

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

April 1, 2010 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- APRIL 10th Air National Guard Band of the Smoky Mountains will play a free concert at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church (701 Merchant Drive) at 7:00 pm
- APRIL 17th The 26.2 mile Mountain Man Memorial March in memory of 1LT Frank Walkup will be held in Gatlinburg, TN. For more details, go to <http://web.utk.edu/~utrotc/MMM/index.html>
- APRIL 28th Honor Air Flight #7. They will return to Knoxville at approximately 8:00 pm for a “Welcome Home Ceremony”. For more info go to www.honorairknoxville.com
- APRIL 30th Knoxville VA Outpatient Clinic Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held at 8033 Ray Mears Blvd at 1:00 pm
- MAY 31st A reading of all 6200 names on the memorial will take place on Memorial Day at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. Any organizations interested in taking part in this, please contact Eric Nash at epnash@comast.net
- JUNE 6th Smokies Baseball “Salute to Heroes Night” A ceremony to honor Veterans will begin at 4:15 pm and the game will begin at 5:00pm

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, April 1st at the University of Tennessee University Center, Joseph Mazzola presiding. The meeting was hosted by the Army and Air Force ROTC units. A total of 62 members and guests were present. The summary of the March meeting was approved. The treasurer’s report shows an end of the month balance as of March 31, 2010 of \$10,550.37

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (John Romeiser):** In November, approximately 22 names will be added to the memorial. Anyone that would be interested in donating to the memorial, go to <http://www.etvma.org>
- **Memorial Day Remembrance at Veterans Memorial:** A reading of all 6200 names on the memorial will take place on Memorial Day at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. Any organizations interested in taking part in this, please contact Eric Nash at epnash@comast.net
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #7 will be on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. They will return to Knoxville at approximately 8:00 pm for a “Welcome Home Ceremony”. To support Honor Air Knoxville, please go to <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- **Ben Atchley State Veterans Home (Terry Pate):** Currently have 139 beds filled out of 140. They are always looking for organizations to spend time with the residents. If you’re interested, please call 862-8100.
- **Red Cross (Jess Hernandez/Karen Trotter):** Thanks Commander Jones for allowing use of the Navy Reserve Center to put together 780 care-packages for our troops serving in Iraq. The SAF grant

continues but will terminate at the end of May. The Blount County Red Cross supported the homecoming of the 1/230 after a year long deployment in Iraq. They also have a SAF grant for the next couple of months.

- **Web Site:** If any organizations have a public newsletter they want distributed, please send it to Laimon Godel at webmaster@godel.com
- **Air National Guard Band Of The Smoky Mountains:** Will perform a free concert on April 10, 2010 at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church (701 Merchant Drive) at 7:00 pm.
- **Half-Way Home Campaign (John Becker):** This summer they want to fill World's Fair Park with supporters of the 278th and then take a photograph to send to the 278th in Iraq. Anyone that would like to help with the planning of the "Half-Way Home Campaign or if you have WBIR "Service & Sacrifice" story ideas please email John Becker at jbecker@wbir.com Check out the WBIR "Service & Sacrifice" page at <http://www.wbir.com/life/community/service/default.aspx>
- **Knoxville VA Outpatient Clinic (Rick Finger/Todd Donahoe):** Opened new location on March 29th at 8033 Ray Mears Blvd. They have an updated phone system (545-4592) with actual people to answer the phones. There will be a "Ribbon Cutting" Ceremony on April 30 at 1:00 pm. If your interested in helping with the ceremony please email Rick Finger at rick.finger@va.gov

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

- **UT Air Force ROTC (MAJ Shawn Kitchin):** On April 30th, MAJ Shawn Kitchin will retire from the Air Force and have a ceremony at the UT Baseball stadium noon.
- **UT Army ROTC (LTC David Leach):** VFW presented a check to support the Mountain Man March for \$1500. The 3rd annual Mountain Man March will be on April 17, 2010 in Gatlinburg, TN to honor 1LT Frank Walkup. Sponsors are needed to cover the operating costs of the event. There will be a Gold Star Mothers ceremony on April 16, 2010. There will be a free pancake breakfast at American Legion Post 202 on the day of the march. For more details, go to <http://web.utk.edu/~utrotc/MMM/index.html>

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

- **Military Entrance Processing Station (Commander Darrell Neeley):** Looking forward to a very busy summer for physicals and shipping. Thanks the American Red Cross for the grant for the "Spring Children's Party".
- **134th ANG Air Refueling Station (Colonel Howard):** The unit recently had really good results from a safety and environmental study.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Colonel Howard):** Had over 100 participants from TEC, volunteers and runners in the recent Knoxville Marathon. Will soon hold their largest graduation with over 100 active duty and Guard and Reserve. Business and Industry days will be April 28 -30, and they will be hosting regional business leaders from 12 states at McGee Tyson ANG Base.
- **Air Force Association (Jim Mungenast):** Recently held a community partners appreciation luncheon at the McGee Tyson ANG Base which included a tour of the base.
- **489th Civil Affairs Company (Captain Chris White):** Enjoying having entire unit together during the last few months. Beginning Yellow Ribbon Program for service members and families.
- **Marines, Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (Captain Joseph Easterling):** A group of Marines mobilized in February for the Counter Terrorism Training Exercises going on in the South Pacific. Currently have 40 Marines training in Twentynine Palms, CA and will head to Afghanistan in April.
- **ESGR (John Dyess):** On May 22, there will be a military employment job fair. Hopes to have military friendly employers and counselors to assist with resumes. Thanks to the American Red Cross for its support for this event. More details to come.
- **VFW (Tom DeHoog):** Recently held a send-off dinner for the 253rd MP Company from Lenoir City. Provided a grant to ship soccer balls to children in Iraq.

- **4-H Operation: Military Kids (Carrera Harris):** The U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support children and youth impacted by deployment. For more information call 974-9724 or email c-harris2@utk.edu
- **Fountainhead College of Technology (Robert Simpson):** The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security jointly sponsor the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education program. For more info call 688-9422 or email robert.simpson@fountainheadcollege.edu
- **AMVETS Riders (Bruce McElhaney):** Will be traveling to "Camp Hope" on April 17th. The camp is located in Farmington, MO. The founder, Mike White, created this camp after his son Chris was killed in Iraq on June 20, 2006. Camp Hope is dedicated to providing the resources for our veterans to again enjoy outdoor activities. The goal of Camp Hope is to construct a completely handicapped lodge where veterans may participate in hunting, fishing, canoeing, skeet shooting, hiking and relaxing in a peaceful setting. For more information go to camphoperiders.org or www.chrisnealfarm.com

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
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