



**Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup>  
Regiment Mission  
Statement**

***The mission of the  
Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup>  
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 69<sup>th</sup>,  
and to assist the  
Commander of the  
active unit with the  
morale and welfare  
of the soldiers and  
their families.***



**Tom Fitzsimmons**

**COMMANDER'S REPORT:**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Charlie O'Neill, the former Company Commander of C Company, for preparing a revised Constitution and By-Laws for us. He also specializes in non-profit organizations and has revised our SOP related to our Family Support Fund. We hope by next year (that's 2 ½ months away) that we will be able to act on some of the programs we have in mind.

Last month I put an effort into explaining the makeup of the Officers and members of the Board of Directors and their terms of office. At the November meeting the Nominating Committee will present the slate for the year of 2017. Any member of the Veteran Corps in good standing may be nominated prior to the election in December.

I wish to thank the members who showed up last Saturday to do an annual clean up and inventory of our equipment that is stored in the armory. Jose Flores, Dennis Hearn, John Gundy, Dan Hennessey (not pictured) and John Kuhlmann, Philip Rivera, Efrain Diaz, Frank Sherry and Pete Vesey (pictured left to right), all joined me in a day of preparing for the Makin Dinner.



Lastly, I owe our senior Veteran Corps member - Jack Munday - an apology for not mentioning his 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday in the May Bulletin. Jack celebrated his special day on May 4<sup>th</sup> and it slipped past me. While doing this Bulletin and looking over the guest list for

Makin Dinner that the bulb in my brain lit up. Jack was a long time attendee at the Makin Dinner but the trip from North Carolina is a little too much now. He has attended all of them until 3 years ago. If you are wondering who he is, well here is a reminder, he was the guy in the electric blue suit.

Jack and I became friends through the Bulletin and the Makin Dinners. He has the greatest sense of humor and had some of the best clichés you could hear. Jack, I promise that when they make the toasts at the Makin Dinner the glasses of those attending will be raised as I wish you a Happy Birthday! For those wondering, Jack enlisted in the 165<sup>th</sup> (old 69<sup>th</sup>) on October 8<sup>th</sup> 1940 and was assigned to D Company to be trained as a member of a machine gun crew. On October 24, 1940 he left to go to Ft McClellan, AL for the "Tennessee Maneuvers". That service carried into WWII. Jack served in the invasions of Makin, Saipan, and Okinawa. He was discharged on September 7, 1945.





## **THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 5)**

**Geoffrey Slack  
Colonel(Ret)**

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

I promised that I'd take a closer look at the internal locations, structures, and people that make up the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the last edition. Talking with some fellow 69<sup>th</sup> veterans last week they suggested that I actually start by looking upward first; good idea. So, let's take a brief look at how the modern 69<sup>th</sup> fits into the 27<sup>th</sup> "Orion" Brigade, New York Army National Guard.

Most of you remember many iterations of the Division and Brigade structures of the past. We all know they change endlessly and keeping track of every echelon – to include the 69<sup>th</sup> – is exhausting. Today's brigade is conceptually closer to the WWII Regimental Combat Team (RCT) than most might imagine. While it does not have tanks and other pieces of gear the WWII team had the brigade of today is designed to encompass two basic concepts: it has to be nearly self-contained and it has to be able to "plug in" to any higher echelon - seamlessly and quickly. Our forefathers went ashore on Makin Atoll in 1943 with an RCT structure that enabled it fight the ground campaign largely by itself augmented by naval ship and air delivered fire support. That capability is now found in the Brigade Combat Team (BCT). What the BCT may not have in its structure is contained in the 42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division.

The Orion Brigade Combat Team is a monster in size and complexity. It is truly a "pocket Division" with well over 4,000 soldiers and over 40 diverse companies. It contains nearly every battlefield system that the 69<sup>th</sup> might need to fight and win on today's complex battlefields except (for now) attack aviation. The 27<sup>th</sup> BCT has its headquarters in Syracuse, NY and is commanded by Colonel Joe Biehler. Colonel Biehler is a "homegrown" New York National Guardsman with multiple combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He is a tremendous soldier, arguably the most experienced and accomplished BCT commander since WWII.

The BCT contains a very big headquarters company, 3 infantry battalions: 1-69, 2-108, 1-182 (Massachusetts), a cavalry squadron (2-101), an artillery battalion (1-258), a new (this month) engineer battalion, and a sustainment battalion (427<sup>th</sup>). Each of these battalions has companies scattered across entire regions of New York (and now Massachusetts) and quite a few of these companies are utterly unique in their purpose and configuration. I'd love to take a slow walk through each of these units describing them in detail but it's not possible in the space of this small column. Suffice it to say that the 69<sup>th</sup>, powerful as it is, fights as an integral part of a modern, uniform BCT structure precisely the same as you would find within either the active Army or the National Guard.

The 69<sup>th</sup> could move quickly, plug in to a BCT anywhere in the world quickly, receive orders quickly, enter the fight quickly – and win. The 69<sup>th</sup> must be part of a BCT to fight successfully. Lean ferocity is what the 69<sup>th</sup> embodies; still, it needs more “stuff”. That’s where the BCT comes in. The “Orion” BCT is superb. God forbid the 69<sup>th</sup> deploys again but if it must - I hope it is within the 27<sup>th</sup> BCT.

Yours in a common cause,

Geoff Slack  
geoffslack@aol.com



**LOGAN DUFFY RIFLE MATCH  
SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2016**

LTC Makay - Battalion Commander acknowledges and thanks the Veteran Corps for their support of the active battalion and rifle team during this year’s match.



**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, 69<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT, INC.  
P.O. BOX 48  
MASSAPEQUA PARK, N.Y. 11762**



**50/50 - Drawings:**

<b>Month</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>
September 2016	Gaspar Perez	Douglas Kelly



## UPCOMING EVENTS! GET THE WORD OUT

### Veteran Corps Activities

#### MAKIN DAY DINNER – NOVEMBER 4, 2016 (FRIDAY)

See Invitation at end of Bulletin!  
RSVP Due Date = 10/21/16!

We strongly recommend and encourage all to join us. Unfortunately the active battalion has a weekend drill at Ft Drum on that date but will have representation present, albeit smaller than usual. So if you are considering joining us for this event please fill out invitation attached to this Bulletin.



2ND BATTALION, 165TH INFANTRY LANDING DURING BATTLE OF MAKIN ISLAND; Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=141992>

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

#### 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, 69<sup>th</sup> 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-iii-reunion-tickets-24355670466?aff=es2>

The Facebook page is “256 BCT Redeployment 10-year Reunion”  
The Official reunion website will be [www.louisianatigers.org](http://www.louisianatigers.org)







**Letters and Conversations:**

- **Greg Haven:** Greg, the former battalion commander, who now resides in Delaware, informs us that he will be unable to attend the Makin Day Dinner this year. He sends his best regards and well wishes to all. Sir, hope to see you next year.
- **George Pietramala:** George, Good hearing from you. We wish to thank you for your continued support of the Family Support Fund.



**SERVICE OFFICER’S SICK REPORT:**

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

**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, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, NY 11762  
Other contact information: Email address for the commander is: [tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net](mailto:tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net)**



**REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:**

**Submitted by Bert Cunningham – Regimental Historian**

**Unique Murals Reflect 69<sup>th</sup> History**

The expanse of 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment history reflected is inspiring and unique.

Covering nearly 1,000 square feet of painted canvas mounted on four plaster walls, Carl Lonsbury labored alone in 1936, as part of a Works Progress Administration program, to create a series of timeless; priceless murals.







VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.  
 THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH  
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 TELEPHONE 212 - 686 - 6556  
 E-MAIL THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM  
 REGIMENT WEB SITE WWW.THE69THVETERANSCORPS.COM  
 ORGANIZED 1874 INCORPORATED 1918

## *Makin Day Dinner – Friday, November 4, 2016*

*The Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc.  
 Is sponsoring the  
 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Invasion of Makin Island  
 With a Traditional Beefsteak” Dinner*

<b>Location:</b> <i>“Fighting Sixty Ninth” Armory          68 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY, 10010</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Cocktails will commence at 1900 hours</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Dinner will be served at 2000 hours</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Open Bar until end of dinner</i></li> </ul>
<b>Cost:</b> <i>\$65.00 per person          Active Unit-Ranks E1 thru E4 = \$30.00</i>	<b>Dress:</b> <i>Semiformal, Jacket with tie.</i>

**RSVP: NLT Friday, October 21, 2016**

*Checks payable to:  
 Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
 P.O. Box 48  
 Massapequa Park, NY 11762  
 (516) 662-9917*

**NOTE:** *In an effort to avoid any last minute seating problems we ask that you respond as early as possible. Please detach the following section below and forward the information required with your check. Also, please provide the names of any guests you wish to invite along with payment for their dinner.*

\*\*\*\*\*

***Fighting Sixty Ninth Makin Day Dinner 2016 - RSVP Info (please print)***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

