

# **EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

## **April 4, 2013 MEETING SUMMARY**

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

APRIL 19-20	Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg, TN
APRIL 24	HonorAir Knoxville Flight #14
MAY 2	ETMAC Meeting at Knoxville Chamber
MAY 4	AFA hosting State Convention and Banquet – Crowne Plaza
MAY 6	East TN Veterans Memorial Association 3rd Annual Medal of Honor Evening – The Foundry at World's Fair Park
JUNE 6	ETMAC Meeting at the Red Cross Office on Middlebrook Pike
JULY/AUG	NOSC along with Harley Davidson Ride/Concert for Wounded Warrior Project
SEPT 14	Knoxville Area Veterans Stand Down – National Guard Armory
NOVEMBER 11	Veterans' Day Parade and Veterans' Day Luncheon

**STAY CURRENT: [WWW.ETMAC.ORG](http://WWW.ETMAC.ORG)**

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

- The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, April 4, 2013, at the NOSC on Alcoa HWY with President Barry Allen, presiding. President Allen welcomed all members and guests.
- 56 members and guests were present, and the March meeting summary was approved as distributed with no corrections.
- The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$15,790.

Webmaster report shows 1,245 people visited the web last month - @ 44 per day; the most heavily viewed page was Local Resources.

- Three different designs for a new ETMAC logo were presented at the meeting, and had been the subject of earlier voting by email. The paid up members in attendance, as well as those paid up members who voted by email, selected a design that was submitted by Laddy Fields, Art Director for the Knoxville Chamber, as the new logo. He will receive a check for \$300 at an upcoming meeting. The new logo is attached... Congratulations to Laddy Fields for designing the winning logo.
- President Allen's Remarks:
  - Wished John Becker a speedy recovery on his recent ACL surgery.
  - Acknowledged and thanked Chief Todd Johnson & CDR Kurt Jordan for allowing us to have the ETMAC meeting at the NOSC and for being wonderful hosts.

## GUEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **UT Development Office (Operation Military kids) – Carrera Romanini** – Offering four different camps this summer for military kids ages 8-18 years. Flyers were available for those interested.
- **Maryville College – Katie Grace** – Hosting a military car and bike show on April 27 on campus to raise money for wounded warriors in need of such things as house renovations, etc. For more information, contact – Katie Grace 865 332 6862.
- **East TN Historical Society – Joleen Dewald** - hosting a book signing for Rick Atkinson's book "The Guns at Last Light") on 19 May (2:30 pm) at the Bijou with Mr. Atkinson – info 215-8883.
- **Tech Center Installations – Steve Tool** - field technicians needed for DISH network – Voice, Video and Data – training provided - good opening to break into the "IT" field.
- **Tennessee Smokies' – Matt Strutner** - Salute to Heroes Night on Saturday, May 11- Vietnam Vets are the featured organization. Also, accepting nominations for past and present military members to attend various games at no charge – sponsored by ProBuild.

## MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY UPDATES

- **UT Air Force ROTC – Maj Michel Edwards** – prepping for Mountain Man; commissioning thirteen cadets on 9 May.
- **UT Army ROTC – CPT Matthew Pitts** - prepping for Mountain Man.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station – LCDR Lester Isaac** – Have an official move date for new bldg. – 19 July – Federal Bldg... Suspended student testing in remote areas due to federal budget sequester; prepping for furloughs caused by the sequester will include closing every Friday starting in June; Change of Command at MEPS - 24 May (incoming LCDR Jason McNear).
- **119<sup>th</sup> Command and Control Squadron – Lt Col George Haynes** – Received an overall EXCELLENT for Compliance Inspection; transitioning part of squadron to a new Cyber mission; awaiting \$2-6 million dollars internal update pending funding.
- **134<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing – Col Thomas Cauthen** – Received an overall EXCELLENT rating for Nuclear ORI that was the subject of the on-scene inspection; National Deficit Authorization Act resulted in the 134<sup>th</sup> losing two planes – now have ten; awaiting guidance on furlough for 300+ employees between now and end of fiscal year due to budget sequester.
- **1-230 Air Cavalry Squadron – LTC Mel Clawson & MAJ Pat Wade** – upcoming three week aero gunnery exercise with special ops – tested 58D gun; several returned back from border missions.
- **278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment – LTC Keith Scott** – 14 April at 1300 hrs. - Regimental change of Command at West High School Football field. New equipment fielding for Bradley fighting vehicle has ended.
- **489<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion – Lt Col Cliff Faulkner** – Soldiers are backfilling in other units; back to semi-annual weapons qualification.
- **844<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion – MSG Josh Richardson** – 150 soldiers returned from Fort Hunter Liggett – 29 day exercise consisting of three elements – passed all tasks; facing budget shortfalls.
- **Co D, 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion – Capt Charles Hunt** – Entering AT season along with inspections; local challenges for the Marines, with the loss of three Marines in the last three weeks.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Maj Gabe Johnson** – 324 NCOA/ALS students graduating today; expecting 500 students in-resident & satellite in May/June; 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June.
- **Naval Operations Support Center (NOSC) – Chief Todd Johnson & CDR Kurt Jordan** –Anchor dedication was a success; NOSC space is available if any units ever need to use, especially with large American flag as backdrop.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – Lt Col Dent Young** – prepping for a CI in January; losing admin support due to furlough.
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – CDR Dave Roberts** – facing twenty-five percent cuts due to furlough from budget sequester; all public interface has been cancelled for remainder of fiscal year.
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## VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association – Joleen Dewald** - hosting 3rd Annual Medal of Honor Evening in honor of Corp Paul B Huff on 6 May at the Foundry – cost \$75 per person or table for \$600.
- **American Legion – Marty Everett** – Supporting the Mountain Man March; planning Memorial Day function; planning Veterans' Day parade (Monday - 11 November, 2013); hosting a golf tournament – 15 June – Three Rivers GC.

- **Air Force Association – Steve Dillenburg** – 4 May – hosting State Convention & banquet at Crowne Plaza – honoring Eddie Mannis; will award teacher of the year at convention.
- **Honor Air – Patrice Collins on behalf of Joe Sutter** – Honor Air has named its student ambassador program in honor of Sam Hardman to help bridge the generational gap between today’s youth and WWII vets. Next flight will be on Wed., April 24<sup>th</sup>. Attendees urged to come out to TYS for the welcome home celebration. Estimated time of arrival back in Knoxville is 8:15 pm.
- **ESGR – John Dyess** – Number of mobilized Guard/Reserve - Just over 54,755; employer perception that the Guard/Reserve folks will go back to traditional role (one weekend a month, two weeks in the summer) – simply will not be the case - leaders need to educate the community on the new operational Guard/Reserve role. Growing concern - 33.1 million youth ages 17-24 but only 7.7 million are “fit” to fight due to ineligible conditions such as medical, criminal, lack of education, # of dependents, etc.
- **Mountain Man Memorial March – Lee Dalton** – (6<sup>th</sup> year); 19 & 20 April (largest crowd to date) – expecting @ 560 marchers this year and 90+ Gold Star Families; asking for sponsorships for weekend expenses for GSFs. \$150 will sponsor a GSF’s hotel and meals for two days. Go to [www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com](http://www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com) to sponsor a family or to register as a marcher; Mountain Man Memorial T-shirts are being sold by - \$15 – cash, check, and credit card accepted.
- **TVBA – Jonathan Williams – Winner of** business proposal competition wants to market “light-weight body armor”; waiting for press release
- **Vietnam Veterans or America** – Gov. Haslam declared the 29<sup>th</sup> of March as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans day; Pigeon Forge “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” parade and events will be 15-17 of April – more info at: [www.welcomehomevietnam.com](http://www.welcomehomevietnam.com) ; would like to hold town hall meetings to educate Vietnam vets on “Agent Orange” effects
- **American Red Cross – Knox & Blount Counties – Jess Hernandez** – limited funds (only) for Guard/Reserves for: utilities, gas, grocery, rent, etc. Continues to help with emergency communications – 24/7.
- **Blount County Veterans Affairs Office – Nathan Weinbaum - Respectfully** asked for anyone who was able to attend the services for PFC Theodore “T.J.” Jones IV and remember his service to the country; Reminded everyone that the Vet center comes to his facility every Tuesday to help Vets with readjustment issues, PTSD and a variety of other services.
- **Marine Corps League** – planning MUDD run in September – details to follow I future meetings.

## Next meeting – Next meeting – Thursday, May 2 Knoxville Chamber

- **ETMAC Webpage:** Please send anything to be added to the calendar to [webmaster@godel.com](mailto:webmaster@godel.com)
- **The meeting was adjourned at 0955 am.**