# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA NEWSLETTER - Spring 2024 EXCELSIOR

# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA NEWSLETTER

**SDRING 2024** 

### **NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA**

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



### **Front Cover photo:**



Manhattan, from PB440 on the morning of 17MAY24

### **Back Cover photo:**



PB 281 with DET 52 embarked, on Lake Erie on 8APR24. The detachment was underway for training during the total solar eclipse that crossed over the area.

# **Commander's Corner:**



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

### From the Commander:

Shipmates! This Newsletter finds the NYNM busier and more robust and renowned than ever. I know you keep hearing that. However, it is increasingly true. While our current ranks have yet to hit an all-time high, they are consistently heading in the right direction. Most important, our 3,215 members are far better connected and ready, willing, and waiting to respond. For example, the more than 444 NYNM members who are currently on full-time State Active Duty (SAD) is an all-time high and represents approximately 14% of our available members with another 100 members having identified themselves as being equally eager to respond if needed. In fact, our completely voluntary

activation response rates rival those experienced by our federal components right after 9-11 with the added ability to nearly immediately respond to changing or additional requirements. Thus, we have much to be proud of thanks to the outstanding efforts of our relatively small, but extremely busy, full-time NYNM Headquarters Staff.

Could we get busier? Definitely! Our Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence recently warned that ongoing meteorological conditions indicate that the forthcoming hurricane season could generate a record number of unusually intense storms, including collateral flooding and tornadoes like those that have battered the Midwest. In addition, our Military Emergency Boat Service is gaining national and international recognition for its unique and highly effective support of the New York National Guard. For example, we hosted a Brazilian naval officer during exercise Empire Challenge 2023 last October and recently participated in the fiscal year 2024 Maritime Staff Talks between the Southern Command of the United States Navy and Marinha Do Brazil in Mayport, Florida, to discuss further engagement with the Brazilian Navy this September during exercise Empire Challenge 2024 and hopefully beyond. Why? Unlike the US Navy, the Brazilian Navy is responsible for patrolling all of Brazil's navigable waterways and ports using a wide variety of patrol craft and innovative techniques serving functions like our US Coast Guard, as well as its global operations, along over 20 times as many miles of rivers, lakes, and coastlines as the State of New York. In fact, all of Brazil's naval officers initially qualify on patrol boats before gradually fleeting-up to larger ships. Thus, we have much in common with and to learn from and pass along to our southern shipmates.

We are also doing our best to increase activation opportunities for our more senior

members. While we will always be a primarily voluntary organization, particularly at the senior levels, please consider stepping-up into one of our Regional Commander billets if qualified with confidence that we are making the billets far more active, interesting, and challenging. As well as helping ensure our members are prepared for state activation and properly considered for promotions and awards, our Regional Commanders are entirely responsible for maintaining the positive relations with our supporting federal reserve centers that facilitate provision of over 95% of our members.

On a less positive note, we still have an extremely small, but highly noticeable, number of members who have brought great discredit to the NYNM, as well as themselves, through improper and unacceptable actions. As a result, I urge everyone to read and re-read the General Orders provided before and throughout their activation to SAD ensure they do not violate those orders. Please contact the NYNM Office for advice and counseling if you are experiencing circumstances causing you to consider doing something potentially improper. Examples include falsifying personnel or medical records, counterfeiting or improper use of parking passes, completing SAD and federal drills or AT on the same day, and/or improper or illegal drug or alcohol use. Rest assured we will do our best to help you work through the situation provided you seek assistance before, rather than after, violating the rules. Similarly rest assured that we will have little patience for those who knowingly violate the rules.

In summary, thank you to everyone who has supported our activations and recruiting and well-being of our members. Please keep up the great work and spreading the word about the numerous benefits of joining the NYNM.

### **Chief of Staff News:**

Summer season is approaching rapidly and it's gearing up to be one of the most exciting times in our recent NYNM history. Our members have been active all over the state and recently the country, the NYNM Commander RDML Michael Perry and WESTCOM Regional Commander CAPT Jay Dutcher attended the Maritime Staff Talks in Mayport, Florida with USNAVSOUTH and the Brazilian Navy to further our partnership. Read all about it in the Commander's Corner.

Our Regional Commanders are doing an excellent job representing NYNM from The City to The Falls. Read all about it in the NORTHCOM, SOUTHCOM and WESTCOM section of the newsletter. WESTCOM Regional Commander, Jay Dutcher is now a celebrity! He was interviewed by SPECTRUM News with awesome video of our MEBS crewmen showing the State how it's done! Great way to recruit and train at the same time!

On the other side of the State, the new SOUTHCOM Regional Commander, CAPT Pete Marghella is making his presence known by attending meetings, Change of Command Ceremonies, speaking engagements and site visits. We are so grateful; you stepped into this role and embraced it. We are still looking to fill the position of NORTHCOM Regional Commander. To serve as Regional Commander, you do not have to reside in the NORTHCOM Region, just be willing to travel. (Travel pay is available). This is the perfect opportunity to get involved in your Militia and meet the fine Sailors and Marines in our state.

A recent change to our Recruitment Medal guidelines adds participating in 10 Recruitment events to be eligible. This change was needed since members apply online. Our first recipient under these new guidelines is GySgt Paul Hauschen, the SEL in NORTHCOM who actively promotes the NYNM in innovative ways. Contact your chain of command if you feel you are eligible.

We are currently planning for the Commander, RDML Perry, Chief of Staff, CAPT Nolan, SOUTHCOM, CAPT Marghella, and incoming Command SEL, MGySgt Rignola to visit NYC and connect with the members working with the Asylum Mission. Other events for the Commander and myself include the Hudson Athens Lighthouse 100th Anniversary Celebration and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USS Slater DE-766 Commissioning.



Coincidentally, the Admiral and I will be in Virginia on vacation and attending the annual memorial for the submarine USS Scorpion SSN-589, lost at sea in May 1968. Ninety-nine sailors including my father, Chief of the Boat, TMC(SS) Walter William Bishop, gave the ultimate sacrifice. Eight of the Scorpion crewmen were from New York. Memorial Day is not just a holiday to have cookouts and get great deals in stores, remember the families who continue to feel the absence of their servicemember who never came home.

TMC(SS) BISHOP

# **Director's Comments**

Greetings from Naval Militia Headquarters in Latham, NY.

Spring has finally arrived in New York, and we are continuing the Asylum Resource Support Mission in New York City

Many thinks to all our volunteers that make this mission a success.

I want to thank everyone for supporting the Asylum Mission on the front lines and supporting from the rear echelons.

Looking forward: The 15<sup>th</sup> of in May was the deadline for applications for promotion for those Naval Militia members no longer in a drilling status. Our promotion instruction is self-explanatory and in prior Newsletters I have provided step-by-step details on completing applications. Currently, we have 12 applications for promotion, and we look forward to reviewing those applications. The Promotion Board will be scheduled in June and in June we will hold our Admiral Josephthal Awards Board. Rear Admiral Louis M. Josephthal was Commanding Officer of the New York Naval Militia from 1925 to 1929. He passed away in May 1929.

The last will and testament of Louis M. Josephthal stated that his executors "invest the sum of \$10,000.00 the income thereof to be devoted annually for a trophy for the Naval Militia of the State of

New York to be known as the Josephthal Trophy, to be awarded as determined by the Commanding Officer of the said Naval Militia.

The Commanding Officer of the New York Naval Militia awards two awards: one to the individual Militia Person of the Year and one divided among those members of the New York Naval Unit of the Year. The "Unit of the Year" can be an Ad Hoc unit of members performing like duties.

If anyone in the New York Naval Militia wants to nominate an individual or Unit for the Josephthal Awards – please send a message to my email address: <u>David.h.hawley1.nfg@army.mil</u>.

# **NORTHCOM NEWS**

HELP!!! We are still looking for a senior officer to fill the vacancy as NORTHCOM Regional Commander!!! This is a perfect opportunity to get involved. You do not need to be from the NORTHCOM region to be the Regional Commander. If you want more information, please contact me at maryettanolan@gmail.com.

NORTHCOM Senior Enlisted Leader, GySgt Paul Hauschen attended his last Leadership meeting prior to his retirement in July. Not only was he SEL for NORTHCOM, but he also served as the N6 Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS) Mobile Command Post NCOIC, Detachment 30, MEBS Detachment 334 Crewman and Color Guard Leader. Since joining the NYNM in May 2018 he has embraced service to the NY Naval Militia and in doing so, he earned the distinguished NEW YORK STATE CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL and the NEW YORK RECRUITMENT MEDAL. To commemorate Gunny's Military Career, an entry was submitted to the United









States Navy Memorial's Navy Log. To read about his Military life, use the QR code.

Taking over the NORTHCOM Senior Enlisted Leader position is Chief Timothy Petersen who

currently works at the NYNM HQ as Office Manager and drills out of NRC Schenectady.

### Wheel's Corner By QMC Tim Petersen

First things first, I'd like to say thank you to Gunny Hauschen for your time and dedication as NORTHCOM SEL. I have the tall order of filling his shoes when he officially retires, but I love a good challenge. As oncoming NORTHCOM SEL I can always be easily reached at the Latham HQ Office if you have any questions or concerns. I'd also like to put out to other senior enlisted, if you see a service member going above and beyond, please let me know and we'll make sure they get recognized. Finally, I look forward to seeing and working with everyone.

NAVY CHIEF, NAVY PRIDE!

### **WESTCOM NEWS**

by CAPT Jay Dutcher

In the WESTCOM area of responsibility, the primary operational driver of early spring activity was the total solar eclipse.

Chief Gerard attended the Western NY port security meeting in March for final coordination for the multi-agency response to the expected influx of over one million visitors to western NY for eclipse viewing. Coast Guard Sector Eastern Great Lakes requested the assistance of two patrol boats for Buffalo harbor safety and security patrol. The eclipse timeline meshed well with the planned MEBS season kick-off, so PB 280 and 281 were launched three days prior to the eclipse and docked at Buffalo Waterfront State Park.

Senior Chief Otty and BM2 Teixeira delivered the boats from Leeds, and Senior Chief Wittenzellner, Chief Gerard and LCpl Ward successfully prepped and launched, conducted new navigation software familiarization, and accomplished an initial inner harbor patrol. In addition, we visited the Buffalo Naval Reserve Center and met with the new Commanding Officer on his first day on the job, and with the relatively new Center senior enlisted leader as well.

The MEBS crews, accompanied by CAPT McKnight, patrolled the Buffalo harbor area during the Total Solar Eclipse on 8 April. The cloud cover in the Buffalo area was heavy, so viewing was limited, but this also reduced the expected inflow of visitors considerably as they moved the other areas of New York or Ohio.

Later in April, Senior Chief Wittenzellner, Chief Gerard and LCpl Ward participated in the Spectrum News press availability on the history and current operations of the Naval Militia. This was broadcast on 6 May and is available on the Spectrum Buffalo archive online. <a href="https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/news/2024/04/25/after-100--years--new-york-naval-militia-still-going-">https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/news/2024/04/25/after-100--years--new-york-naval-militia-still-going-</a>

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Lastly, we congratulate WESTCOM Senior Enlisted Leader, Master at Arms **Eric Witoshynsky** on his selection to Master Chief Petty Officer.

# **MEBS UPDATE**

The following significant events and issues have taken place or are upcoming soon:

-Squadron ONE, the naval dets assigned to JTF Empire Shield have expanded to four locations. These include:

Det ONE: Lower Hudson River Valley

Det TWO: Staten Island
Det THREE: Jones Beach
Det FOUR: Tappen Beach

-MEBS has received the long awaited unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), a Vantage Robotics Vesper drone. The UAV package is assigned to Det 50. We will be developing a training and qualification schedule in the coming weeks.

-Our plans to purchase a new 30-foot landing craft in the new state fiscal year did not materialize.

-LC 350 is in the process of being repowered. We received the boat in 2018, with twin 250 HP 2-stroke engines. The MEBS N4 team are in the process of swapping out these old engines with new 300 HP SeaPro 4-stroke engines.

We have the following known events that we are planning for in 2024:

1JUN24: Hudson-Athens Lighthouse 150 anniversary celebration, Hudson

12JUL24: Operation Commanding Force Phase 1, Alexandria Bay

23-24JUL24: PREP Exercise, Albany 23-24JUL24: UAV Summit, Syracuse

26JUL24: Operation Commanding Force Phase 2, Alexandria Bay

6-8SEP24: Exercise Empire Challenge, Lake Champlain

# **EDUCATION BENEFITS**

The time to start enrolling for the Fall 2024 RIRP is fast approaching. Be on the lookout for an email in the beginning of July to start the process. Two important dates to remember. Form 96-1 will be due August 13. The remainder of your package must be complete by October 13.

### **READINESS OFFICER**

It's hard to believe we still have 442 service members serving on the Asylum Seeker Resource Support Mission! This ongoing mission continues to boost our number of new members. Keep passing the word regarding what the Naval Militia has to offer and direct prospective new members to:

https://www.jotform.com/app/221116260289148

# Join Here

Maintaining our membership at a healthy level will ensure we can continue to support current and future State Active Duty opportunities. Help me keep our force ready to respond by sending me any **changes to your pay grade, address, cell, or email**. Remember, your federal branch of service does not share information with NYNM, or the State pay office. Updates can be uploaded to our document portal on the website <a href="https://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=contact">https://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=contact</a>

Or sent to ng.ny.nyarng.mbx.nynavalmilitia@army.mil

Thank you all! BMCS(EXW) Elizebeth Spain

# NUGGETS

by c/s "Nuggets"

This is the time in my naval militia career where I better start passing on some of the nuggets of wisdom that I have acquired while serving for "a very long time" on State Active Duty (SAD).

For many of you, this information is not new. However, I hope that others can glean some usefulness from these.

First, everyone serving on SAD needs to understand that there are two different NYS military laws governing SAD. There is Section 6, which is generally for emergencies; and there is Section 46, which is for non-emergency missions such as training and conferences.

I want to discuss Section 6 and specifically the financial benefits of Section 6 SAD. If you have been on Section 6 orders, you will have noticed that the state does not impose an income tax on your SAD pay. While that is a nice little savings that will keep you in beer for a week, that savings in income tax is far smaller than what we all pay in federal income tax on that SAD pay. One of the interesting aspects of this no-state-income tax provision can manifest itself later. In my case, while on SAD, my oldest son was going off to college. He applied for the NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Now, as his parent my income mattered on his TAP application. I do reasonably well on my SAD paycheck and if I had to use my federal taxable income on the TAP application, he would have gotten nothing. However, at the time of the TAP application, my NYS income tax form was used, not by federal return. On my NYS income tax, my taxable income made me look like a pauper and my son received the maximum TAP award. I point this out not to brag, but to show that there are hidden benefits to SAD that you may not be aware of. If you do your own

income tax returns every year, you need to ensure that your SAD is accounted for properly. I strongly recommend using a good, professional tax preparer who understands the nuances of your SAD pay.

The next thing that I think is pretty slick is the free access to NYS Parks and DEC facilities. Most people when they go to a state park or facility must pay an entrance fee. If you have an Empire Pass card, you are allowed free passage into the facility. For the general public, there is an annual fee for the Empire Pass card. You can also purchase a life-time Empire Pass. HOWEVER, if you are on SAD, you can get an Empire Pass card for free. I have had Empire Pass for many years now, and never paid for the card or for entrance into any of the facilities. Empire Pass cards must be renewed every year, so I would have to submit a copy of my SAD orders along with my application every year. It's a great benefit for those on State Active Duty. HOWEVER, I recently found a program that is even better for folks like you and I. It is called the LIFETIME LIBERTY PASS. This program is only for veterans and gold star families, and like the Empire Pass allows for free passage into NYS Parks and DEC facilities. The Liberty Pass is free and is good for a lifetime, so no annual renewal. I have both Empire Pass and Liberty Lifetime Pass and they both work equally well. Here is a link to the Empire Pass Empire Pass - NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation and a link to the Lifetime Liberty Pass Lifetime Liberty Pass - NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation





# EXERCISE EMPIRE CHALLENGE '24

The annual Joint Force exercise, Empire Challenge is slated to take place 6-8 September 2024. This exercise is primarily focused on emergency communications but will also have additional scenario components involved. We will be supporting this exercise with boat operators, corpsman, communicators, and a command element. Available personnel should let their interest be known by contacting NYNM HQ.

The primary location for the exercise will be in of Port Douglas, N.Y. on Lake Champlain.

### **RECENT AWARDS**



### **Conspicuous Service Medal**

GySgt Paul R. Hauschen

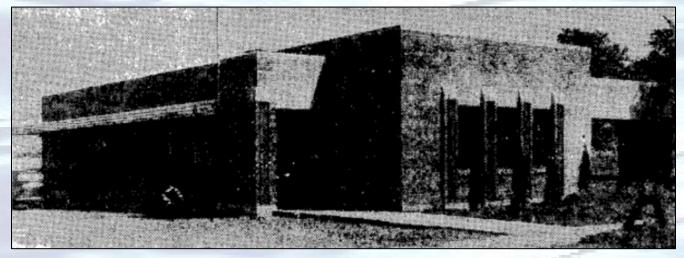
# **HISTORY BUFF**

### **OGDENSBURG**

Guest contributed by Nicholas McKnight

Ogdensburg is a city that sits on the northwest edge of New York's St. Lawrence County, right on the border with Canada separated only by the St. Lawrence River. After American settlers seized the territory in 1796, the village of Ogdensburg was established, being named after colonial developer, Samuel Ogden. It served as the county seat from 1802 to 1828 before eventually being chartered as the city of Ogdensburg in 1868. It serves as the only American port in the St. Lawrence seaway and is also home to the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge linking the United States to Canada, with a direct route to Ottawa.

The city was the site of the Ogdensburg agreement on August 17, 1940, signed by American president Franklin D. Roosevelt and Canadian prime minister Mackenzie King, which established an alliance of mutual defense between the two nations.



Ogdensburg would also house a unit of the New York Naval Militia and New York Naval Reserve from the 1960s to the 1970s.

The United States Navy Reserve did not exist until 1916, when congress created it during World War I. For decades afterwards, the Naval Militia and the Navy Reserve worked as a joint organization until the mid-1970s when naval militia buildings were placed under the control of the federal navy.

Ogdensburg would be the site of one such facility, birthed from plans formulated in 1960 for the construction of a naval program in the city. On September 5, 1961, a naval militia unit in Ogdensburg was organized, and by January 1, 1962, the Ogdensburg unit was activated as a component of the New York Naval Militia. Known as Electronics Division 3-7, the unit operated out of the old Prescott and Ogdensburg ferry terminal, after having purchased the building from the Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority in 1962 for use as a training center. Between July 1964 and September 1965, the unit transitioned to Surface Division 3-18. The location of the facility was at the intersection of Riverside and Isabella Streets,

CONGRATULATIONS are offered Naval Reserve Surface Division 3-18 (S), based at Ogdensburg, by Commander Edward Gisburne of the Military and Naval Affairs Department of New York State, following the announcement Monday evening that the local unit had won the Admiral L.A. Gillies Trophy. The trophy is presented to the N.Y. State Naval Militia unit

which had demonstrated the most efficiency and progress in it's training activites. Left to right, are Lt. Commander James P. McGuinness, commander of the unit; EMC Darrell P. Johnston, Commander Gisburne and Lt. Norman C. Winkler, officer in charge at the unit. (Como Photo)

near the river in Ogdensburg.

### Ogdensburg Journal 29SEP71

The commander of the unit during its organization and inception was Lieutenant Edward J. Keenan. A graduate from U.S. Maritime School at Sheepshead Bay, Keenan served with the Merchant Marine in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of World War II, before going on to serve as an engineer aboard an MSTS transport during the Korean War. He would be commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1953, eventually being re-

leased as a lieutenant junior grade four years later. During this time, he served two years as head cargo officer at MSTSO Bremerhaven in Germany and the other two years as an operations and damage control officer for MSTSLANT. After serving for three months aboard the USNS Comet during the 1958 Lebanon Crisis, Keenan would come to Ogdensburg in 1959 to become the first port consultant for the Ogdensburg Port Authority. He would proceed to form his own firm, Ogdensburg Commerce and Navigation, at 502 Ford Street in 1960, serving as a steamship agency, stevedore firm and tug and barge operating agency. Along with his role as commander of the Ogdensburg Naval Militia unit, Keenan would also become mayor of Ogdensburg itself, serving in this role from 1962 to 1966.

The Ogdensburg unit would spend its duration providing navy training for applicants before entering active navy service, as well as provide special skills training for navy veterans. The unit would also participate in local community projects, such as constructing a minor hockey building and ice resurfacing machine and serving as crowd control for the local Seaway festival.

The Ogdensburg unit would become one of the top-rated units in New York, and by November of 1971, it would be awarded with the Gillies trophy for showing the most progress and greatest increase in efficiency.

Another man of note was Chester J. Malley, who was awarded the naval militia's certificate of merit in 1967 for his contributions and support for the Naval Militia and Navy Reserve programs, being awarded personally by Naval Militia Commander, Admiral Robert G. Burke, who frequently visited the navy facility at Ogdensburg.

During the latter half of its existence, the Ogdensburg naval facility was often listed to be closed, but strong support from the local community allowed it to remain open. In the early 1970s, efforts were made by Keenan and Senator Douglas Barclay to persuade the state senate and assembly to keep funding the naval militia in Ogdensburg. For years, the Ogdensburg facility managed to escape the threat of cuts to funding and, subsequently, closure. In 1975, however, the decision was made to finally close the unit in Ogdensburg due to budget cuts. In 1977, the Ogdensburg unit was finally closed, and the unit was reassigned to Watertown, approximately sixty miles away, in neighboring Jefferson County.

### **Announcements:**

### **Professional Military Education for Marines**

Attention Marines, as a member of the New York Naval Militia, separated or retired, you can create a Marine Net log-in so you can complete courses for your current grade if you have not done so prior to retirement or separating from the Marine Corps. For those Marines that have gotten promoted by the Naval Militia to the next higher grade you are able to complete the actual Marine net course that corresponds to your rank. For example, if you came into the Naval Militia as a SSgt and the ted you to GySgt you can enroll in the EPME7000 for GySgt's. By doing these courses you

Militia promoted you to GySgt you can enroll in the EPME7000 for GySgt's. By doing these courses you will remain competitive amongst your peers in the Naval Militia looking to get promoted but furthermore you will be current with the knowledge expected at your rank. To enroll with Marine Net reach out to Captain McKnight for he will sponsor your submission. <a href="mailto:donald.k.mcknight.nfg@army.mil">donald.k.mcknight.nfg@army.mil</a>.

Erik J. Tjornhom Staff Sergeant, USMC New York State Naval Militia

# New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

1-May-24	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	144	19	29	192
WARRANT	9	0	1	10
ENLISTED	2403	233	382	3018
TOTAL	2556	252	412	3220
NAVY	1084	117	240	1441
MARINE	1245	117	149	1511
COAST GUARD	101	3	6	110
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	75	4	2	81
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	49	14	14	77

# Gallery





