



From: Commander, NYS Military Emergency Boat Service

Subj: OPSUM 24 JAN 2025 MEBS PROGRAM

The link to the MEBS LOG APP is <https://www.jotform.com/app/222037196822152>

The following is the status of the New York State Military Emergency Boat Service

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KAUL'S KWIZ

(A test of your nautical knowledge brought to you by BMC Bill Kaul, OIC of the "Black Jacks".
See answers at the end of OPSUM)

Q: "Mind your P's and Q's" is an idiom that means be polite, careful and on your best behavior.
Do you know where it stems from?

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1) ADMINISTRATION:

a. ALL personnel who are expecting to go on individual state active duty for ANY duty, need to submit their request using the SAD Request feature on MEBS LOG or NYNM OPS apps. Do not call, email, or text headquarters requesting that SAD orders be issued. *Note that for MEBS proficiency training events which include multiple service members, MEBS Proficiency Training Event Request feature on MEBS LOG is to be used.*

b. The duty phone for MEBS Maintenance (347-768-1671) is no longer in service. Contact OSCS Otty (MEBS N4) via his personal phone, or desk at (518) 220-4140.

c. For all MEBS SOUTHCOM, **Master Chief Dick** is the regional coordinator. Any issues regarding MEBS in SOUTHCOM are expected to include him.

d. As of 30 January 2025, BMCM Patrick O'Sullivan will step down from his leadership role with the Naval Dets assigned to JTF Empire Shield. He will be replaced on that mission by BMCM Jonah Romanitch.

e. When submitting any document to NYNM HQ, such as medical exams or CMSQ; DO NOT try to email it. Emailing documents with Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is forbidden. Don't do it! The correct method for getting these documents to headquarters is to send it via the (HIPAA-compliant) PDF Document Upload Portal. This feature is available on both MEBS LOG and NYNM OPS applications. Here is some important information:

i. ANY document should be in PDF format. DO NOT try to send photographs of documents. Use a SCANNING APP (such as NOTES in I-Phone, or the camera scan feature on Android phones).

ii. If you are unfamiliar with how to scan a document from a phone, here is some guidance:

(1)How to scan documents on your iPhone or iPad





You can use the Notes app to scan documents and add signatures on your iPhone or iPad.

Open Notes and select a note or create a new one.
Tap the Camera button, then tap Scan Documents.
Place your document in view of the camera.

If your device is in Auto mode, your document will automatically scan. If you need to manually capture a scan, tap the Shutter button or press one of the Volume buttons. Then drag the corners to adjust the scan to fit the page, then tap Keep Scan.

Tap Save or add additional scans to the document.

(2)How to Scan Documents on Android Using Google Drive

Open Google Drive on your Android device and tap the floating plus button, select "Scan," and take a photo of the document. Google Drive will automatically flatten the images and convert it to black and white.

First, open Google Drive on your Android device and make sure you're signed in with your Google account. Tap the floating "+" button in the bottom right corner. Tap the plus button.

You'll see a menu with some options. Select "Scan."

Tap "Scan."

The camera will immediately open---you may need to grant the app permission to use your camera first. Position the document so that it's entirely in the frame, then snap the photo.

Snap the photo.

The next screen will ask you to confirm that you want to use the photo. Tap the checkmark button if it looks good.

Tap the checkmark icon.

Google Drive will attempt to automatically crop and adjust the lighting. If it needs some help, you can manually adjust it with the crop and color buttons. To add another page to the document, tap the Add Page button. Tap "Next" to proceed.

Tap "Next."

Now you can give the file a name and choose which folder to save it to. The document will be saved as a PDF in the desired folder.

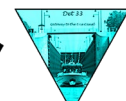
f. Upcoming Events:

- i. Exercise Empire Challenge Planning Mtg with USCG SEC EGL; 4FEB25/0900; Buffalo
- ii. NYNM Leadership Meeting; 21FEB 25/1000; Leeds
- iii. MEBS DET 30/N6 Training, 21-22 FEB25; Leeds
- iv. Western NY Area Maritime Committee, 4 MAR 25/0900; Erie County TBD
- v. MEBS SOUTHCOM Kick-off Weekend, Approx. April, SOUTHCOM
- vi. Canal System opening, 16MAY 25; State-wide
- vii. "City-Piece" MSPP events, 2-4 JUN 25, NYC
- viii. Exercise Empire Challenge '25, 4-6JUN 25, Niagara County
- ix. Operation Commanding Force '25, TBD July 2025, Alexandria Bay
- x. Exercise Northern Lights, 2nd week of August, Rouses Point
- xi. Canal System closing, 3 NOV 25; State-wide

2) INFORMATION: NEWSWEEK.

Worrying Signs for Lake Erie Uncovered 7,500 Miles Away in Africa

There are some alarming parallels between the harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Kenya's Lake Victoria and those in Lake Erie, a new study has found. By studying the Winam Gulf, a





section of Lake Victoria with conditions similar to those predicted for a warming Lake Erie, researchers have cataloged the genetic makeup of cyanobacteria responsible for these blooms. The research identified cyanobacteria such as Dolichospermum, Microcystis and Planktothrix as key contributors to HABs in the Winam Gulf, mirroring those in Lake Erie. This genetic cataloging, published in Applied and Environmental Microbiology, is the first of its kind in the region.

Why This Matters

HABs, caused by cyanobacteria in the water, produce toxins that can be deadly to humans, livestock and wildlife. As the planet warms, conditions in which cyanobacteria thrive are becoming more abundant.

Conditions in Lake Victoria are favorable to HABs year-round and so serve as a model for Lake Erie as it becomes increasingly warm in years to come.

Listeria isn't the only thing impacting Central New York.

"Understanding the toxigenic capability of the Lake Victoria blooms is a first step in developing protocols to inform residents about such risks so that they may change their water use during intense bloom periods," George Bullerjahn, senior author of the new study, said in a statement.

What is Cyanobacteria?

Cyanobacteria, often called blue-green algae, are microorganisms that thrive in nutrient-rich, warm waters. When conditions are favorable, they multiply rapidly, forming clouds of green algae known as cyanobacterial HABs.

These blooms can release toxins into the water, which cannot be neutralized by boiling. In fact, boiling contaminated water can exacerbate the problem by breaking open the bacteria and releasing more toxins.

What to Know

The study revealed that Dolichospermum was the dominant bloom-forming cyanobacteria in Winam Gulf, often accompanied by Microcystis, which produces the liver-damaging toxin microcystin. Researchers also identified over 300 gene clusters responsible for producing a wide array of molecules, some of which may interact to amplify their harmful effects. "Our collaboration wanted to study not only harmful algal blooms, but also the social consequences of HABs in the context of the Winam Gulf being a model for a warming Lake Erie," lead author Lauren Hart said in the statement.

Co-author Gregory Dick added: "Lauren's work is a great example of how environmental genomics can address longstanding questions, such as which organism is producing known toxins, as well as uncover genetic potential for production of a vast diversity of other molecules of interest, some of which we didn't even know to look for."

The findings were particularly concerning for immunocompromised individuals, who are particularly susceptible to the effects of the toxins.

While water is treated before drinking in the U.S., toxins from HABs can enter the human body through several pathways, including breathing when they become airborne and absorption through the skin when swimming.

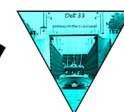
What Happens Next

The findings serve as a wake-up call for both local and global communities.

In Kenya, the research is a stepping stone to developing strategies to warn residents about toxic blooms and promote safe water usage.

In North America, the study underscores the need for proactive measures to mitigate the impact of climate change on Lake Erie and other lakes across the continent.

By understanding how HABs evolve in Lake Victoria's warm waters, researchers hope to predict similar outbreaks in the Great Lakes.





3) OPERATIONS:

a. Readiness Rating:

MEBS Readiness Rating		Minimum Standard	Actual	Rating	Goal
Personnel Census	P-Rating	60	57	2	120 MEBS Members
Personnel Staff	S-Rating	7	12	1	13 Key Staff
Training Qualifications	Q-Rating	27	35	1	45 Qualified Coxswains
Training Proficiency	T1-Rating	90	87	2	240 Proficiency Mandays (2/member/year)
Additional Training	T2-Rating	90%	114.35%	1	Basic Course, Towing Cert., UECO, and +
Communications Reliability	K-Rating	90%	98.55%	1	100% Functionality
Equipment Maintenance	E-Rating	90%	95.65%	1	100% Operational
Equipment Vehicle Quantity	V-Rating	11	9	2	11 Trucks
Overall Readiness R-RATING			1.38	2	
Date:		24-Jan-25			

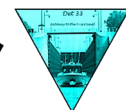
4) LOGISTICS:

a. The new SeaPro motors for LC351 are expected to arrive at the vendor (White's Hudson River Marina) on 29JAN25. We should be able to take custody of them in early February.

b. We are in the process of purchasing a replacement air conditioning unit for PB 400. Due to the cost, we need to create a purchase order. The vendor with the best price needs to update their mandated paperwork with the State Financial System (SFS) before we can finalize the requisition.

c. SFY 2024-25 NPS Expenditures to date:

Cost Area	Cost	Budget	Remaining	
General	\$16,583.53	\$10,000.00	-\$6,583.53	165.84%
Boat Maintenance	\$97,982.23	\$95,000.00	-\$2,982.23	103.14%
Truck Maintenance	\$1,881.38	\$3,000.00	\$1,118.62	62.71%
Trailer Maintenance	\$609.01	\$1,500.00	\$890.99	40.60%
Travel/Per Diem	\$15,676.77	\$20,000.00	\$4,323.23	78.38%
Boat Gasoline	\$12,215.13	\$18,000.00	\$5,784.87	67.86%
Truck Diesel	\$6,386.56	\$8,000.00	\$1,613.44	79.83%
Major Acquisition	\$43,712.62	\$47,000.00	\$3,287.38	93.01%
Grants Reimbursement	-\$20,492.54	-\$70,000.00	-\$49,507.46	29.28%
Total	\$174,554.69	\$202,500.00		% Year Gone: 88.33%
Available:	\$27,945.31			% SFY Remaining: 11.67%
				% Money Obligated: 86.20%





d. Boat, Truck and Trailer Status / Locations:

<u>Bow / Bumper #</u>	<u>Boat / Vehicle</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Comments</u>
PB 220	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC		Ready. On trailer
PB 221	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC		Ready. On trailer
PB 230	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC		Ready. On trailer
PB 280	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC		Ready. On trailer
PB 281	Patrol Boat	Leeds	NMC		Engines Removed
PB 300	Patrol Boat	Jones Beach	FMC	Training	Ready, in water.
PB 301	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC		Ready. On trailer
LC 350	Landing Craft	Glenwood Landing	FMC	JTFES DET 3	Ready, in water.
LC 351	Landing Craft	Leeds	FMC		Ready. On trailer
PB 400	Patrol Boat	Verplanck	FMC	JTFES DET 1	Ready, in water.
PB 440	Patrol Boat	Staten Island	FMC	JTFES DET 2	Ready, in water.
F350-5274	Prime Mover	Camp Smith	FMC		Ready
F350-5275	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC		Ready
F350-5327	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC		Ready
F350-5329	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC		Ready
F350-5339	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC		Ready
F350-5340	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC		Ready
F350-5619	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC		Ready
F550-5008	Prime Mover	Camp Smith	FMC	Service Truck	Ready
F550-5009	Prime Mover	Jones Beach	FMC	Service Truck	Ready
CT 8901	Cargo Trailer	Staten Island	FMC		Ready
CP 8902	C2 Trailer	Leeds	FMC		Ready
MT 8903	Maint Trailer	Leeds	FMC		Ready

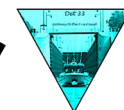
5) PLANNING AND EXERCISES.

a. We anticipate a MEBS NORTHCOM 3-day event in early August, Exercise Northern Lights. This event will focus on the northern Lake Champlain area.

b. We anticipate that USNR medical teams will request two training events in July at Alexandria Bay, called Operation Commanding Force.

c. We are holding an Empire Challenge planning meeting on 4FEB25, at USCG Sector Eastern Great Lakes. This F2F meeting is with principal exercise and response planners at Sector HQ. The Naval Militia will be represented by CAPT Dutcher, ACoS N3; CAPT McKnight, MEBS 00; LCDR Khosh, ACoS N7; MNM Niemitalo, MEBS N3; and EMC Gerard, MEBS DET 52.

6) COMMUNICATIONS. MEBS N6 Communications Team training at Leeds on 21-22FEB25. Equipment set up will take place primarily on Thursday, 20 FEB in preparation for demonstrations on Friday, the 21st. This training will be coupled with UAS unit training and live-feed demonstrations to the CP trailer and boats.





As part of this training, we intend to focus not only on the VHF capability, but also on digital HF. CAPT Pedersen will lead this training.

7) TRAINING.

a. By the middle of February, we expect that MK1 Nugent, EM1 Malik, and BM2 Teixeira will have completed all Mercury University lab work at Laconia, NH, and be designated as certified Mercury Marine Outboard Technicians.

a. Kaul's Kwiz Answer

A: Sailors always favored taverns where the keeper offered credit. Owners wrote each customer's name on a board and next to it the number of P's (pints) and Q's (quarts) drunk. Owners made sure each sailor settled his tab on payday.

