourselves. But it is very possible that more familiar seasonal missions in response to Lake Ontario flooding or coastal storms will demand our response later in the year. Please be ready to offer any assistance you can if and when the call comes. The most important action you can take in the meantime is to heed the advice to keep your distance from others, to stay in place at your home or place of work as directed by your employer and civil authorities, and to wash your hands thoroughly any time you've had contact with a surface others have touched, such as door handles, stair railings, etc. For those brought onto active duty, personal protective equipment will be provided along with the training required to ensure you are safe and can function as an effective asset to the people of the state of New York. We are all in this together, and together we will get through this.

Warren T. Smith

## CHIEF OF STAFF COMMENTS

Notes from the Chief of Staff:

1. ALL Hands – if you are a medically trained member of the New York Naval Militia the response to New York's COVID 19 emergency needs you! Military or Civilian training applies.
  - a. Hospital Corpsmen
  - b. EMTs

- c. LPNs
- d. Nurses
- e. Doctors

If you can be spared from your local community response efforts you are needed in the State of New York. The medical teams we have supplied are doing great work testing New Yorkers for COVID 19 and providing much needed medical support in clinics. Call the office or send us an email with your availability.

2. The New York Naval Militia's Promotion cycle will continue as planned. Extensive details are in our Winter 2020 newsletter on how to apply and put together your application package. Your promotion is your responsibility. Remember to review the Board checklist to ensure you have all required documentation.
3. The Josephthal Award cycle is also proceeding as planned. Nominate a Naval Militia Member of the year (April 2019 through March 2020) and a Unit of the Year. Units can be Ad hoc units of teams that performed service together during the State Fiscal year. In addition to the recognition and a plaque, the Josephthal award comes with a \$300 cash prize for the Unit to divide among the members and a \$300 prize for the Individual Member of the Year.

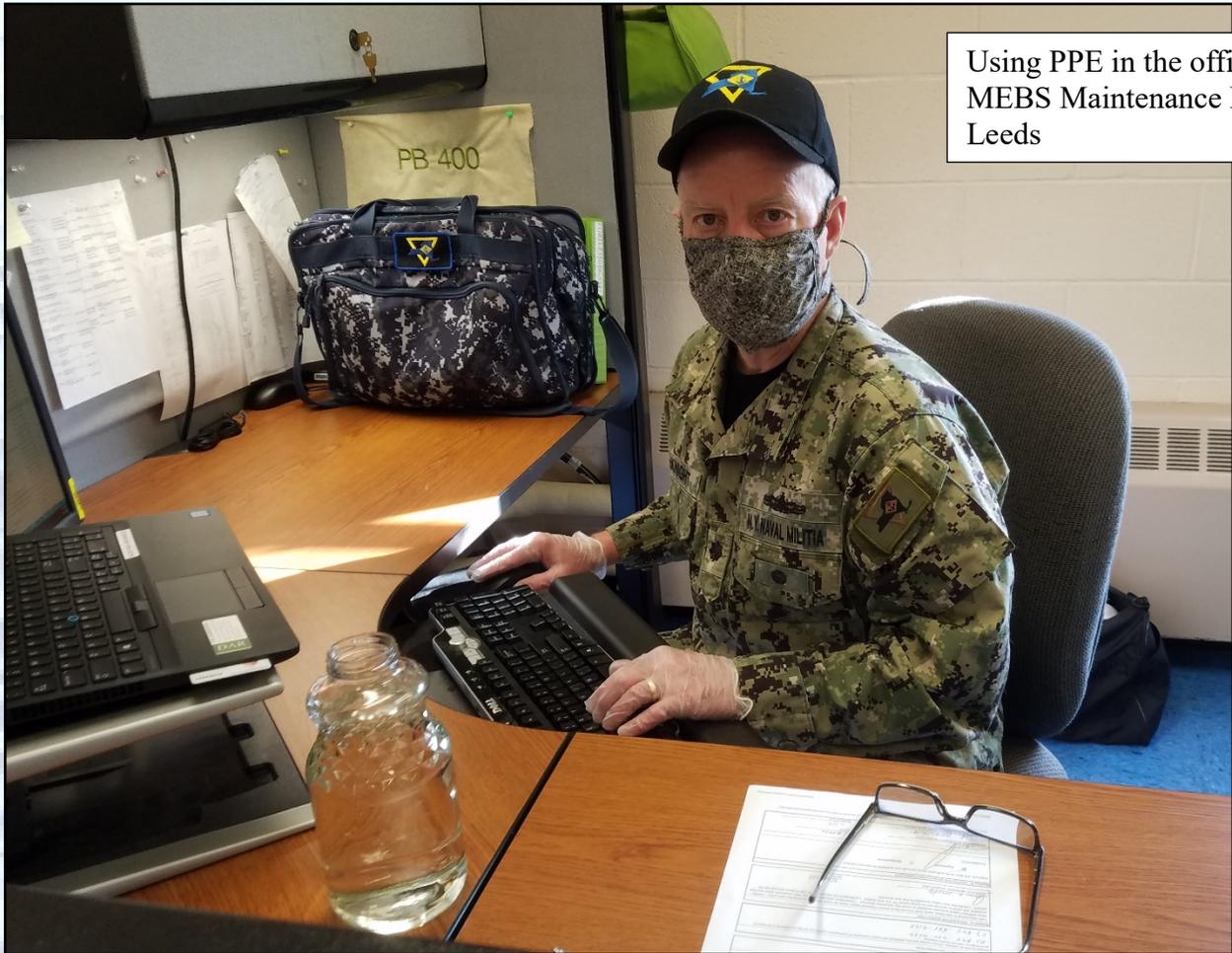
On one last note: Well done to everyone volunteering for the fight against the COVID 19 virus. This unseen enemy of our State and our Country is a threat to our way of life. I am very proud of everyone that is volunteering for this mission. Many more members have volunteered than we can recall for the fight and I thank you for raising your hand when you are needed most. It is not over be ready and keep volunteering because we may call.

## **MILITARY EMERGENCY BOAT SERVICE**

Plans for MEBS in 2020 have been significantly affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. While work continues by the full-time maintenance staff, primarily at the facility in the Leeds Armory, deployment of training platforms for the 2020 season is projected to be delayed.

MEBS Dets 1 and 2 in support of Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTFES) operations at Indian Point and within the Port of New York continue un-abated. Like all personnel assigned to JTFES, the wear of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is mandated. The cover photo of Petty Officer Stefandel onboard PB 440 is an example.

Whenever in public, including the work environment, we require the wearing of protective equipment, both as a safeguard for yourself and for those around you. In our mind, this applies even to situations where there might not be that many people around. If you are not approaching this pandemic with the full understanding of the seriousness of the social distancing requirements, you are endangering your entire community.



Using PPE in the office at the MEBS Maintenance Facility, Leeds

Many of you are aware that a Warning Order has been published by Joint Force Headquarters – New York for the 2020 **Great Lakes Flood Plan**. The warning order was published on 9 MAR 20, but it has been over-shadowed by the Operation COVID 19 response. At this time, we do not know if there will be an Execute Order for the Great Lakes Flood Plan.

As of this writing, Lake Ontario is above normal levels for this time of year. The level of the lake fluctuates each year, peaking in late Spring and early Summer. The level of the lake is controlled by the amount of water released through the Moses-Saunders Dam near Massena on the St. Lawrence River. Keep in mind that the level of Lake Ontario is not only based on the runoff from New York State and Ontario, but also from the other Great Lakes above it, Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie. The drainage basin that collects the water that flows out through the St. Lawrence River includes huge swaths of central and eastern Canada and United States.

When large amounts of water are released through the dam, particularly after Spring ice-melt, it is unsafe for ship navigation on the river. This year, the start of the shipping season was delayed until 1 APR 20 to allow for more water to be released through the dam. Still, water levels remain high. As of 3 April, Lake Ontario is 8 inches above where it was a year ago (and 14 inches above average for early April), with an additional 7 inch increase expected by 3 May. Normally, the peak for Lake Ontario occurs in mid-June.

Getting back to COVID 19 operations, the National Guard, State Guard, and Naval Militia

are all responding in some form to the pandemic. This domestic operations mobilization will be one of the largest in New York State history. Not only are large numbers of personnel being mobilized but it is expected to go on for some time. Due to the emergency, funding authorizations for normal operations are being delayed. Thus, our normal dock rental for training detachments is on the back burner. Our planned deployment of boats across the state is on-hold. Trailered boats remain at the MEBS Maintenance Facility in Leeds.

We are continuing to plan for major work on PB 440. Due to “stay-at-home” orders, the factory building the parts has been temporarily shut down. We anticipate that this work will commence in the fall. When that boat goes in the yards for powertrain replacement, we intend to back-fill it on its mission with PB 301.

## **EXERCISE EMPIRE CHALLENGE**

**Exercise Empire Challenge '20** (ECX20) planning has been put on a temporary hold. It is anticipated to be a joint exercise involving all New York Military Forces (NYMF) units and civilian agencies. Exercise dates have not been confirmed yet but **September 17-19** are still the proposed dates and the identified location is Western NY. Willard Correctional Facility, Seneca Lake has been proposed as the sight.

### **READINESS OFFICER (N31) CORNER:**

BMCS(EXW) Elizebeth Spain

THANK YOU! Thank you for responding to the call to come on State Active Duty. Thank you for putting your own lives on hold for the greater good of our State. Thank you for the depth of civilian and military skills you bring to the table. The need for this mission has been primarily medical skills with a measure of admin and logistics but so many more have volunteered. I have kept a list of everyone who volunteered. There is a good chance we will need you in the near future, Lake Ontario continues to rise. In the meantime, please send me an updated LES and any address change that may have happened. This ensures you will be paid the correct pay grade when your turn comes to answer the call.

Remember, 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](mailto:elizabeth.a.spain.mil@mail.mil) Thank you all again!

V/R  
Senior Chief

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD - OUR ACTIVATED MEMBERS

Here at JOC J4 we are sustaining and procuring work orders for those that are forward deployed in the field, to ensure they have the proper equipment, housing, chow and PPE to complete the mission of preventing, and treating patients with COVID-19. For example, we are supporting the effort at The Jacob Javits center in NYC by sourcing all the necessary resources to complete their mission.

Cpl Kevin R Beaulieu  
JOC J4

**Over 2,500 makeshift hospital beds/rooms at Javits Center to house the influx of the patient population.**



During this operation, I was the only Naval Militia representative in a team named "Facilities Team Forward" by the NYANG. During the first couple of weeks I assisted, as part of a team in Governor Cuomo's Executive Chamber in Albany to identify what locations were available as alternate care facilities ranging from warehouses and hotels to universities all throughout NYC and Long Island. I assisted the Commissioner of Health with identifying facilities that required structural engineering analysis in NYC and upstate New York, including the Javits Center. I also assisted him with building a chain of command for the facilities and the equipment that was necessary to make the facilities operational. Due to my structural engineering experience and my background in healthcare construction, and despite being an E4, I was the sole representative of the team in Staten Island as a liaison officer. My duties included observing and reporting via presentations to high-ranking officials, on how the South Beach Psychiatric Center became the first alternate care COVID-19 non-acute facility in the United States. I assisted the team that included a Congressman and multiple governors' representatives, with engineering and construction management experience whenever requested. I was also the liaison officer for the College of Staten Island before the state decided not to go forward with that project.

V/R,  
YN3 Nicolas Garcia (pictured right)



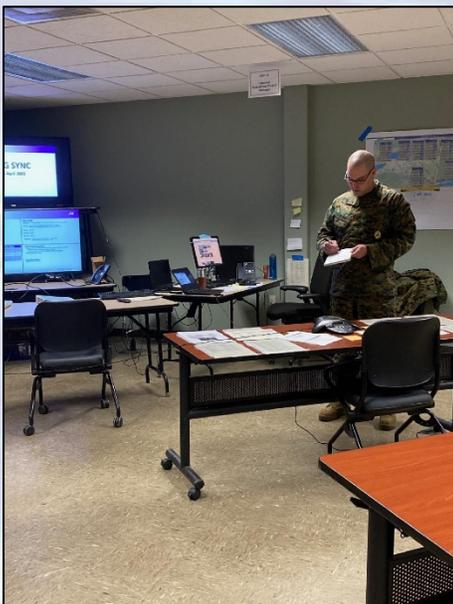
At the Javits Center, NYNM members have led the establishment of multiagency logistics support to establish a hospital with over 2,000 beds and an active Patient Census of over 300, growing every day. The Naval Militia has synchronized New York City, New York State, and Federal resources including Health and Human Services, FEMA, and Title 10 DoD forces to provide everything in support of patients and staff at the Javits Center.

The combined partnership of NYNM members augmenting the New York National Guard Unified Command structure at the Javits Center has enabled the rapid buildup of the hospital, sustained operations, and transition to civilian authorities.

Semper Fidelis  
Maj Will McElwaine



**Left to Right:**  
**Maj McElwaine**  
**CAPT Perry**  
**Maj Farry**  
**CWO3 Chang**



I am serving as Common Operations Picture (COP) Manager at Admin & Logistics Operations Center (ALOC). I work in the Joint Task Force Headquarters (JTFHQ) Joint Operations Center (JOC) ALOC to ensure continuous 24/7 situational awareness by monitoring, collecting and analyzing data in order to develop and update the logistics requirements for Operation COVID19. I am also responsible for preparing all daily briefings conducted by the JTF JOC J4 and fill in as necessary other roles in the ALOC to include Battle Captain and OIC.

Capt Michael P. Golden (pictured left)

I am currently attached to ESF-7 Logistics at the State EOC. I assist the Deputy Director of NYS Logistics with requesting FEMA support for NY State, tracking Federal equipment and personnel coming into New York for the effort, and I assist in the distribution of medical equipment and supplies from state warehouses to hospitals caring for COVID 19 patients.

My most recent task involved assisting with the transfer of 200 ventilators from California through the EMAC process, accepting them, getting them inspected, arranging shipment of 100 to the NY stockpile and shipping 100 to New Jersey for their stockpile.

CDR Kenny Fellers

In our supporting roles at The Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA), LT Khosh, YN1 Lalanne, LCPL Johnson, and EO2 Hart continue to provide invaluable service while assigned to DMNA during Operation COVID-19. We are responsible for the financial wellbeing of 3,000 military personnel consisting of 58 members of the New York Guard, 218 Army Reservists, 65 members of the Naval Militia, 55 members of the Air National Guard, and 2,604 Army National Guard personnel. Our team inputs payroll and processed military pay entitlements ensuring payout of BAH. In addition, the team processes all financial documents needed to ensure 100% compliance with New York State.

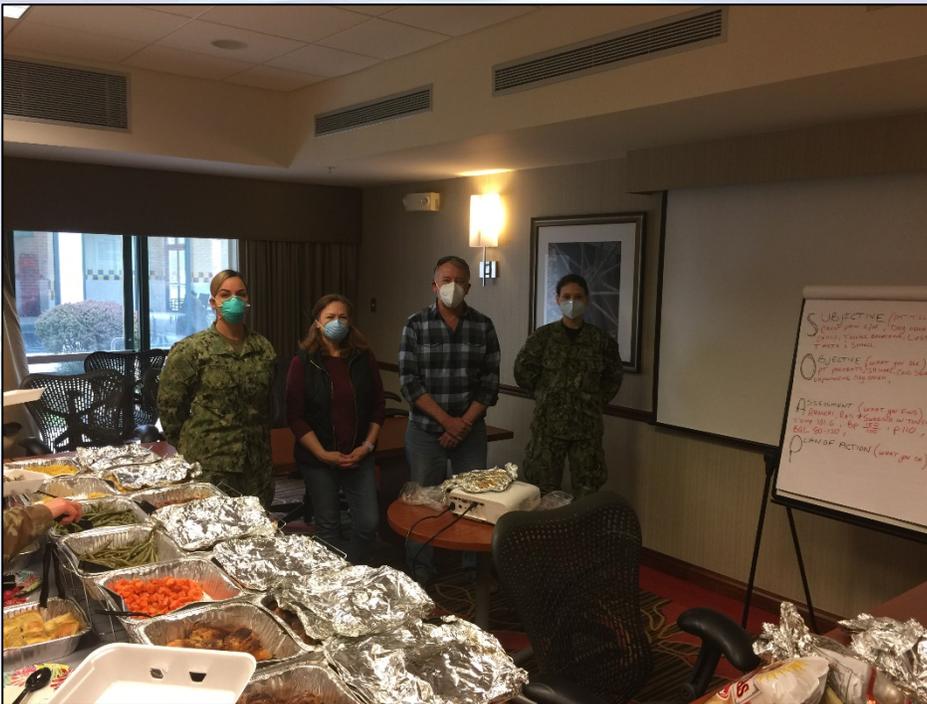
V/R

YN1 (SS) Paul Lalanne

At approximately 0830 on Easter morning word was passed to all personnel that a local business owner heard about all the military staff activated and put up at hotels in Fishkill. On her own, Paige Flori of Boutique Wines & Spirits enlisted a crew of friends and family to create a sumptuous meal for the soldier, sailors, airmen and Marines working to contain COVID-19 who are away from home.

Paige was helped out by Bob Fullerton of Millerton, NY, Vanessa Goodwin of Pleasant Valley, NY, Cindy Lish and her daughter, Christina Lish of Poughkeepsie, NY. Lunch consisted of baked chicken, pulled pork, vegetables, chips & dip along with home baked cookies and cupcakes.

GYSGT Alec Pandaleon



**Easter Lunch served for JTF-2,  
Camp Smith Training Site**

Pictured left are HM1 Y. Rodriguez, Cindy Lish, Bob Fullerton and EN3 M. Serani



**BMCS Reimer on duty with JTF-1  
Long Island, Stoney Brook Testing  
Site**



**NYNM HQ JRSOI Team members  
CS2 Crawford and IT1 Parris**

**LtCol Hooker on duty with TF-369  
C2/ADMIN, NYC**



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR TAG



We are living in an unprecedented time. The Corona-virus (COVID-19) crisis is unlike anything we have experienced before. Yesterday Governor Cuomo instituted closing of public places to include restaurants, bars, theaters, and gyms. Other emergency measures could follow.

The old rules on how we all interact with each other have changed out of necessity to help contain the spread of the virus. Social distancing is now a requirement! We no longer shake hands or congregate in large groups when not essential. Meetings are being conducted by teleconference instead of in person. We sent home State employees whose job can be done

electronically from home. We have also done the same thing for federal employees. Soldiers, Airmen, members of the Naval Militia and members of the NY Guard will see disruptions to scheduled drills, annual training, schools, and other military events. This is all part of the Department of Defense's effort to curb the spread of the virus.

However, what has not changed is the duty and responsibility we all have as members of the U.S. military, State Defense Forces, and our civilian workforce. We must be ready to defend our State and Nation. We cannot shut down. We have a job to do - and whether that job can be done through telework or at your normal work place, it must continue.

We must be ready. We must be responsive. We must not degrade our Nation's ability to fight and win wars or to respond to the call of the Governor to help the people of the State of New York.

Major General Ray Shields  
The Adjutant General  
JFHQ-NY

## FORCE MASTER CHIEF

Effective April 2020, Master Chief Glenn Niemitalo has relieved Master Chief Charles Mach as the NYNM Force Master Chief.

NYNM wishes to thank Master Chief Mach for his dedication and service as Force Master Chief and for his many years of dedicated service!

Mineman Master Chief Glenn Niemitalo, enlisted in US Navy in 1975 and served on active duty

through 1979. In 1979, he transferred to the Naval Reserve and was a drilling reservist in the upstate NY area. He was mobilized in 2009 and served in Afghanistan with Provincial Reconstruction Team's at FOBs Sharana & Khost. He demobilized in 2010 and continued to drill at NOSC Schenectady until his retirement in 2016.



His duties during his US Navy reserve career included a tour as Command Master Chief of the NOSC, where he coincidentally followed in the footsteps of then outgoing NOSC Command Senior Chief Mach. Upon further investigation it has been uncovered that there is a long personal history between our two Master Chiefs that goes all the way back to the late 1970's where two E5's transferred from active duty to the Naval Reserve at the same time and became "Running Mates aka Battle Buddies", doing various reserve tours of duty around the world. Their joint escapades and "Sea Stories" are colorful to say the least.

Master Chief Niemitalo joined the Naval Militia in 1980 and has been mobilized on various SAD missions throughout his NYNM career.

Master Chief's NYNM primary duties include Operations Officer (N3) for the NYS Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS), which he will continue to perform, in addition to accepting the duties and responsibilities as NYNM Force Master Chief.

Master Chief Niemitalo is currently mobilized ISO the COVID-19 Emergency and is assigned at the JTF-HQ DMNA Latham, NY, J8/MNBF directorate.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

16 AUG 2020, RIRP FALL 2020 FIRST DEADLINE

## NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA BY THE NUMBERS

17-APR-20	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	132	30	35	197
WARRANT	6	1	3	10
ENLISTED	1756	251	389	2396
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1894</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>2605</b>
NAVY	945	129	248	1322
MARINE	804	111	139	1054
COAST GUARD	69	4	4	77
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	30	8	9	47
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (RETIRED)	47	30	27	104



**Above: NYNM members arrive for duty by CH-47 Chinook helicopter in NY City 16 April to support the multi-agency response to COVID-19**

**Cover photo: MK1 Ken Stefandel in personal protective equipment (PPE) onboard PB 440, near USNS COMFORT during Operation COVID-19**