

# NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2025





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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**

#### Cover photo:

MK2 Keith White and BM2 Ricardo Teixeira use a gantry crane to raise a new Mercury SeaPro 300HP motor for installation on LC-351. Leeds, N.Y. 21FEB25





## Commander's Corner

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

#### From the Commander:

Ahoy shipmates! Just when I thought our operational tempo was finally slowing, we unexpectedly received yet another major mission. With the current mission being perhaps even more complex and challenging than the last few missions. Thus, if you receive a call, please seriously consider supporting the latest NYS Department of Corrections and Community Services support mission.

Regardless, do not miss the opportunity to document your recent NYNM accomplishments with NYNM performance evaluations while they remain reasonably available. Particularly if you are no longer a drilling Reservist and plan to apply for promotion to the 2025 NYNM Promotion Board. However, even currently drilling NYNM members will eventually wish they had requested NYNM evaluation while memories remained fresh and well before they discontinue drilling and begin competing for NYNM promotions. Thus, this advice applies to anyone who has recently supported a NYNM mission, is not getting any younger, and may wish to remain affiliated with the NYNM after detaching from federal service.

As a related note, last year, some promotion eligible NYNM members reportedly declined seeking promotion for fear that selection would jeopardize their assignment to long-term State Active Duty (SAD) missions. Please do NOT allow that to happen again. There are no known instances of a NYNM member being removed from a long-term SAD mission due to being selected for promotion. Thus, if you are eligible and interested in promotion, ignore unfounded rumors and worries. Apply regardless with the understanding that we will prevent selection from negatively impacting your ongoing SAD assignment one way or another. Worst case, we could defer the promotion until the end of your assignment provided you remain within good standing.

Same with concerns regarding Body Mass Index (BMI) requirements. Apply, if eligible and interested, provided you remain within the BMI limit for retention within the NYNM and SAD. With the understanding that military bearing and appearance will remain a critical factor in your selection. Thus, if you are eligible for promotion and fit enough to serve on SAD, particularly if you have admirably done or are doing so, rest assured that you can and should apply for promotion and, at a minimum, will gain valuable follow-up counseling regarding the board results.

Finally, I want to echo the sentiments of c/s Nuggets in the Fall of 2024 NYNM Newsletter regarding the value and capabilities of E7 and above Senior Enlisted Leaders (SELs), particularly NYNM selected SELs. USN, USMC, and USCG SELs owe their existence to the colonial and state militias from which they originated. Not the other way around. Our far longer-lasting commitment to selfless community service resulted in any and all federal SELs being possible. In fact, the NYNM is older than the USN CPO ranks. With roots that run far deeper than those of the USN. I have yet to meet a NYNM selected SEL who is less dedicated than their federally selected counterparts. Meaning, do not allow any NYNM SEL nay-sayers to discourage you from

applying for promotion to the NYNM SEL ranks. Rather, ignore them and apply regardless, assuming you are truly willing and able to serve at much higher levels. Thereafter, help us continue to prove them wrong while admirably serving at the undoubtedly well-deserved next rank.

## Executive Officer News:

Greetings from Naval Militia Headquarters in Latham, NY

Although the Ground Hog saw his shadow we seem to still be locked into Winter. The end of February brought cold weather and the need to support the Department of Corrections with 250 drilling reserve personnel. **At this time, we need personnel to deploy to prisons across the state supporting the already over 5,000 National Guard personnel on duty.**

All our personnel are deploying to Camp Smith and then redeploying from there. Kind of exciting as many are deploying by helicopter.

For all personnel wishing to apply for advancement during our next Promotion Cycle:

**New York Naval Militia Instruction 1410.1F is still in effect.** Note that an interim change to this instruction is expected in the next few months. Keep an eye out for that.

**All applications must be in PDF format and received in the NYNM HQ Office no later than May 31st, 2025.**

**The promotion board is required to meet by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**

Also, during the Promotion Board, we will review letters of recommendation for the Josephthal Award for the State Fiscal Year, April 1, 2024 to March 31 2025.

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: \$500 for the Individual Naval Militia Member of the year and \$1500 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: [David.h.hawley1.nfg@army.mil](mailto:David.h.hawley1.nfg@army.mil).

## CHIEF OF STAFF NEWS

By CAPT MaryEtta Nolan

The Asylum Mission continues to wind down and life with the New York Naval Militia was returning to normal waiting for the next big snowstorm or flooding to occur. Then **BAM** another mission for the New York National Guard with the inclusion of the Naval Militia! The striking Correctional Officers has put prisons in a dangerous situation for both workers and prisoners. The Governor quickly called DMNA into action with NYNM HQ working through the weekend to identify qualified Service Members to volunteer for State Active



Duty Orders. Although the pool of candidates was limited to active Reserve Service Members who were not Correction Officers, approximately one hundred Naval Militia members have been identified for this potentially dangerous mission. Thank you to those who volunteered and accepted orders on short notice. Your dedication and willingness to serve makes me so proud to be affiliated with the fine men and women of the New York Naval Militia. Safety of our members is our highest concern, so watch out for your shipmates.

**PROMOTION** season is approaching rapidly and those putting in a package should be contacting their chain of command for updated Evals signed by the Regional Commander with their recommendation on promotion. The Commander will instruct the board to implement the following changes to NYNM Inst 1419F prior to the approval of NYNM Inst 1419G by the OTAG:

- Time in Service increased to two years affiliation but can be eligible after one year with the Regional Commander requesting Early Promote.
- BMI 30 below has been eliminated. If a member is eligible to be on State Active Duty orders, they are eligible for promotion.
- The composition of the Promotion board will eliminate “E9” to “Senior Enlisted” and Regional Commanders, MEBS and Regional SELs can send a designee. Besides the President of the Board and Force Senior Enlisted Leader, board members will be selected from a pool of eligible volunteers representing the regions, MEBS and UAV. However, more junior members neither can, nor will be allowed to vote on or influence the vote on a more senior member.
- Individuals are responsible for their own package transmitted in PDF format. Must have five years of the most recent EVALS/FITREPS from Federal and State. Must have a current Medical Assessment.

The board will convene Not Later Than 31 July. Good luck to all candidates.

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We have a new policy at NYNM for personnel separating or retiring from drilling Reserve status. We are no longer allowing the one-year grace period for physical examination requirements when becoming a non-drilling (900-series) member. If you separate from the drilling Reserves and want to stay a member of the Naval Militia, you can. However, you must complete a physical exam and provide a medical history before that transition takes place. You will be ineligible for any State Active Duty if you do not have a current physical examination record on file.

Many of our service members who have Naval Militia license plates are getting tolls from other vehicles charged against their EZ Pass account or Toll by Mail. This is happening because you have registered your vehicle in EZ Pass with only your license plate number. Vehicle owners from other agencies may have the same number as you. When they go through the toll barrier, their plate is read, but the charge ends up on your account. The way to get around this is to ensure that your plate number in EZ Pass has “NLM” in front of the number. This will be the same number that is on your vehicle registration document (and the sticker in your windshield).

# NUGGETS

“I’m not a lawyer, but...”

by c/s “Nugget”

One of my strongest recommendations for anyone in the service, regardless of rank or age is to start a “Junk Jacket.” If you have not already started to compile your own file of important documents and your service record, you may end up regretting it. Trust me, as you get older you find grim satisfaction in finding old records from when you were in your 20’s that can serve as a real record of your performance and accomplishments. Don’t expect that your command or service component is keeping a close eye on your records. You must also do it for yourself.

When I retired from active duty in the Navy, my county veterans service counselor gave me some great advice. He said, “Take advantage of every benefit that you are eligible for, even if you don’t think you deserve it.” The fact is that these benefits are provided for you and people like you. As veterans, we all know sacrifice. So, you are not taking something away from someone less fortunate if you don’t take advantage of them.

For NYS military and veterans, the State of New York offers tons of benefits. Some of these benefits save you money while you also can have fun. In an earlier article, I mentioned the benefits of the EMPIRE PASS and LIFETIME LIBERTY PASS cards that allow free passage onto NYS Parks and DEC facilities, at no cost to you.

Another great benefit (one that you know I HAVE taken advantage of) is the free hunting and fishing licenses available to service members who have been on certain State Active Duty (SAD). Information on these and other great benefits are authorized under the NYS PATRIOT PLAN III. Note that this is the third iteration of the Patriot Plan since 2001. Information may be found here: <https://dmna.ny.gov/benefits/patriot/>

Oh, yeah. Don’t forget that Naval Militia members are eligible for distinctive “Naval Militia” license plates. You will need a letter from NYNM HQ attesting to your membership along with the DMV Form CP-30, all sent to the Department of Motor Vehicles.



## Military Emergency Boat Service



The 2025 boat training season will begin in a few short months. Several initiatives and operations are being worked on.

SOUTHCOM MEBS will be holding a seasonal kickoff on 4-5 April, in Glenwood Landing.

This year, we intend to support the US Navy Reserve Medical Training Units from Portsmouth and Jacksonville, during their respective annual training periods in the North Country. This support will take



place on the St. Lawrence River at Alexandria Bay for two 3-day periods; 24-26 JUL and 31 JUL – 2 AUG. This is the annual Operation Commanding Force event that we have been involved with for the past several years.

We are also investigating support to the New York State Canal Corporation by providing on-water safety and security measures for the Champlain and Erie Canal Systems. Our areas of focus will be the length of the Champlain Canal from Waterford to Whitehall, and the Erie Canal in the western New York Counties of Erie, Niagara, Orleans, and more.

In logistical news, both LC 350 and LC 351 have now been re-powered with new Mercury Marine SeaPro 300HP motors. These new engines, while higher-powered are also more suitable to sustained operations in a saltwater environment.

We are looking forward to paying MEBS personnel to train in the coming boating season, like last season. Since this will be in State Fiscal Year 2025, we must wait until approval of the state budget and then further dissemination of funding to the agency. None of this will happen until the state legislature approves the budget for the new State Fiscal Year.



BM2 Ricardo Teixeira (I) completed his training and labwork at Laconia, NH to become certified as a Mercury Marine Outboard Technician.

BMC Tracy Sandoval has become the 15<sup>th</sup> service member to earn the MEBS CRAFTMASTER distinction. She was presented the device upon completion of practical demonstrations with MEBS Deputy Commander, LCDR William Washington on 20 December 2024.





## UAS UNIT NEWS



Cortlandt Manor, New York – The Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Unit of the New York Naval Militia held a Personal Qualification Standard exercise at Camp Smith Training Site on Monday, 10 February 2025.  
*Story and Photos by 1LT Ed Shevlin, 88<sup>th</sup> Company, New York Guard*



Major Michael Golden, the unit's Officer in Charge, served as the proctor of an intense skills test being performed by Staff Sergeant Christopher Vega on Ranges 11 and 2.





SSgt Vega and Maj Golden at Camp Smith Training Site, on 10 FEB 25

Vega, a highly qualified drone pilot in his own right, flew the aircraft through a series of maneuvers, demonstrating his abilities and situational awareness. Staff Sergeant Vega said, “We can go anywhere and fly the drone within 30 seconds. You turn on the controller, put the battery in, and get her up in the air.” Upon completing the PQS exercise, SSgt Vega received his certification as an Unmanned Aircraft System Instructor in the NYNM.

Flying a UAS at Camp Smith Training Site comes with unique conditions that require additional personnel to ensure the safety of those on the ground, and those in the air. Namely, a family of bald eagles.

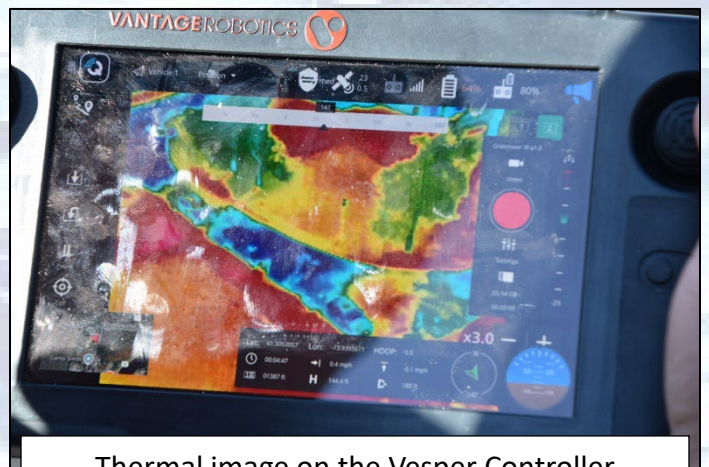
When in use, all firing ranges require at least one Eagle Spotter. Whether engaged in firearms training, or flying drones, great care must be taken to avoid harming the symbol of our nation, the American Bald Eagle.

Petty Officer Bharath Bhola served as the Eagle Spotter and Sergeant James Kemp served as a General Safety Spotter during the PQS exercise.

Having two spotters with eyes on the sky proved fortuitous when what appeared to be a peregrine falcon began flying close to the UAS. The raptor soon lost interest and the PQS concluded.

The NYNM UAS unit is on the cutting edge of modern technology. With its infrared camera, the UAS can function at night, and aid in search and rescue operations. “The unit will be used in direct civil support, such as scanning disaster areas, operating on New York State’s canal system by reporting on ice flows, and potentially aiding in search and rescue missions.”, said Major Golden.

In February, the NYNM UAS unit will be joined by the New York State Police Troop “A” UAS unit on Empire Challenge, where they will learn what their Standard Operating Procedures are for Search and Rescue. This type of inter-agency cooperation could prove invaluable during future civil support operations by providing a common operating picture to all via the drone camera.



Thermal image on the Vesper Controller

With the establishment of the Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Unit, and the training of outstanding personnel to staff the new venture, the New York Naval Militia has proven their intent to protect and defend the citizens of the State of New York by using all available means.



BMC William Garcia demonstrates the UAV's remote live-feed capability in the MEBS command post on 21 FEB 25.

## HISTORY BUFF

*Guest contributed by Nicholas McKnight*

### Watertown & Sackets Harbor

On the shores of the Great Lakes of Jefferson County lies the village of Sackets Harbor, located in the western part of Hounsfield and 10.7 miles away from the county seat of Watertown. Built on land previously settled by the Iroquois, Sackets Harbor was established in 1801 by Augustus Sacket, who hoped for trade across Lake Ontario with Canada. As one of the few natural harbors on the Great Lakes, it became the most significant community in the area. As such, it attracted large numbers of migrants from New England, as well as immigrants from Britain and France, the latter of whom were escaping the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. Sackets Harbor would be responsible for jumpstarting steamboat traffic in the Great Lakes. This would first be accomplished in 1817, when local businessmen supported the construction of the *Ontario*, the first American steamboat to sail in the Great Lakes. Later on, in 1834, the schooner, *Illinois*, which would sail from Sackets Harbor, would be the first commercial vessel to enter the harbor of Chicago. The village would continue to serve the United States Military from then on with the construction of a new Sackets



Harbor Naval Station in 1848, which after 1884, would mostly be used purely for training purposes. In 1906, the role of the station's commandant fell upon Frances Metcalf, the widow of former commandant, Albert Metcalf, after the latter's death that year. With an annual salary of \$365, she served as commander and ship keeper of what was at the time the smallest naval station in the world. She served this role from 1908 to 1925 until her own passing on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1927 from complications due a stroke two days prior. Due to the rapid industrialization of cities and the economic development westward, Sackets Harbor would become a popular destination for summer vacations from 1870 to 1930. To this day, the village contains numerous locations listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These include the Elisha Camp House, the Galloo Island Light, the Madison Barracks, the Union Hotel, the Sackets Harbor Battlefield and the Sackets Harbor Village Historic District, complete with its preserved 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings.

Most prominently, Sackets Harbor would serve as a major area of operations during the War of 1812. As tensions grew with Britain, trade along the Great Lakes was halted due to the Embargo of 1807, which resulted in smuggling between American and Canadian traders. The United States Navy was first stationed in the area to reduce the smuggling crisis, during which the *USS Oneida* under command of Captain Melancthon Woolsey seized the Canadian schooner, *Lord Nelson*, on June 9<sup>th</sup> of 1812 under suspicion of smuggling. Once the War of 1812 broke out, a major shipyard would be constructed in the village to support the war, and the shipyard of Sackets Harbor would be responsible for the production of twelve warships. These shipyards would continue to operate for decades after the war's end until 1874. The United States Army would build fortifications around the village and stage troop build ups to defend the harbor and prepare to launch attacks on Canada. It was also during this war when the Madison Barracks was built, first under the name Fort Pike, and would be the United States Army's primary post in Upstate New York until 1908. The barracks would later serve as a hospital post during World War I, and further on as a training post during World War II, remaining as an active military installation until 1947. With a workforce of over three thousand in the shipyards and a force of 5200 troops stationed in the village, by the Fall of 1814, Sackets Harbor became the third largest population in the state, after Albany and New York City. Sackets Harbor was also the site of two major battles of the war. The first battle in 1812 saw Woolsey leading the *Oneida* in repelling a British attacking force of five ships with help from American artillery on the shoreline. In the second battle of 1813, British forces landed on the shore to attack the village, only to be repulsed by the defending American garrison, who managed to hold their fortifications and defeat every British attack.

Even so, the history of Sackets Harbor would not be complete without the nearby city of Watertown. After being surveyed in 1796 by Benjamin Wright, the land of Watertown was settled in March of 1800 due to the abundance of hydropower produced by the nearby Black River. In 1805, the Public Square Historic District was built in the center of Watertown and would eventually be listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 7<sup>th</sup> 1984. Due to its proximity to Lake Ontario, it was a major center of trade between America and Canada, until the 1807 Embargo brought it to an end. Watertown was incorporated as a village in 1816, later again as a city in 1869. Throughout its history, the town went through various rises and falls, such as in 1849, when the public square was devastated by fire. In 1850, the Paddock Arcade, the oldest continuously operating enclosed mall in the country, was built in Watertown, where it stands today. The following year, the village became part of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg railroad, and would later be the founding place of the 35<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment of the Union Army during the Civil War.

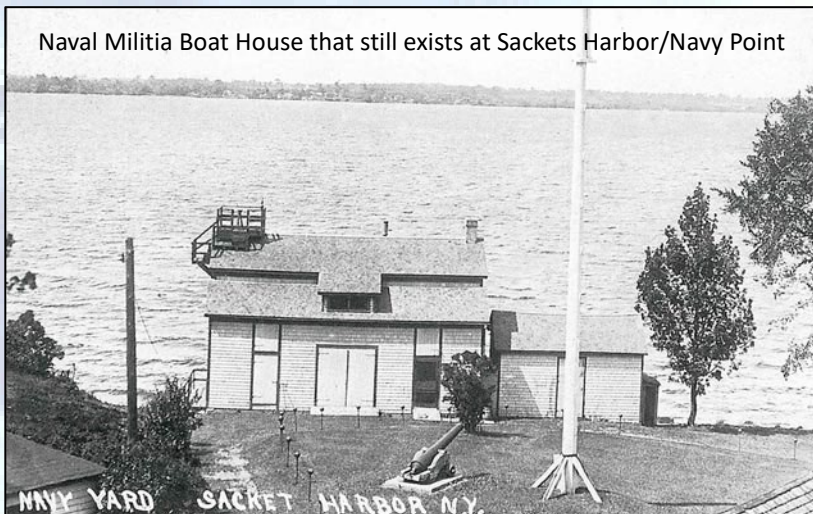
From the mid-1800s and onward, various mills and factories were established, and during the 1890s, the city gained a reputation for gambling and prostitution. Watertown remained prosperous until the stock market crash of 1929, and like most of the country, the city would not regain its economy until World War II, when it revitalized itself with contributions to war production. Later on, during the 1960s and 1970s, the city underwent a process of de-industrialization, resulting in the demolition of numerous historical buildings like the Hotel Woodruff. Even so, Watertown continues to be the largest city in the North Country, and manages to maintain its status as the economic and financial center of the region.

Both of these towns were centers of activity for the New York Naval Militia and the United States Navy Reserve. In particular, they were where the Fourth Division, Third Battalion would be stationed, along with the formerly Spanish gunboat, *Sandoval*, captured during the Spanish-American War. This unit was organized on January 13<sup>th</sup> 1913 by Lieutenant Harry J. Angley, a veteran of the



The Submarine Chaser SC 431, seen moored at Navy Point, was used by the Fourth Division, Third Battalion, New York State Naval Militia, as a training vessel from 1922 to July 19, 1940 in Sackets Harbor. Built by the Matthews Boat Company, Port Clinton, Ohio, it was first transferred to the Coast Guard on October 29, 1919 and used as a boat to intercept illegal traffic on Lake Michigan. Then, in September 1921, it was commissioned to the U.S. Navy. In October 1922, Cmdr. H.J. Angley and a crew from the local naval militia unit transferred the submarine chaser from Chicago to its new port and assignment at Sackets Harbor.

war with Spain. After serving aboard the *Wisconsin* during World War I, the Fourth Division, Third Battalion was reorganized as the 13<sup>th</sup> Separate Fleet Division, which later became Surface Division 3-102 after World War II. In September of 1937, an explosion wrecked the sub chaser known as SC-431 sitting in Sackets Harbor.



This vessel, which served in World War I, was stationed in the harbor since 1923 and assigned by Angley as a training ship for the 13<sup>th</sup> Separate Fleet Division. After World War II, the United States Navy dredged the channel to allow movement for Naval Militia Division 3-192's minesweeper, YMS-311, which was recommissioned as the *USS Robin* in 1952. For years, the Naval Militia was stationed at the National Guard armory at 148 Arsenal Street in Watertown, while Navy Point in Sackets Harbor was





where the unit kept its ships and conducted training. Eventually, the Watertown unit obtained their own building to serve as their headquarters, a former schoolhouse located at 327 Mullin Street. From 1948, this station served the Navy Reserve in Watertown until it eventually closed, and the headquarters was moved to Fort Drum.

## New York Naval Militia by the Numbers

3-Jan-25	SOUTH	NORTH	WEST	TOTAL
OFFICER	143	15	28	186
WARRANT	9	0	1	10
ENLISTED	2471	189	391	3051
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2623</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>3247</b>
NAVY	1107	104	243	1454
MARINE	1283	80	158	1521
COAST GUARD	103	2	6	111
STATE ACTIVE LIST (5%)	74	5	1	80
FEDERAL COMPONENT LIST (Retired)	54	14	13	81

