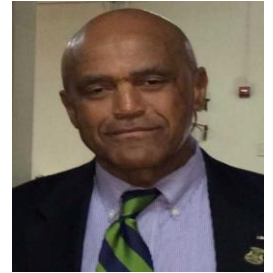




Message from the Commander Elect

John M. Gundy (Col, ret)



As we welcome the new year, let us briefly reflect on the legacy of our dear friend and past Commander, Jose Flores. I miss him greatly but am forever thankful for the friendship and comradeship that we had forged over the years. Let us make Jose and all past Commanders proud as we build on their legacies to make the Veteran Corps 69th Regiment, Inc. an even more dynamic organization. We strive to have the Veteran Corps' strong foundation continue for generations to come so that others will also enjoy the brotherhood and camaraderie of which we and so many others have been both the recipients and sponsors.

We will start by renewing our commitment to supporting the active Battalion as they undertake the upcoming African mission. We will also bolster our support efforts to our very own 69th veterans throughout the country; especially those that are ailing or infirm. Additionally, we seek to achieve enhanced public recognition of our organizations throughout the country.

Our recent Board election has brought aboard some hard-charging Iraq Veterans. We are encouraged by the sense of excitement and can-do attitude that these individuals bring to the fight.

We look forward to reporting our positive accomplishments as we progress thru the year!

“Garry Owen”



Col Geoffrey Slack (Ret)

THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 28 – FEBRUARY 2022)

Dear fellow 69th veterans, families, and supporters of the 69th Infantry,

This report will be something new in format. I will discuss the activities of the active battalion then branch out into what - I hope - both interests you and effectively serves the Board of Directors of the 69th Veterans Corps: a wide ranging **News Roundup** of topics that affect the Veterans Corps.

The **Active Battalion** is, as most of you know, scheduled to deploy to East Africa this summer. The battalion (Reinforced) mission is largely Security Force Operations (SECFOR) with their headquarters in Djibouti with additional missions in Somalia and Kenya. One company will have the East African Response Force (EARF) mission. They are projected to deploy to Fort Drum for pre-mobilization training in mid-June to early July

then move to arrive at Fort Bliss, Texas about July 10th for their post-mobilization training of 30 days before heading over. The battalion is scheduled to end its mission and head home about May/June of 2023.

Their pre-deployment training plan is intense. They will be conducting team life fire certification with all of their rifle, mortar, sniper teams and other specialties in February at Fort Dix. Beginning just before the deployments to Iraq back in 2004 it was almost unheard of for team, squad, or platoon live fires and most live training was restricted to formal rifle and mortar ranges. Now units at all echelons conduct live maneuver training regularly along with live fire shoot houses. Every weapon to include mortars, machine guns and burst weapons are used in these live maneuver “lanes.” The echelon and thus the complexity will only increase as the 69th moves deeper into its training program. It is worth reflecting on the complexity of the training the battalion conducts today when you think of how far the unit has come in less than 20 years. The standards the unit must regularly achieve are almost shocking to those of us who spent the majority of our training time back in “the old days” far from collective live fire lanes.

If all of what I’ve just described is not enough the battalion will also be conducting other mandatory pre-mobilization requirements that would have simply been unachievable (unthinkable really) only two decades ago. Endless medicals, records reviews, vaccinations, full dental readiness, equipment issues, family support readiness training... the list is staggering but can and will be accomplished. Every echelon of the New York National Guard as well as contract medical providers are in support and have done this now for decades. New York has become a “well oiled” mobilization machine and to today’s soldiers being processed through the pre-mob pipeline is just another long day at the office.

What is NEVER routine is manning the battalion. Think of it - 1,000 young New York men and women are going to stop being civilians and head off to their mission. When they get there they will be thousands of miles from everything and everyone they had any responsibility towards until the job is done. Each soldier is thinking about this leap into the unknown and as the date draws closer their lives become emotionally complex in ways few people who have not gone overseas can understand. Thankfully, the leadership team contains leaders all through the battalion who understand these issues and have gone through it all before themselves. Setting the team will not be easy, it never is. Because I know how hard the leadership, information, and gossip team is fighting right now to think through and manage 1,000 lives while never losing sight of the demands of the mission I wish them well from the bottom of my heart!

A “**News Roundup**” is a grandiose way of saying this section is a conglomeration of genuine news, shameless reading of tea leaves and from time-to-time a dollop of speculation. I hope you provide me feedback on what you want me to focus on so that I can refine this section in the future. Here goes.

The armory is slowly recovering from the lead and asbestos project. Floors are being declared free of those pollutants and are reopening. The challenges this situation, along with COVID, have caused the Veterans Corps are worth noting. We’ve been largely locked out of the armory for two years now and our ability to meet, plan, participate, support, and enjoy the company of our fellow veterans and the members of the active battalion has been painfully degraded. To this day the Board of Directors struggles to meet in alternate locations and all of our old comrades seem to be drifting away when we all used to take our collective association for granted. Events we used to plan our lives around are now either too hard to do or are measurably less of a happy experience than we are used to. St.

Patrick's Day, Makin, Logan-Duffy, the Commander's New Year's Day Reception and many other smaller but no less important activities are simply not happening for many of our fellow veterans. Now something new and even more problematic is coming to light. There is a plan to close the armory ENTIRELY for up to five years. That means the active battalion too! This is a plan to effectively rebuild the armory from the basement to the roof. The goal is to make the armory viable for another 100 years. I have been informed that this plan is being pursued by the highest authorities and only the full allocation of funds keeps a start date from being announced. This is not some sort of "classified" secret plan. It is out in the open because it is a profoundly worthy plan and if such a plan did not exist you have to wonder just how long our beloved old armory could continue to limp along. It is necessary and the armory will recapture its finest historical sheen along with new and exciting features when complete. In later editions I will share the details as they emerge. The question that begs an answer is how will we, the Veterans Corps, manage for 5 years? This answer will also emerge and that takes me to the last item I will cover in this edition.

The Board of Directors is undergoing some major changes and the timing is propitious. With all of the challenges to our veterans "way of life" that we have and will experience it will take all of the determination and skill of Commander Gundy and the rest of the Board of Directors to stay afloat. Before I go on I wish to thank a few great men who have recently left the Board for various reasons: of course Jose Flores (Commander), Jack Hallanan (1st Vice Commander to Historian), Peter Vesey (2nd Vice Commander to General Board Member), Francis (Frank) Murphy (Chairman to retired), and William (Bill) Finnan (Secretary to retired). This represents tremendous turbulence on what is normally a serene board of close comrades. However, as the old saying goes – "In chaos there is opportunity." Under Commander Gundy's inspired leadership each vacant position has been filled and with these replacements comes a new breath of youthfulness, experience in peace and war, and drive. Commander Gundy has begun to utilize these men as well as his squad of longer serving board members to create new committees to find solutions to our pressing challenges. More on this is another edition. By the way, if YOU are interested in serving on the Board of Directors please let me or any other Board member know.

A closing thought based on nothing but my own experience. In O4 the 69th was told it was going to the Multinational Observer Force in Egypt. That changes over night to the Kosovo Stability Mission. Then, one fateful day we found that we were going to Iraq but "no worries" there is only a peacekeeping mission to perform. How wrong they all were. The 69th headed straight into a tough little shooting war and the rest is history. Now LTC Tabankin and CSM Zeller are told they are going to Africa. As I write this the Ukraine is poised to explode. By the time you read these lines who know what will have happened. My point is that I ask you to keep all of these truly wonderful 69th team mates in your thoughts and prayers as they venture into the unknown and ever changing future.

Truthfully, there is a lot to share but each printed page costs us, the veterans, a few additional cents to print and mail so that is it for now. Tell me – what are YOU interested in?

Yours in a common cause,
Geoffrey Slack
geoffslack@aol.com





March 17th, 2022 (Thursday) – Mass & Parade Information:

➤ **07:30 - St. Patrick's Cathedral Mass:**

- Veteran Corps members wishing to attend mass must report to the corner of **East 50th Street and 5th Avenue** **no later than 07:30.** After mass, the regiment will regroup and proceed to the parade gathering location.



➤ **10:30 Parade – Report to Location:**

- Veteran Corps members planning on marching in the parade must report to **East 44th Street and 5th Avenue** **no later than 10:30.**



IMPORTANT - General comportment and requirements for participation:

- Only members of the Veteran Corps are permitted to march with the Veteran Corps.
- Veteran Corp members are required to follow appropriate dress code to march in the parade. Business casual is required (shirt, slacks, shoes); no t-shirts, jeans, sneakers or baseball caps permitted. Veteran Corps members are encouraged to wear their VC cap as well.

BUSINESS CASUAL MEANS



NOTE: It is important that we uphold the traditions and history of our Veteran Corps during the day's festivities. We represent all members of the Veteran Corps and should be dressed accordingly. Any member not dressed appropriately will be excused from marching.

➤ **Post Parade – Unit Day Celebration –**

Marching members and members unable to march will form up in front of the armory, 69 Lexington Avenue once the marching members have returned to the armory. Further instructions will be provided.



Fitz's Corner:

(Noted by JM Gundy)



➤ **Anthony “Tony” Helinski**

Spoke to Mrs. Helinski a few days ago. She mentioned that Tony is experiencing some medical issues however, he continues to fight like a true “Sixty-Nine” soldier. I expect to visit Tony sometime in late February, weather permitting.

➤ **Charlie “Chuck” Donaghey**

We were fortunate to have Chuck visit us in November of last year and attend the Logan Duffy Dinner. He resides in the great state of South Carolina and is doing well!

➤ **Juan Matos**

Spoke to Juan recently. He mentioned that while he is well and hopefully can visit with us in NYC at the next Veteran’s event.

➤ **Louis Cotte(Sr/Jr)**

J. Gundy visited Louie in Puerto Rico in January 2022. From the looks of the photo below, he and Jr are doing great! Said he is still anxiously awaiting a visit from Lee Ortiz.....



Combat Support Company

Capt. Gundy, Cdr/PSG Louis Cotte Sr., Antitank Platoon (106MM RR)/Sp4 Louis Cotte Jr., 4.2in Mortar Platoon (FDC)

➤ **Alexandra Tychnowitz**

We received an email from Sandy a few days ago. She and her “boys” are doing well. Hopefully, we will get together the next time she visits NYC from Florida.

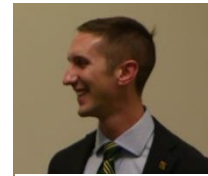
➤ **Marcial Medina**

Where in the world is Marcial Medina??





Active Battalion Update:



**CAPTAIN BRENNAN,
BN, S1**

In 2020, the battalion found itself at the epicenter of the early COVID-19 pandemic in New York City. Fully activated to support domestic operations once again, the 69th formed the core of Joint Task Force NYC and lead the headquarters of Joint Task Force South of Operation COVID Response. The battalion planned, lead, and manned civil support operations across NYC, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley regions. The 69th has maintained several hundred Soldiers on the COVID response mission and a strong presence on the JTF South staff to this day.

In January of 2021, all available Soldiers of the 69th were activated and sent to Washington DC to secure the Capitol district after the January 6th insurrection. One-hundred thirty Wolfhounds secured the Capitol building, and the Library of Congress for two weeks and during the Presidential Inauguration, receiving accolades from higher headquarters on their professionalism and discipline. Through the rest of 2021, despite ongoing COVID restrictions and domestic operations, the Soldiers of the 69th returned to drills conducting tactical training in the field, practicing their warfighting skills after a long hiatus due to the domestic support operations. Returning to the field at Camp Smith and Fort Dix, Wolfhounds performed team live fires, squad situational tactical exercises, and mounted heavy weapons gunnery once again.

The beginning of Training Year 2022 has been busy, with the battalion returning to consolidated drills for range qualification training. Coming up in the next few weeks, the rifle companies will conduct team live fires, mortars will conduct live fires and by annual training the battalion will be back at platoon live fire proficiency. The Soldiers of the Fighting 69th are busy this year, but amidst all the training, are greatly looking forward to once again marching in the Saint Patrick's Day parade.



Annual Membership Dues = \$10.00

Make sure your membership is up-to-date. Plan ahead and pay for 2022 now. Members have the option to pay for membership for multiple years! Dues and the 50/50 drawings support Veteran Corps activities and the cost of publishing our Bulletin.



50 / 50 Drawings:

Month	1 st Place	2 nd Place
January 2022	John Molloy	Eamonn Stenson



SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:

- LTC Nicholas Chernjawski
- Edward J. Cooke
- Dennis Fink
- Anthony Helinski
- Frank Riggio
- John J. Smith

May we join in prayer that our sick have a complete and speedy recovery!

In case of illness or death of a member, please call our Service Officer, Frank Sherry at (516) 536-6756 or leave a message on our recording machine at (212) 686-6556 in a timely manner. If known, please list the Company and dates of service in the Regiment. Please direct all correspondence to: Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, NY 11762 Other contact information: Email address: THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM



IN MEMORIAM:

NOTE: The Veteran Corps will list the name of any active or former member of the 69th Infantry in the Memorial Segment. It is not necessary that they were a member of the Veteran Corps. They will also be remembered during the ceremony on our Memorial day each year.

- Anthony J. Wojcik Mortar Platoon Alpha Company November 2020
- SSG John Scherrer (ret) 1Bn 69th ADA 28 January 2022

ROUGE BOUQUET:
*Go to Sleep; Go to Sleep
 Slumber well where the shells screamed and fell,
 Lay your rifles on the muddy floor
 You will not need them anymore
 Now at Last, Peace at Last,
 Go to Sleep!*
Sgt Joyce Kilmer KIA 30 Jul 1918 165th Old 69th



Special thanks to those that contributed to the production of this Bulletin!

Stay healthy and stay safe!



- **March 2022:**
 - **March 17, 2022 – St. Patrick’s Day (Thursday – Mass / March / Gathering afterwards)**
- **May 2022:**
 - **May 15, 2022 (Sunday) – Unit Memorial Day (Sunday) – Event details to be provided in upcoming bulletin**