



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2, 2012 MEETING SUMMARY

- ESGR Area Chair, John Dyess and COL Jeff Archer, Deputy Commander of the 278th presented an ESGR Seven Seals Award to Tamara Longworth and Friends of the 278th for their support of soldiers in the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 1st at the American Red Cross – 8:30 am

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

APRIL 18: HonorAir Knoxville Flight #12

APRIL 20-21: Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg, TN

MAY 7: East TN Veterans Memorial Association 2nd Annual Medal of Honor Evening to honor Medal of Honor recipient Mitchell Stout

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, February 2nd, 2012, at the Knoxville Chamber, ETMAC President John Dyess presiding. A total of 64 members and guests were present. The January meeting summary was approved as written. The treasurer's report shows a current balance of \$16,421.01.

Patrice Collins Announcements:

-Please pay 2012 membership dues. \$25 per individual. \$100 for organizations or units.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **ETMAC Webpage (Laimon Godel):** For the month of January there 1,235 visitors averaging 39 visits a day. Please send anything to be added to the calendar to webmaster@godel.com
- **“Soldiers in America” (Joe Sutter):** Maryville College photojournalist student Chris Cannon is interviewing Veterans and current Military Personnel for this project. For more information please contact Chris at (423) 871-2662 or Christopher.cannon@my.maryvillecollege.edu
- **Knoxville Jewish Alliance Mitzvah Day (John Dyess):** Collected donations at the Knoxville Jewish Community Center on Sunday, February 5th to make care packages and write cards for deployed service members to say “Thank You”.
- **Friends of the 278th (John Dyess):** Presented an award to Tamara Longworth for her outstanding work in raising funds for the soldiers of the 278th.
- **Afghanistan Brief (MAJ Jason West):** Recently returned from Afghanistan as a Marine Reservist Civil Affairs Team Leader and provided an update of the war and his recent role.

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

- **UT Air Force ROTC (CAPT Mark Farley):** They have 25 sophomores that will soon learn if they will be continuing in the program. They also have 7 of their junior and seniors that are up for the rating board. They are planning on the Mountain Man Memorial March and are expecting over 700 marchers and 60 Gold Star Families. They need 2 golf carts donated for this event. For more info go to www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com On March 29th, they are having a service day for their seniors from 2 pm to 4 pm and are looking for service members to come speak to them.
- **UT Army ROTC (LTC Danny Kelley):** Thank you to the National Guard units for helping with resources to help with training. Several units from Fort Campbell have offered up their time and services and have some soldiers who have been deployed come in and speak and mentor the cadets.

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

- **US Army Recruiting Company (CPT Scott Glidden):** Currently the main focus is high school prospecting. They are going to be having a national level recruiting asset, an aviation simulator, for some of the local high schools. The simulators will include an Apache and a Blackhawk. They are giving ethics and leadership type classes for freshmen and sophomores.
- **US Air Force Recruiting Command (Master Sgt Anthony Evans):** Covering a large area which includes Cookeville, Morristown, Sylva, NC, Oak Ridge, Alcoa, and Knoxville. Recruiting has been going great and the numbers are good.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (1st Sgt Steven Schaffner):** Still looking to move mid July of 2012. MEPCON Commander recently visited on January 10, 2011 and will attempt to schedule his return so he can attend an ETMAC meeting.
- **119th Command and Control (MAJ Chris Cornett):** They will be having their 3rd and final Honor Air fundraising event soon and will be presenting a check next month. Participated in the TVBA job fair and appreciated the event. The 119th recently won their 5th consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit award. COL Dave Evans will be retiring in March, 2012.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (COL Tommy Cauthen):** They participated in the recent TVBA job fair and thought it was a great event. Currently has about 30 people involved in CENTCOM and is providing air fuel support and occasionally provide support for air medical evacuations. They are getting ready for a whole bunch of inspections to include the Operations Readiness Inspection. They will be heading to Gulf Port for an ORE. They are waiting to see what the projected future cuts will be.
- **1/230 Air Cavalry Squadron (MAJ Melvin Clawson):** The 1-169th Air Ambulance Unit out of Smyrna, TN recently left for a one year deployment to Afghanistan. Their Delta Company mission to Kuwait has been cancelled. They will be having their Memorial Bass Tournament on April 21, 2012. More details to come.
- **278th Army National Guard (COL Jeffrey Archer):** Thanks again to Tamara Longworth from the Friends of the 278th. Currently sitting at 97% strength with over 3,700 soldiers. Recently implemented state wide the "Guard Your Buddy Program" to help prevent suicides in the Tennessee National Guard. They are currently conducting maintenance on their Bradley's.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (MAJ Al Floyd):** Attended the TVBA expo and was able to add an additional officer. Lt. Col Wolfe will be transferring in July and the new commander will be Lt. Col Wanda Williams. Will be supporting a JROTC event in Gatlinburg. Preparing to go to Germany, Honduras, Hawaii, and Fort Chaffee, Ark for annual training.
- **Marines, Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (Captain Joseph Easterling):** Their battalion that was in Afghanistan is now back in the U.S. at Camp Lejeune. Of the 36 Marines that deployed in Afghanistan, 1 was killed in action and 6 were wounded in action. The Marine Corps League and LS1 Amos has provided great support in home renovations since LCpl Cody Evans lost both his legs in Afghanistan. In May, one of their former Marines, SSGT David McCollum will depart on foot from the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial in Knoxville and walk to Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. For more info go to www.rucktoremember.com. The battalion will be going to Africa in a couple months. Captain Easterling will be transferring this year.

- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Chaplin Lt Col Ira Campbell):** The TEC is busy with a full class of NCO Academy students, Airman Leadership School and some other smaller classes. They will be having a graduation on February 16 at the Knoxville Convention Center.
- **Naval Operations Support Center (Chief Johnson):** Recently started official contract work of the remodeling of the building. They have Navy Seabee's helping with LCpl Evans house. They are selling t-shirts to support LCpl Evans. The Sea Cadets are now 20 strong. The Gibbs JROTC will be coming to the NOSC to do training.

MILITARY AND VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

- **Marine Corps League (Laimon Godel):** They have presented over \$12,000 that was raised to the family of LCpl Cody Evans. To donate to LCpl Cody Evans please send a check to the Marine Corps League with attention to LCpl Cody Evans to P.O. Box 145, Knoxville, TN 37901. LCpl Cody Evans recently took his first steps on his artificial limbs and remains enthusiastic.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** On May 7th, they will host the 2nd annual Medal of Honor at the Foundry to honor Medal of Honor recipient Mitchell Stout. Mitchell was from Lenoir City, TN.
- **American Legion (Sam Hardman):** Will be sponsoring the Mountain Man Memorial March in April.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** HonorAir Flight #12 will be on April 18. They will be taking 130 WWII and Korean War Veterans to Washington, D.C. You can purchase a HonorAir watch and cookbook at the HonorAir webpage. To support Honor Air Knoxville, please go to <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>.
- **Ben Atchley Veteran's Home (Doug Ottinger):** The Veteran's Home is currently full. Thanks to John Becker for the recent Service & Sacrifice series about one of the volunteers there. Recently updated software at the Veterans Home.
- **Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (James Foggin):** Recently held an employment assistance workshop for Veterans and military service members and spouses. They had 18 participants at the workshop. Also, had a table at the TVBA job fair. They anticipate providing post deployment briefings when deployed units return. There are currently 74,000 reservists and guardsmen on active duty and about 1,550 are from the state of Tennessee. They will be having a "Boss Lift" on April 11.
- **American Red Cross Blount County (Jess Hernandez):** Still have funding with the SAF grant for units in Blount County. They will be having a Heroes Breakfast in March to honor military, firefighters, law enforcement, and medical.
- **Knox County Veterans Affairs Office (Richard Julian):** They are assisting those Veterans and dependents in which EVR's are required that are due on March 1. They are located at 1000 North Central Street in Knoxville. They're number is 865-215-5645.
- **Blount County Veterans Affairs Office (Nathan Weinbaum):** They are located at 305 Court Street in Maryville. They're office number is 273-5760.
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association (Jonathan Williams):** The TVBA Expo had 145 exhibitors and over 2,000 people visited the expo and job fair. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a huge success. For more info on the TVBA go to <http://www.jointvba.org/>
- **The Congressional Medal of Honor Society (Joleen Dewald):** A group will be going to New York in March to make an official presentation to bid for the National Convention in 2014.
- **Tom DeHoog:** Anyone that knows any disabled Veteran that possibly needs a service dog please have them contact Smoky Mountain Service Dogs. Go to <http://smokymountain servicedogs.org/> for more info

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Respectfully Submitted,
 Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
 East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
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