

# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER – FALL 2025



# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

## NEWSLETTER

### FALL 2025

#### NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

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**



## Military and Naval Affairs

**Front Cover photo:**



*Dawn breaks over Brooklyn  
(photo by BMI Kurt Schneider)*

**Back Cover photo:**



*Rear Admiral MaryEtta Nolan departs the Change of  
Command ceremony on 21 November 2025  
(photo by MCI Stephanie Butler)*

### From the Commander:

#### **MaryEtta Bishop Nolan, Rear Admiral (Lower Half)**

On November 21, 2025, I was promoted to Rear Admiral (Lower Half) and assumed command of the New York Naval Militia as its 25th Commander, relieving Rear Admiral Michael F. Perry. Admiral Perry's leadership and mentorship over the past thirty-three years have been invaluable, and the organization is deeply grateful for his dedicated service. It is both an honor and a privilege to lead the Naval Militia during America's historic 250th anniversary.



#### **Initial Goals - Medical Policy for the 900 Series**

One of my primary objectives is to refine our medical policy for the 900 series. Currently, the concept of 'Fit for Duty' is not fully understood by civilian medical providers. To address this, I intend to involve our Medical Officer Corps in collaboration with the Fleet Medical Officer, CAPT Adam Lichtman. Together, we will establish clear criteria distinguishing acceptable and unacceptable medical conditions for service in the State Military Force. While these guidelines will be based on Navy medical standards, we will also consider the unique aspects of our force, such as the fact that our members are not deployed overseas and do not lose access to necessary medication.

**Weight Control and Healthy Habits.** Another priority is equipping our members with the knowledge to make informed decisions regarding weight control. I extend my appreciation to LCDR Sonju Bucci, a registered dietitian, who has offered her expertise to support our members in developing healthy eating habits. She has contributed an article in this newsletter that provides valuable guidance for maintaining wellness during the holiday season. As a reminder, it is not as critical what you eat between Thanksgiving and New Year's, but rather what you eat between New Year's and Thanksgiving.

**Fair Hiring Process for Long-Term SAD Orders.** I am committed to ensuring that the hiring process for long-term State Active Duty (SAD) orders is fair and equitable. Whenever a position opens, a New York State alert will be distributed to all Naval Militia members. Applicants will be interviewed by a panel comprising both Enlisted and Officer leaders, led by our Chief of Staff, CAPT Jay Dutcher. The panel will rank the top three candidates, and the selections will be reviewed and approved by the Commander before being forwarded to the NYNM Director and subsequently to the Office of the Adjutant General for final approval. This process was recently implemented for the MEBS mechanic position at Leeds.

**Admiral's Mast for REFRAD Service Member Investigations.** Should an investigation be initiated involving a Service Member on State Active Duty Orders, and the member is released from the mission (REFRAD), an informal Admiral's Mast will be conducted to determine their continued eligibility in the New York Naval Militia. The panel for this process will include myself, Director Major Golden, Chief of Staff CAPT Dutcher, Force Senior Enlisted Leader MGySgt Rignola, and the Service Member in question. It is important

to note that this procedure does not apply to members who are arrested; such members will be immediately discharged from the NY Naval Militia.

### PROMOTIONS

On October 1, 2025, a group of distinguished leaders, including Rear Admiral Michael Perry, MEBS Commander Captain Donald McKnight, and Major Michael Golden, Officer in Charge of the Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit, traveled south to Camp Smith to preside over a significant promotion ceremony. During this event, MK1 Jerry Keith White, MKC Wilson A. Fenty, GySgt Tony D. Genao, and GySgt Christopher E. Vega were recognized for their dedication and achievements with well-deserved promotions.

Simultaneously, in the western region of the state, MGySgt Salvatore Rignola and Captain Recordo Demetrius led a separate promotion ceremony. Here, MSgt Hopeton Thomas and SSgt William Chavez were honored with advancements in rank, reflecting their commitment and exemplary service within the Naval Militia.



*RDML Nolan relieves RDML Perry as Commander of the New York Naval Militia on 21 NOV 25. MG Ray Shields, TAG-New York was the senior officer present.*

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Maj Michael Golden, NYNM

I have accepted the position as your next Executive Officer (Associate Commissioner – state title) effective 18 December 2025. I would like to extend my thanks to CAPT David Hawley NYNM RET for his mentorship and continued support in my assumption of his old post. I am coming on from my previous role as Deputy Director Office of Special Investigations with NYS DOL. Additionally, I served in Afghanistan with First Battalion Six Marines. My Naval Militia experience includes serving on J-4 for COVID-19 and as Watch Officer DOCCS and now concurrently as Commander of the newly formed Military Emergency Communications and Surveillance Command (MECS).

Having operated on SAD and having participated in numerous Empire Challenge exercises, I jumped at the opportunity to work with Marines, Sailors, and Coasties full time! I have seen what we can do to reinforce the National Guard during periods of Emergency SAD missions. This includes observing how many of you are elevated quickly to vital command and control roles within the mission which reflects highly on the reputation of our Naval Militia. I look forward to supporting RDML Nolan and getting some time out at the maintenance shop and with different boat crews to learn from you so that I can best support and advocate for our operations statewide. My first years focus will be implementing controls in order to streamline and modernize our processes to catch up to the new operational tempo which developed over the past five years. Semper Fidelis!



## EDUCATION NEWS

It's that time of year again, and Spring 2026 RIRP applications are due. Please submit your DMNA 96-1 and Acknowledgment forms that are due by COB December 8<sup>th</sup>! Remember the DMNA 96-1 can be signed by a command representative. As many of us get ready for the December drill weekend, please get that squared away and take advantage of this opportunity. For those who have already submitted their DMNA 96-1 and Acknowledgement forms, please remember that your complete package is due February 8<sup>th</sup>. This opportunity is open to drilling reservists who have not yet completed a Bachelors degree, if you do not qualify, share the news with a SM who may qualify.

## READINESS OFFICER

By BMCS(EXW) Elizebeth Spain, N31

Our service members on the DOCCS Enduring Support mission continue to serve our State: however, the OP temp is changing and there has been a reduction in force. Our office is still maintaining a list of volunteers. There is always the possibility the mission requirements will change, or a new mission will pop up. We encourage you to call and be screened for the standby list. If we are given the opportunity to add service members to the mission we will call, there is no need to call and check in.

Please help me keep our readiness up by notifying me of **any change to your pay grade, unit, address or contact information. We do not have access to any federal system.** If you are a member who is **separated or retired from your federal component without informing NYNM, you are now required to submit a new prior service application with all required documents including an annual medical** on our forms 88 & 93. Keep your contact information and medical up to date or you will be subject to discharge. **Service members who have been discharged must reapply.**

<https://hipaa.jotform.com/app/221116260289148>

Medical forms can be found on our website under forms and instructions.

Send updates to [ng.ny.nyarnng.mbx.nynavalmilitia@army.mil](mailto:ng.ny.nyarnng.mbx.nynavalmilitia@army.mil) or use the document upload portal link on the Contact Us tab of our website: <https://www.jotform.com/app/221514574126148>

## TRAINING

By LCDR Filipp Khosh, ACoS N7

### **NYNM Training & Exercise Update – N7 Division**

The New York Naval Militia is currently planning two major operations-based exercises for 2026. The first is the annual Empire Challenge, which this year will be incorporated into the larger Dual Status Command exercise run by the New York National Guard. Empire Challenge is scheduled for 29–31 May 2026.

The second event is Western Horizon, an operations-based, multi-agency exercise with significant Marine Emergency Boat Service (MEBS) involvement, scheduled for September 2026. Western Horizon will include participation from local first responders and emergency management partners and will be observed by visiting officials from the Swedish Navy.

In other training news, N7 is currently revising the NYNM Training Needs documentation with the goals of eliminating redundancies, closing identified training gaps, and aligning more closely with National Guard expectations and the New York State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). As this effort progresses, members may see increased availability of ICS coursework and opportunities to observe or participate in state and local emergency management exercises.

Additionally, N7 is identifying no-cost communications training opportunities for members interested in enhancing their technical capabilities. Once these recommendations are finalized, they will be forwarded to leadership for review, approval, and distribution.

For NYNM members who possess cybersecurity skills or certifications, there is an opportunity to earn the Cyber Defense Badge, authorized for wear across all State Defense Forces. Interested members may contact LCDR Khosh directly or visit <https://sgaus.org/cyber/>.

### **Exercise Western Horizon 2026**

Planning for Exercise Western Horizon '26 has already begun. The exercise is slated to take place 24-27 September 2026, on Oneida Lake. Note that this is a Thursday through Sunday event.

## From the desk of the MEDICAL TRAINING OFFICER

### Holiday Chow, Mission Ready: Smart Eating Through the Season

*By LCDR Sonju Bucci, MS, RDN, Registered Dietitian with Northwell Staten Island University Hospital*

Hello, New York Naval Militia! I am **LCDR Sonju Bucci, N97 Medical Training Officer**, a Registered Dietitian with Northwell Staten Island University Hospital. My goal is simple: help you pass your body fat and BMI checks and feel strong on duty, without giving up every holiday favorite.

The holidays can push us off track. Big meals, rich desserts, and long trips can make it easy to overeat and hard to train. The good news is that a few small changes can keep you mission ready all season.

### The "3 2 1" Holiday Plan

Use this simple plan most days from now through the New Year:

- 3 balanced meals
- 2 protein rich snacks
- 1 treat in a mindful portion

This keeps hunger steady, supports muscle, and still leaves room for something you love.

### Build a Ready Plate at any party or mess line

Use your hand to size your portions:

- Half the plate non starchy veggies such as salad, green beans, or roasted carrots
- One quarter plate lean protein the size of your palm such as turkey, chicken, fish, or tofu
- One quarter plate smart carbs the size of your fist such as brown rice, quinoa, sweet potato, or whole grain stuffing
- Add a thumb of healthy fat if needed such as nuts, olive oil, or avocado

Tip: Pick a smaller plate at parties. It naturally trims about 100 to 300 calories without feeling like a diet.

### Before the Event: Set Yourself Up

- Pre-game snack 30 to 60 minutes before. Choose a protein and fiber combo such as Greek yogurt and berries, an apple and string cheese, or a protein shake and half a banana.
- Bring a dish such as a veggie platter with hummus, roasted Brussels sprouts, or a big salad.
- Scan the table first. Choose your top one or two favorites, then fill the rest with the Ready Plate.

### During the Event: Pace, Do Not Race

- One plate, then pause for 20 minutes. Let your stomach talk to your brain.
- Eat protein first, then veggies, then the rest.
- Liquid calories add up. Soda, juice, eggnog, and fancy coffee can equal a full meal.

## About Alcohol if you drink

- Set a limit before you go.
- Alternate each drink with water or seltzer.
- Choose lighter options such as spirits with seltzer or light beer, and avoid sugar heavy mixers.
- No ride means do not drink. Your safety comes first.

## The 24 Hour Reset if you overdid it

No guilt. No all or nothing. Use this quick reset the next day:

1. Hydrate with 2 to 3 liters of water across the day.
2. Protein at each meal, palm sized.
3. Veggies at half your plate.
4. Walk 10 to 20 minutes after meals.
5. Sleep 7 to 9 hours that night.

## Mess Hall and On the Go Swaps

Breakfast:

- Swap pastries for eggs and fruit or Greek yogurt and oatmeal.

Lunch:

- Swap fried foods for a grilled chicken bowl with rice or quinoa, veggies, and salsa.

Dinner:

- Swap creamy sauces for baked or grilled protein with roasted veggies and a sweet potato.

Snacks:

- Swap chips or candy for beef jerky, a small handful of nuts, cottage cheese, a tuna pack, or fruit.

## Quick Wins That Move the Needle

- Do not skip meals. Skipping leads to overeating later.
- Protein target. Aim for a palm at each meal.
- Veggies early and often. Start meals with salad or broth based soup.
- Plan your treat. Choose it, savor it, and stop at one serving.
- Watch weekends. Many members gain weight from Friday to Sunday. Keep your 3 2 1 plan.

## Sample "Holiday Smart" Day

- Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, whole grain toast, and an orange.
- Snack: Greek yogurt.
- Lunch: Turkey chili, a side salad, and a small baked potato.
- Snack: Apple and peanut butter, one spoon.
- Dinner: Grilled salmon, quinoa, and roasted broccoli.
- Treat: One cookie or a small slice of pie. Enjoy it, plate it, and move on.

## Hydration Checklist

- Start your day with 12 to 16 ounces of water.
- Carry a bottle and sip all day.
- Drink a full glass before meals.
- If your urine is pale yellow, you are likely hydrated.

## When to Check In With Me

- You are close to failing a body fat or BMI check.
- You are unsure how to fuel training while cutting fat.
- You have GI issues, food allergies, or a medical condition.
- You want a quick, personal plan for drill weekends and travel.

## Final Word

The holidays are not about perfect. They are about steady. Use the 3 2 1 plan, build a Ready Plate, and keep moving. Small wins add up fast, and they show up at your next assessment.

### About the Author

LCDR Sonju Bucci, MS, RDN is a Registered Dietitian with Northwell Staten Island University Hospital. She helps service members stay mission ready with simple, realistic nutrition.

N97 Medical Training Officer

## WESTCOM NEWS

### Rochester, NY Navy Ball, 2025

The Italian American Community Center was the location of the Rochester Navy Ball on Saturday, October 18. The event was once again hosted by the CPO Mess and crew of the Navy Reserve Center in Rochester, and recognized the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Navy & Marine Corps.

The ball featured Mr. Don Alhart as Guest of Honor. Mr. Alhart was a nationally-recognized anchor news broadcaster on Channel 13 in Rochester, and served in that role for 58 years, which is a national record. His name is synonymous with the Rochester community and excellence in broadcasting.

RDML (retired) Larry Weill was the guest speaker, as he spent over a decade of his early years inside the Rochester Reserve Center. Master Chief Eric Witoshynsky served as Master of Ceremonies, and the rest of the crew (including “Mr. Vice”) were also members of the Center.

The event attracted a great crowd of local (and not-so-local) attendees, including guests from the Rochester Sea Cadets,



*Don Alhart, esteemed Rochester news broadcaster, with RDML Larry Weill at the Rochester Navy Ball on October 18.*

the University of Rochester ROTC company, local Navy and Marine Corps personnel, the Canadian Navy, and others.

## STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



### Naval Militia Joins Swedish Marine Corps for Exercise Kraken

By CAPT Jay Dutcher, NYNM

In early November, Naval Militia members BMC Ben Flad and CAPT Jay Dutcher traveled to western Sweden, along with NY Army National Guard LTCs Thor Johannessen and Brian Higgins to participate in Exercise Kraken hosted by the Swedish Marine Corps. They also engaged with multiple Swedish national, regional and municipal agencies, all focused on archipelago, harbor, port and regional security concerns.

The Swedish military is in the midst of their largest build-up since the early stages of the Cold War in the 1950s and '60s. The Swedish Marine Corps, like the US Marines, is part of their Naval force. In fact, the number 2 officer in the Swedish Navy, the Deputy CNO, is a Marine Brigadier General. In rough terms, the division of responsibilities has the Swedish Navy focusing on blue water concerns, while the Marine Corps focuses on archipelago, harbor and port security including adjacent near shore areas.

As part of the State Partnership Program organized by the National Guard Bureau, Sweden chose to partner with New York over several other states. In large part due to our experience with port security issues in greater New York harbor and the Militia's demonstrated proficiency in working collaboratively with federal, regional, state and municipal agencies. Integrating and working more closely across agency boundaries is a major policy change for the Swedish government, and an area they are expending much attention.

This past June we hosted 6 Swedish personnel for 3 days in and around New York Harbor meeting with multiple agencies, and then 3 days in Western NY for Exercise Empire Challenge on and around the Niagara River. Liking what they experienced in both regions, we were invited to Sweden to share our approaches to small boat operations and multi-agency collaboration. We anticipate ongoing exchanges and participation in maritime exercises in both countries, with 2026 Swedish participation in NY in the planning stages for SAIL 250 and potentially Exercise Western Horizon.

As a light aside, if you feel you're ready for future Militia participation in Swedish exchanges or exercises, be prepared to down 8 cups of strong coffee daily. More seriously, be ready to work alongside dedicated professionals who shoulder responsibility at very junior ranks. You'll come away impressed and likely learn more than you impart.

### **The Swedes (*A personal observation*)**

By BMC Ben Flad, MEBS Detachment 3 - Long Island

On November 1st I boarded a plane to Sweden. My first time traveling with the NY Naval Militia. Not knowing what to expect or what exactly was expected of me, I went with an open mind and open

ears. Flying all night from Albany to Detroit and eventually landing at 0930 local time in Gothenburg, Sweden, we met our hosts. We loaded the vehicle with our bags and prepared for an educational and hopefully productive trip. We arrived at our hotel, and my mood was quickly altered. Our hosts instructed us that they would be picking us up in about an hour, in uniform. As you can expect, being tired from having traveled for 24 hours, I was not thrilled.

We arrived at the Regiment a little after 1200. Our hosts had been nothing but friendly and pleasant. We quickly settled in for some PowerPoint presentations about their missions, their capabilities and weaknesses, and finally some background on the situation that brought us together. After a few cups of coffee, we finally broke after a long day and settled in for a nice meal and conversation. The tone of the trip had been set; it was going to be a busy week.

Monday morning pick up was at 0730. Still trying to deal with the time change, I skipped breakfast to try and squeeze in a few more minutes of sleep. Monday through Thursday was basically a repeat with only the agencies and environment changing. Meet and greet in the mornings were followed by lunch, and demonstrations/hands on experiences. All throughout we were getting to know our hosts and their situation more in depth. A small group of us wind up spending 12 hours and two meals a day socializing and getting an in-depth knowledge of what is to be attained from our new partnership.

From the Marine Battalions to Customs and the Swedish Coast Guard, and the mine-clearance squadron, these briefings were informative and detailed. We learned that due to cutbacks in the earlier part of this century, Swedish forces have been on the rebound since joining NATO. Every single presentation involved two things: a desire to build up their forces and to have those forces work together to achieve a common goal- the protection of their Country.

Of course, this trip would not be without its interesting moments. We were treated to a few tours of local destinations including 2 fortresses, one of which we spent the night. I was able to drive their Combat Boat 90 (CB90) and test its capabilities- this was my personal favorite. I witnessed an "attack "response to a mock drone invasion by sea and air which included some live fire and an underway explosion. A visit to an abandoned fort where our US Marines were conducting a Close Quarters Combat training exercise with the Swedish forces, was also a highlight of my trip. And of course, being out on the water and throughout the harbor, we spent time at a few lighthouses.

The week cumulated with the multi-force exercise "Kraken." Although our view of this exercise was limited, I certainly appreciated what was happening. Sweden is taking the necessary steps to ensure their fellow country men and women are safe from the dangers around them. I realized that the NY Naval Militia has years of experience and training to share. In my short time of being a part of this organization, I am impressed with the vast amount of knowledge that surrounds me every day. I am fortunate in that way, and I am happy to share and encourage our Swedish friends with whatever, whenever we can. I look forward to future engagements with our counterparts from Sweden.

On Friday, after the "Kraken" exercise, we were finally unleashed on the city of Gothenburg. A full two and half hours to our own. A quick trip around the city to pick up a few souvenirs and to travel by trolley like the locals. We ended the week with a farewell dinner at the Regiment. A dinner of Swedish cuisine was made, conversations between now friends, and comradery among nations so to speak. For five hours we traded stories, laughed and made plans for our next encounter.



To say it was a busy week would be an understatement. From 0730 to 2000 each day there was a lot of information to absorb. However, looking back now, I would not have wanted it any other way. The Naval Militia has much to offer and much to gain from our new friends.

## Military Emergency Boat Service

### News:



By CAPT D.K. McKnight, NYNM

It should be no surprise to anyone in MEBS that the past six months have been unsettling. While we have had great success in some areas, we have failed our team in others. I take full responsibility for losses we have suffered. It is incumbent on leadership to take positive action to resolve issues, especially personnel issues as quickly and forthrightly as possible. I do applaud those members of MEBS who stood up for what is right, even in the face of negative consequences. With new leadership at the top of our organization, we look forward to the future.

We lost a significant portion of our maintenance section this past summer and it has taken its toll. The workload has not diminished, but much of it has fallen on just MK1 Keith White.

On the positive side, we have undertaken some interesting and new missions. Back in the Spring of 2025 we were accepted for a grant award from the New York State Canal Corporation to offset our costs of patrolling the Champlain and Erie Canals. This was the first year that we applied for this grant and as a result we conducted 18 separate patrol days on the canal system. The grant will reimburse 75% of our costs associated with the payroll and fuel paid out for these patrols. For those MEBS members in NorthCom and WestCom, the patrols provided a sense of purpose and mission, and we look forward to future missions on the New York State Canal System. In addition, two phases of Operation Commanding Force took place in July at the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Alexandria Bay, and in support of U.S. Navy Reserve medical units.

We are also projecting further integration as the lead Naval Militia unit to engage with the Royal Swedish Navy's 4th Marine Regiment in Gothenburg. In early November, Chief Ben Flad of MEBS Detachment THREE represented MEBS, along with Captain Jay Dutcher for Exercise KRAKEN in Sweden's western archipelago.

We have some major maintenance projects that are in progress. In addition to the repower of PB 281 with Mercury 4-stroke engines this past year, we are looking forward to the repower of PB 280 with 4-strokes, and the repower of both PB 300 and PB 301 with new Mercury SeaPro 300 HP motors. For these last two boats, this is an upgrade from the Mercury Verado 250 HP engines. PB 300 and 301 are both getting new seating. We are also projecting a significant project on the PB 400 diesel engines.

The superlative support of DMNA's Budget and Finance section has been particularly meaningful in all these projects.

MEBS leadership was honored to host our new Naval Militia Commander, Rear Admiral MaryEtta Nolan, for her first Admiral's Call on 24 November at the Cocksackie Yacht Club. We thank all MEBS E7 and above who attended and voiced your concerns.

This fall, we recognized three of our most experienced mariners with



the MEBS CRAFTMASTER device. In October Corporal Jim Ward earned it, and then in November Master Chiefs Glenn Niemitalo and Tim Otty were recognized with the device. To date, 19 members of MEBS have earned this recognition over the past nine years.

We also say farewell to several members of our leadership team. Master Chief Charles Dick retired in October from his position as MEBS SOUTHCOM Coordinator. That was followed by the retirement of the MEBS NORTHCOM Coordinator, Chief Bob Hill. The MEBS Operations Officer, Master Chief Glenn Niemitalo is also expected to be a loss soon. Downstate, Chief Joe Marchetta is stepping into the void, and Upstate Senior Chief Scott Pease will run operations.

Finally, we were awarded a Fiscal Year 25 FEMA Port Security Grant. This award will reimburse us for maintenance and repairs conducted on the boats that support Joint Task Force Empire Shield (other than PB 440 which is covered by a separate grant from 2024).

## Unmanned Aerial System News

By Maj Michael Golden, NYNM

First I would like to announce that Captain Recordo Demetrius USMC/FDNY RET is appointed as the OIC for the UAS Unit and also as the Deputy Commander for the Military Emergency Communications and Surveillance Command (MECS). Captain Demetrius and Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Vega pulled together an excellent first end of the year COMM and UAS drill at Camp Smith Training Site and Verplanck Point. The UAS team members all earned their Remote Pilot in Command Service Devices. Over 18 service members mustered, including new recruits for the COMM Unit. Special thanks also to Gunnery Sergeant Anthony Egan for filling in for trailer training. Next quarter we will focus on communications training to prepare for Empire Challenge 2026.

Empire Challenge Exercise 2026:  
29-31 May 2026 located at CSTS and Joint Operating Area 2/Mid-Hudson Region



*MSgt Joseph DeRidder is recognized as a qualified Remote Pilot in Command*

## Joint Task Force SENTINEL The DOCCS Mission

By CDR John Curran, NYNM

My experience with the DOCCS Mission began on Thursday, June 5, 2025, when I initiated the Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (JRSOI) process with the New York National Guard at Joint Task Force Sentinel (JTF-S) HQ in Syracuse. The in processing was very smooth thanks to Senior Chief Spain providing me with the required JRSOI documents prior to my arrival. The HQ unit was truly a Joint Task

Force as all 4 branches of the New York State Defense Forces were represented.

I spent the first few weeks at JTF-S HQ as the OIC for DOCCS Rental Vehicle Accident Investigations. I had the pleasure of working alongside two highly motivated New York National Guard Warrant Officers who both had extensive investigative experience. Thirteen investigations were easily resolved as “vehicle operator error” but 2 of our 15 investigations were referred to JAG for further action. After closing out the investigations, I was assigned as the AOIC of the J4 Section. This position gave me a behind the scenes view of how logistical needs were provided to DOCCS Service Members. Everything from milage count, fuel expenses and rental cost for vehicles, lodging, food (including the complicated Door Dash accounts), IT equipment and bottled water was managed in conjunction with the New York State DMNA J4 and J8 offices.

The 12 Service Members assigned to the J4 section worked tirelessly to provide and maintain these essential mission services. Not to mention the continuous stream of e-mails, phone calls and text messaging that was also required to keep logistical support moving.

About a month later, I became the OIC of the J4 as the former OIC had to leave the mission to return to her civilian employment. As I discovered, any Service Member could leave the mission for a variety of personal reasons with little to no repercussions. This very easy ability to leave State Active Duty (Release From Active Duty-REFRAD) at any time was a foreign concept to me. Anyone who has served on Federal Active Duty orders can attest to this.

On September 1, COL Perry, NYARNG relieved LTC Barney, NYARNG as the DOCCS Mission Commander. With new leadership, comes a new way forward. One of COL Perry’s initiative’s is to assign, pending mission requirements, Services Members to a Facility that is close to the member’s Home of Record (HOR). Fortunately, the XO position in AO South –Delta Company- Camp Smith Training Site (CSTS)-was available. In addition to being closer to home, I have been presented with a unique leadership opportunity.

My daily routine consists of interacting with the S1, S3 and S4 and keeping the CO apprised of any significant issues. The staff at CSTS manage operational readiness for over 1000 Service Members at 10 Correctional Facilities. Their professionalism, attention to detail, commitment to mission accomplishment and maturity should set the standard throughout the mission! I am honored and humbled to work with them.

To be fair, my experience on this mission has not involved working in a Correctional Facility. I can only comment on my time at JTF-S HQ and AO South - Delta Company Command and Control (C2). I have been on orders for 6 months and this experience has been incredibly unique and professionally rewarding.

## HISTORY BUFF

### OSSINING

*Guest submitted by Nick McKnight*

The town of Ossining in Westchester County is home to several historical sites and served as a site of activity for the New York Naval Militia. Beginning in May of 1912, the 8<sup>th</sup> Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was mustered and stationed at Eastern Avenue in Ossining. After being detached from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion to serve with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, it would serve aboard the *USS Ohio* and *USS Indiana* during the Great War before eventually being reformed and renamed the 8<sup>th</sup> Separate Division by 1921. This unit would continue to be stationed at Ossining from the 1920s to the 1930s, undergoing another name change to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Fleet Division by 1929. In 1936, the division won the trophy for gunnery efficiency and the highest figure of

merit in the Third Naval District. Life with the Naval Militia in Ossining would come to an end in 1939, when the 32<sup>nd</sup> Fleet Division was moved to Yonkers.

Located along the Hudson River, the origins of Ossining began on land first held by the Sint Sinck tribe. The area was eventually bought in 1685 by Frederick Phillipse, who proceeded to set up a manor on the land. His great grandson, Frederick Phillipse III, would be the last lord of this manor until the end of the American Revolution, when he fled to England due to his loyalist nature, thus allowing the manor to be confiscated by New York State. The town would grow as the village of Sing Sing was incorporated in 1813, while 1826 would see the construction of the town's most famous feature, Sing Sing prison. In 1845, the New York State Legislature created a new town out of what used to be the northern part of Mount Pleasant. This part, known as Briarcliff Manor, was formed with the village of Sing Sing, to create the town that became known as Ossining, later simply as Ossining. Sing Sing village would later adopt this same name in 1901 to avoid confusion with Sing Sing prison. Ossining would serve as a residence for David T. Abercrombie, the founder of Abercrombie & Fitch, which would also be where he died. Abercrombie had built a granite castle in Ossining overlooking the Hudson River, though this castle has since fallen into disrepair.

Today, Ossining stands as the location of various sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These include the Scarborough Historic District, the Highland Cottage, the Grapevine Inn and the Croton Aqueduct, the last of which later became a National Historic Landmark.

## Gallery



*Capt Recordo Demetrius and MGySgt Salvatore Rignola held a promotion ceremony on 20CT25 in WESTCOM, for those members currently serving on Joint Task Force SENTINEL that were selected for advancement by the New York Naval Militia Promotion Board.*

## At the West Point Gala:



*CDR Steve Neuhaus making his remarks*



*GySgt Erik Tjornhom with RDML Nolan and CWO2 Nolan*



*The Gala Color Guard consisting of members of the New York Guard and the New York Naval Militia*



*Senior Chief Ernest Ahiable*



*Master Chief and Mrs. Charles Dick*



*The Dance Floor*

