VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.
THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH
PO BOX 48 MASSAPEQUA PARK
NEW YORK 11762
TELEPHONE 212 - 686 - 6556
E-MAIL THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM
REGIMENT WEB SITE

BULLETIN JULY 2016

Veteran Corps 69th Regiment Mission Statement

The mission of the Veteran Corps 69th Regiment is to preserve and expound the history and traditions of the Regiment, to provide a venue to inform and foster camaraderie among veterans of the 69th, and to assist the Commander of the active unit with the morale and welfare of the soldiers and their families.

Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:

Executive Board:

Executive Board will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1930 Hours

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NOTE:

All members are invited to attend Exec Board meetings. Veteran Corps members may participate with sharing ideas and suggestions, but will not be able to vote at these meetings; updates are presented at the general membership Regular Scheduled Meetings.

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Regular Scheduled Meetings – SCHEDULE CHANGE 2016 - See next page

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – 2016 – NOTE CHANGES!

Please give your attention to the following schedule of meetings. Listed below are the both the Executive Board and Regular Membership meetings for the next 2 months:

Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Exec – Board of Officers	8/9/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership Meeting	8/30/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Exec – Board of Officers	9/13/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership Meeting	9/18/16	Sunday	2:00pm

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Annual Membership Dues 2016 = $10.00

Please make every effort to make sure your membership dues are current for 2016! Those who have paid their respective dues and have not received their membership cards as yet will receive them with this Bulletin.

IMPORTANT!!

VETERAN CORPS – MAILING ADDRESS – MEMBERSHIP DUES AND 50/50 PAYMENTS – SEND TO:

VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.
P.O. BOX 48
MASSAPEOUA PARK. N.Y. 11762

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Tom Fitzsimmons

COMMANDER'S REPORT:

With the summer months taking place we find that our activities slow down. As in past years we do not have a meeting scheduled for the membership. The members of the Board of Officers will have their meetings as scheduled above.

While I am on the subject of meetings, during the 2015 period there was a considerable amount of time discussing a change of our meeting schedule To try to accommodate those with difficulty with the Sunday meetings but may be available to week night meetings. We also had to consider those who have for years attended our Sunday meetings but may have a problem with the week night meetings. So, I drew up a schedule that could address both situations last year. The Board of Officers would continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Now for the membership meetings, we added 4 Tuesdays a year and deleted 4 Sundays a year. This schedule was a temporary one to see if it improved the attendance at our regular scheduled meetings. It has failed to do that. This subject will be brought up at the next board meeting and also the membership meeting on Tuesday, August 30, 2016.

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THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT
(EDITION 2)

Geoffrey Slack
Colonel(Ret)

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

Permit me to open this edition with an embarrassing anecdote. In 1990, during the big battalion "middle weekend" at annual training we watched a brother rifle company unfurl a huge skull & cross bone flag and charge the "enemy" across an open field. Unbelievable but true. It was a lark and everyone had fun. Today, even if an officer was inclined towards such frivolity the Corps of Non-Commissioned Officers would resist, and rightly so. The deployments of the past 13 years have created a real sense of professionalism, throughout all ranks, that few can appreciate without seeing it firsthand. The Guard (and certainly the 69th) is a lethal tool in America's military "tool box". Achieving and maintaining this lethal edge is hard work.

The active battalion is beginning its Joint Readiness Center (JRTC) training rotation July 6th as the battalion Advanced Party begins its movement to Louisiana. In successive increments the remainder of the battalion will follow with the main body of Soldiers moving very soon. The movement of the battalion is an immense undertaking and is nearly identical to an actual movement to a war zone. Were the Army to redirect the battalion in mid-flight to a real world mission the battalion would arrive in a condition capable of conducting operations. This movement is a difficult task of crushing intensity.

The battalion has worked to identify their "chains weakest links" and the unit leaders at every echelon have found a few that they are determined to fix. What makes modern war so complex is that a unit arriving in combat faces what some have termed "The 3 Block War" or sometimes "Hybrid War." The battalion could simultaneously face high intensity conflict (tanks, artillery, aircraft, etc.) on one block of a city, mid intensity combat (well-armed and trained insurgents) on another block, and peacekeeping operations (rebuilding and assistance to civilian government) in another area close to the fighting. In order to perform such a mission the 69th must test all of its command, control, logistics, medical, and combat systems in all three "operating environments." This is the environment the battalion will be tested in at JRTC.

Lieutenant Colonel Don Makay has spent over 60 months in combat and 6 in Kosovo. His experience, drive, and knowledge is the lynch pin around which the battalion will perform at the JRTC. He knows "what right looks like" and will guide, mentor, and ultimately lead the 69th through this training rotation. Command Sergeant Major Tom Seifert will enforce Army standards through his brilliant NCO Corps. The battalion is in great hands. I can assure you the days of Jolly Roger flags are long past and has been replaced by the pride of being counted among the "can do" units of the United States Army once again.

Let's all wish Don Makay, his leadership team, and every young man and woman facing this exhausting and dangerous training mission Godspeed and good luck.

Yours in a common cause,
Geoff Slack
Geoffslack@aol.com

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2016 New York State TAG Match Update
- CPT Michael Sicinski (HHC - Commander)

Eight members of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry were able to compete and showcase their marksmanship skills and talents during the 37th Annual 2016 New York State TAG Match held at Camp Smith Training Site, Cortland Manor, NY, from June 3-5. These eight members who are also part of the 69th's Logan Duffy Rifle Team (aka: Combat Marksmanship Team, CMT) were comprised of Soldiers from HHC, Delta and Foxtrot companies from New York City and Long Island.

Two teams of four soldiers were entered, team "Fighting 69th" and "Garry Owen"; with the "Fighting 69th" winning top overall team champion for this prestigious match.
A total of eight awards were won; which included SSG Matthew Melendez (HHC- Snipers) taking first place as overall individual match champion, and 1st place in individual combat rifle, and CPT Michael Sicinski (HHC- Commander) being awarded 1st place in the individual combat pistol match.

Other awards won by the 69th Soldiers include:
Team "Fighting 69th"- Team Combat Pistol Match winners:

- SPC Sean Cassidy (D. Co.)- 2nd place individual combat rifle
- SPC Andres Diaz (HHC- Snipers) 3rd place individual combat rifle, 3rd place Individual Overall Match champion.

The TAG Match is a three-day shooting competition that is comprised of four advanced marksmanship events: The Sgt. Henry Johnson Individual Combat Rifle Match, the Sgt. Reidar Waaler Team Combat Rifle Match, the Sgt. Thomas Baker Individual Combat Pistol Match, and the Lt. Col. William Donovan Team Combat Pistol Match.

These 69th Battalion members competed as both team and individuals:

➢ **Team "Fighting 69th"** ○ CPT Michael Sicinski- HHC (Commanding) ○ SSG Matthew Melendez- HHC (Snipers) ○ SPC Andres Diaz- HHC (Snipers) ○ SPC Jeffrey Deleon- HHC (Mortars)	➢ **Team "Garry Owen"** ○ SSG Kenny Bharose- F. Co. (Maintenance/ Recovery Operator) ○ SGT Frank Baez- F. Co. (Distribution Plt./ Fueler) ○ SGT Saul Pineda-Vega- D. Co. (Heavy Weapons Company) ○ SPC Sean Cassidy- D. Co. (Heavy Weapons Company)

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Letters and Conversations:

- **Ann Brennan:** Thank you for your contribution in memory of your cousin, Major James Turner. As you indicated in your note your cousin served 4 years in the U S Navy during WWII, upon discharge joined the 69th and from there he transferred to the U S Army and completed 20 years of service. He will be remembered in our prayers and kind thoughts. You are also in our prayers and again, Thank You!

- **John Andonie:** For those who are not aware of it, it is now Colonel John Andonie. If we did not do it before let me say congratulations. I would also like to express my thanks for your generous contribution to the Veteran Corps. If all goes well, I'll see you at the Makin Day Dinner this year. You and your family have a great summer.

- **Gerald Steakin:** Hello Jerry, good hearing from you. I wish to thank you for your continued support to the Family Support Fund. The note you sent has a quotation, and as I read it I have some problems in understanding where this country is headed to. The quote by Dwight D. Eisenhower: "We must be ready to dare all of our country, for history does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid." Thank you for the contribution and thank you for using the note pad.

- **David Kest:** Received a call from Dave last week inquiring about the 256BCT reunion in November. Dave who now resides in Louisiana and plans to attend the first phase of it. He will be leaving the next day on vacation so he will not be available for the tailgate party. Had a great and lengthy conversation with him. He sends his best to all.

- **Michael Daly:** Everything is fine here. Hope all is well with you. We wish to thank you for your contribution to the Veteran Corps and yes I will be looking forward to seeing you in November.

- **James Corrigan:** Hello Jim, Good hearing from you! First time I have heard HK called Harry, we called him the "OWL". I don't know of any programs that we or the Battalion may have for your request but I will send it to a friend of the Regiment that may know of some. I'm not far from completing in that race with you and the Owl.

- **James Byrne:** Thank you for thinking of us. Jim sends in a flyer from the Town of Babylon that the 42nd Infantry Division will be performing a concert on Friday, August 12 at Tanner Park, TOB.

- **Daniel Flynn:** Dan sends in a note expressing his appreciation to the Historical segment of the "Bulletin". He also sends his condolences for the passing of General Tom Gordon. "I have fond memories of him, he was a good man".

- **Kenneth "Scooter" Barclay:** Scooter indicated in his letter of how much he enjoys the Bulletin. The information on the 256thBCT reunion is in this Bulletin. If I get more or anything changes I will get in touch with you. Scooter informs me he is planning a trip to Thailand and Vietnam. He plans on leaving around 1 August for a 45 day trip. Scooter, God bless you and have an enjoyable and safe trip.

- **Walter Mc Laughlin:** Hello Walter, good hearing from you again. Hope all is well with you, all is fine here. I wish to thank you for your generous contribution to the Veteran Corps.

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UPCOMING EVENTS! GET THE WORD OUT

  LOGAN DUFFY RIFLE MATCH **SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2016**	**LOGAN DUFFY RIFLE MATCH** **September 9-11, 2016** **The Logan/Duffy Rifle Match is scheduled for the weekend of 9-11 September 2016. This traditional match between 1-69Inf and the 1-182Inf dates back to the mid 1930's. It is scheduled to be fired in Massachusetts with the 182nd hosting it this year as we hosted it last year at Camp Smith.** **This has always been a good time and the comradery between the two units lasts a lifetime. Members of the Veteran Corps who wish to attend will as usual, do so at their own expense.**
   SATURDAY – **OCTOBER 1, 2016**	**NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY VS SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL GAME - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016:** **Mike Guiry has informed me that he is planning to reserve tickets for the Notre Dame / Syracuse Football Game to be held at Met Life Football Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ on the above mentioned date. The seating is in the end zone, upper tier and the cost is $55.00 per ticket with a slight mailing charge. Time of game TBD.** **This is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Please contact Mike ASAP with your intentions so he can secure the desired number of tickets. Tailgate Party to be determined upon number of attendees.** **Contact Info: Mike Guiry, (504) 786-2360** **email address: Mguiry@aol.com**
256 BCT OIF II/III REUNION **NOVEMBER 18-19, 2016.**	**256 BCT OIF II/III REUNION SCHEDULED FOR 18-19 NOVEMBER 2016:** **The Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment has been asked to assist in getting the word out on the planned 256 BCT-OIF II/III reunion. In addition to this Bulletin I ask that those of you that can, please assist with the use of Facebook.** **Scheduled Events:** ➢ **Friday, 18 November 2016:** **2000-2300 Generations Hall Party with Open Premium Bar and Live DJ** **2300-UTC Same as above with Cash Bar**

	➢ **Saturday, 19 November 2016:** **1199-1600 Tail-gating/picnic at Jackson Barracks Museum and surrounding area.** **Tickets can be purchased now at the link below: Cost is $60.00/80.00** **https://www.eventbrite.com/e/256-bct-oif-iiiii-reunion-tickets-24355670466?aff=es2** **The Facebook page is "256 BCT Redeployment 10-year Reunion"** **The Official reunion website will be www.louisianatigers.org**

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50/50 - Drawings:

MONTH	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE
June	Winner to be selected during July 12th Board meeting	

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SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:

Maurice Savage	3 McCartney Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2315
John Marino	1078 N. Broadway, N. Massapequa, NY 11758
Harry Snyder	1119 Harper Ave., Woodlyn, PA 19094-1209
Jack Munday (Makin Vet)	85 Misha Lane, Sanford, NC 27330

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 for the commander is: tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net

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REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:

In order to add some interesting facts about the history of the Regiment, Jack Hallanan suggested we add this section to the Monthly Bulletin; this month's presentation is provided by Tom Fitzsimmons.

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN:

Of Irish decent, Donovan was born in Buffalo, NY to 1st generation immigrants Anna Letitia "tish" Donovan(nee Lennon) and Timothy P. Donovan, of Ulster and County Cork origins respectively. His grandfather Timothy O'Donovan(Sr.) was from the town Skibbereen, being raised there by an uncle, a parish priest, who married Mary Mahoney, who was from a propertied family of substantial means which disapproved of him. They would move first to Canada and then to New York, where their son Timothy(Jr.) (Donovan's father) would attempt to engage in a political career, but with little success.

William Donovan attended St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and Niagara University before staring on the football team at Columbia University. On the field he earned the nickname "Wild Bill" which would remain with him for the rest of his life. Donovan graduated from Columbia in 1905 and was a member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. Donovan was a graduate of Columbia Law School and became an influential Wall Street lawyer.

In 1912, Donovan formed and led a troop of cavalry of the New York National Guard. This unit was mobilized in 1916 and served on the U.S.-Mexican border during the American government's campaign against Pancho Villa.

During WWI, Major Donovan trained and led the 1st battalion of the 165th Regiment of the 42nd (Rainbow) Division, the federalized designation of the famed 69th New York Volunteers (the "Fighting 69th"). In France one of his aides was poet Joyce Kilmer, a fellow Columbia College alumnus. For his service near Landres-et-St. Georges, France, on 14 and 15 October 1918, he received the Medal of Honor.

By the end of the war he received a promotion to Colonel. He was also awarded the Medal of Honor, The Distinguished Service Cross, The Distinguished Service Medal, The Silver Star, The Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters, The National Security Medal and The Freedom Award.

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I wish to thank all who assisted in the preparation and distribution of the Bulletin.

TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER
tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net