



NEW YORK NAVAL MILITIA NEWSLETTER



2026

Quarter 1

COMMANDER'S CORNER

A Message from RDML MaryEtta Nolan

Selection of Military Emergency Boat Service Commander:

The Naval Militia continues to undergo changes. On March 26th, a selection board—comprised of Mr. Steve Rowe, Lt. Col Jeff Roth, and RDML MaryEtta Nolan—interviewed five candidates for the Commander of the Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS). The board is pleased to announce the selection of Major Frank Cinturati as the incoming MEBS Commander. Major Cinturati is currently serving on State Active Duty Orders with JTF-ES in the J2 department at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, a position that is now open for applicants. Recently, Major Frank Cinturati and Master Chief Edward Durkin represented the New York Naval Militia at the DMNA / Sweden Staff Talks in Stockholm, Sweden. The organization is eager to benefit from Major Cinturati's leadership and innovative ideas. He will assume full leadership of MEBS on November 1, 2026, after collaborating with CAPT Don McKnight throughout the boating season. We thank CAPT McKnight for his experience, his mentorship and his many years of dedication service.



Promotion Policy 1410.1G

The new promotion policy for the 2026 promotion season is now in effect and has been posted on the New York Naval Militia website. While the changes are minimal, they are important for all members to review and understand before beginning the promotion process.

Key Changes to Promotion Policy

- **Service Requirement:** Members must have served a minimum of two years in the New York Naval Militia to be eligible for promotion. However, in cases where the Regional Commander determines there is a need for “Early Promotion,” members with only one year of service may be considered for advancement.
- **Warrant Officer Program:** The WO-1 grade is now available for E5 and above to apply for the Warrant Officer Program. To qualify, members must have completed six years of Federal or State service.

- **Chief Warrant Officer-2:** E7 and above who are seeking promotion to CWO-2 must have accumulated twelve years of Federal or State service.
- **Evaluation Records:** Applicants are required to submit the last five years of Federal or State evaluation reports. Summaries will not be accepted; only full evaluations are permitted.

Members are encouraged to review the official policy document for further details and reach out to their Chain of Command if they have questions regarding the promotion requirements or eligibility.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

The Adjutant General has been informed of an increase in misconduct, including violations of regulations and instances of fraud, among members of the Department of Military and Naval Affairs and the New York Naval Militia. **Such behavior is unacceptable and must cease immediately.** Currently, an Admiral's board is convened to examine all reported cases and determine whether the member should be retained in the NYNM. If fraud is substantiated, the member will be automatically removed from the NYNM.

The following incidents illustrate recent cases of misconduct within the New York Naval Militia, all of which are subject to investigation by the Department of Military and Naval Affairs:

- A member admitted to forging documents to falsify military leave pay, resulting in a loss of over \$80,000. This offense carries a maximum prison sentence of 20 years.
- Several members were reported for speeding at rates exceeding 120 miles per hour.
- Certain members, who are employed by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), falsely claimed not to be DOCCS employees to participate in missions and earn bonuses.
- Members were found to have lied about their Home of Record to receive increased Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH).
- Some members have been implicated in providing contraband to incarcerated individuals.

These cases are representative of the types of misconduct investigated resulting with removal from the mission. Once REFRAD is imposed, the member is not

permitted to return to the mission and may be barred from participating in additional missions. If a member is prohibited from serving on State Active Duty orders, they will automatically be removed from the ranks of the New York Naval Militia.

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT: A CORE TENET

Executive Officer Mr. Michael Golden

Integrity is defined as the uprightness of character, soundness of moral principles, and the quality of truthfulness and honesty. To me it has always meant doing the right thing even when no one is watching. In the busiest moments of life, we are often faced with a choice, doing what is easy or doing what is right. Recently, a former member of the Naval Militia plead guilty in the Southern District of New York for charges related to submitting fake Naval Militia orders to her employer. Submission of falsified documents to Naval Militia Headquarters such as altered medicals and submitting documents with omissions, for example, current pending legal matters on State Active Duty Applications, results in referrals to the Legal Office and then to our Naval Militia leadership team. Taking a short cut can result in your discharge from the Naval Militia and/or referral for criminal prosecution. Slow down and do things the right way to remain eligible for the great opportunities that are available to our members.

MEBS

MEBS Commander: CAPT Donald McKnight

Maj Frank Cinturati has been selected as the incoming Commander of MEBS

With the installation of the Samsara Telematics system over the winter, all MEBS are reminded of the importance of using their personal Telematics card prior to the start of each trip in a MEBS truck. In addition, truck logs are only good for one month. Copies of the completed truck logs are submitted to MEBS HQ after the first of each month for the previous month's activities.

We are experiencing ongoing issues with Jotform submissions being sent via email to army.mil accounts. The problem is sporadic since most of the submissions are received. The problem has occurred with the MEBS Proficiency Training Orders Request function, as well as the R1-Receiving Report function. There does not appear to be a problem with Jotform sending emails to civilian accounts.

Congratulations to BMCM Jonah Romanitch on receiving the MEBS Craftmaster device.



Commander: Major Frank P. Cinturati Jr.

Biography



Major Frank Cinturati, Enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 2004. He selected the MOS of Field Radio Operator and was assigned to Communications Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion 25th Marines. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom twice including Al-Fallujah in 2006 and Al-Asad Airbase in 2008/2009. He participated in NATO Arctic Joint Amphibious Exercise, Cold Response 2010 in Norway. He graduated from Molloy College with a B.A., in Political Science and History in 2010. He graduated from New York

University with an M.S. in Global Affairs with a concentration in Transnational Security in 2013. He graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with an M.S. in Protection Management with a specialization in Security Management in 2014.

He earned a Commission as a 2ndLt in the United States Marine Corps Reserve upon graduation from Officer Candidate Course 217 in 2014. He received the MOS of Combat Engineer Officer and was subsequently assigned as the Heavy Equipment Platoon Commander in Engineer Support Company of 4th Combat Engineer Battalion in 2016. He served with 1st Marine Corps District as the Special Projects Officer for the relocation of the District Headquarters in 2025. He served with Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTF ES) as the Special Projects Officer/Acting Intelligence Officer in Charge (J2 OIC) in 2025/2026. He recently represented the New York Naval Militia in the 2026 Staff Talks between the New York National Guard and the Swedish Armed Forces in Stockholm, Sweden. During the those talks he emphasized the importance of interagency cooperation in the Swedish "Total Defense" concept. He explained how lessons learned from the U.S. experience can facilitate Swedish developments.

NORTHCOM NEWS

RDML MaryEtta Nolan

Commander Steve Neuhaus has recently been mobilized to participate in Operation Epic Fury. We wish him a safe journey and hope for his prompt and secure return.

At present, the NORTHCOM Region is facing a critical shortage of leadership, as there is neither a Deputy nor a Senior Enlisted Advisor. This creates an urgent need for members of the New York Naval Militia to step up and fill these vital positions.

Fortunately, Master Chief Edward Durkin has volunteered to temporarily assist until a permanent volunteer for the Senior Enlisted Advisor position can be found. Master Chief Durkin is based at Latham and is available to support any members who are navigating the promotion process.

SOUTHCOM NEWS

Commander, Southern Command, CDR John Curran

Southern Command continues to make steady progress as it advances its restructuring and task organization efforts. Over the past quarter, deliberate steps have been taken to better align personnel, clarify roles, and enhance operational effectiveness. These efforts are already yielding results, particularly in improving communication efficiency between SOUTHCOM elements and New York Naval Militia Headquarters.

A key development this quarter is the assignment of CW5 Max Nicholas as the Officer in Charge of 900-series personnel within Southern Command. His leadership brings focused oversight to this critical cohort, ensuring professional development, accountability, and readiness remain at the forefront.

Southern Command has also successfully finalized the 2025 evaluation cycle, with 100 percent of 900-series personnel receiving completed evaluations. This milestone reflects the command's commitment to administrative excellence and timely personnel management.

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for the 2026 promotion board and promotion season. SOUTHCOM anticipates one of the largest promotion cycles in recent history, with more than 20 promotion packages expected to be submitted. This surge reflects both the growth of the force and the command's emphasis on recognizing merit and readiness for increased responsibility.

In addition to internal progress, Southern Command personnel continue to make significant contributions to State Active Duty missions, particularly in support of DOCCS and the CPC. Members of SOUTHCOM are serving in key leadership roles within these missions, demonstrating professionalism, adaptability, and commitment to the mission. As Southern Command moves forward, its focus remains clear: building a more agile, communicative, and mission-ready force prepared to meet the evolving needs of the New York Naval Militia and the State.

MOVE!

Readiness Officer BMCS(EXW) Elizebeth Spain

Are you eligible for VA benefits? There is a free weight loss program available to you!

MOVE! Weight Management Program is an evidence-based, veteran-focused initiative designed to help veterans manage their weight, improve health, and adopt healthy lifestyles (nutrition, physical activity). It promotes small, sustainable weight loss (5-10%) to prevent diseases and improve quality of life. It is often referred to as "MOVE!", "MOVE! Program," or sometimes "TeleMOVE!" for its home telehealth component. Check out the program at: <https://www.move.va.gov>

Key Aspects of the MOVE! Program:

- **Usage/Methods:** Veterans can participate via group sessions, individual sessions, telephone-based health coaching (TeleMOVE!), or the MOVE! Coach mobile app.
- **Components:** The program focuses on promoting healthy eating behaviors, increasing physical activity, and promoting weight management.
- **Eligibility:** Generally, veterans with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or higher who are enrolled in VA health care.
- **Support:** It is supported by a care team, often including registered dietitians, clinical psychologists, nurses, and social workers.
- **Additional Resources:** The program may include specialized programs like "Be Active and MOVE!" (BAM!) and often involves the Annie text messaging service for self-care reminders.

To get started, veterans can complete a questionnaire, contact their VA provider, or use the MOVE! Coach app.

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 status, pay grade, address, cell or email**. Remember, your federal branch of service does not share information with NYNM or the State pay office. If you retire or separate you must provide a medical on our forms 88 & 93 prior to separation to remain a member.

Updates can be uploaded to our document portal on the website: <https://dmna.ny.gov/nynm/?id=contact>

Or sent to: ng.ny.nyarnng.mbx.nynavalmilitia@army.mil

Thank you all!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS: FINISHING THE YEAR STRONG

LCDR Sonju Bucci

As the year moves forward, it is easy to fall into unhealthy habits. Smart wellness, however, starts with simple, sustainable changes.

Focus on eating regular meals with lean protein, fruits, and vegetables, and stay hydrated. These habits will help you feel full, support your energy, and manage your weight without resorting to extreme diets. Watch out for liquid calories from soda, alcohol, and sweet coffee drinks.

The goal is not to punish your body, but to fuel it, strengthen it, and feel confident in your progress, one smart choice at a time.

PREPARING FOR THE 2027 PROMOTION CYCLE

As we look toward the 2027 promotion season, all members considering advancement should begin preparing their Individual Promotion Packages. Ensure you are familiar with **NYNM INST 1410.1G Promotion Policy**. The Board will meet in June 2026, and all Individual Packages must be completed to my office no later than May 31st. The best guide for Individual Packages is the “Board Promotion Checklist” in the back of the Promotion Policy. The board cannot promote even a good candidate if their application package is incomplete.

Key Requirements from the Promotion Checklist:

- **Recommendation for Promotion:** From your Regional Commander.
- **Narrative Justification:** A one-page letter from you to the Board President explaining your qualifications. Limit this to one page and 12 font.
- **Minimum time in grade:** When did you earn your last rank? How long have you been in the Naval Militia?
- **Photo:** A recent, uncovered full-length color photo in uniform.
- **Evaluation Reports:** A minimum of your last five years of FEDERAL evaluation or fitness reports, plus all Naval Militia reports. *Summaries will not be accepted.*

- **Billet description:** If you are applying for promotion that also involves increased duties and responsibilities – describe these.
- **Individual Training Record:** A one-page summary of your accomplishments within the NYNM. Do not send completion certificates.
- **Reductions:** All full social security numbers must be redacted for the package to be accepted.
- **DO NOT SEND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM RETIREES, CIVILIAN EMPLOYERS, ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, FAMILY MEMBERS, NON-MILITARY, OR OTHERS THAT HAVE NO BEARING ON THE NAVAL MILITIA. **DO NOT SEND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS, THEY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED****

Members are encouraged to review the policy in full and engage their Chain of Command early to build the best package possible. It is your responsibility to ensure your promotion package is complete. The most frustrating part of attending a Promotion Board is to find a good candidate who has not completed their application package. For those enlisted members applying to be promoted to E7 and above: additional recommendations by current Naval Militia E7's and above add to the weight of your application

NOMINATIONS FOR THE JOSEPH TAL AWARD

A reminder that nominations for the Joseph Tal Award will be opening soon. This award recognizes an outstanding Naval Militia Individual and Unit each year for mission accomplishment in service to the NYNM or federal government.

- Individual Award: \$500
- Unit Award: \$1,500

Nominations can be made by any commander, commanding officer, or officer-in-charge. Please prepare to submit nominations in a standard military letter format with supporting documentation.

