

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

January 7, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JAN 11	Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Gilbert State Veterans Home in Clarksville
JAN 24	"Welcome to America" Ceremony for Corporal Peci at McGhee Tyson Airport
JAN 25	TN Valley Coalition for the 'Point In Time' Homeless Count Survey
JAN 25	TVBA's Keynote Dinner w/Guest Speaker Noah Galloway (Jackson Terminal)
JAN 26	TVBA's Veteran Owned Business and Education Fair Expo (Holiday Inn)
JAN 29	Mane Support's "Horses Helping Heroes" Fundraiser & Dinner

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, January 7, 2016, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 69 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - Stacy Sells, 134th ARW
 - Scott Wenger, 119th CCS
 - Jeff Moncrief, U.S. Army, Retired
 - Ed Junod, Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council
 - Rick Arnold, Knoxville Habitat for Humanity
 - Leon Jaquet, Anderson County Director of Veterans Services
- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** 2016 membership dues are now due. When making checks payable to ETMAC, please write year 2016 on them.
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Two changes were made to the December meeting minutes: In the calendar portion, TVBA's locations for their Fair Expo and Keynote Dinner have been reversed for correction. TVBA's dinner will be held at the Jackson Terminal, and their Fair Expo held at Holiday Inn World's Fair Park. Owen also amended the December minutes to add the following: The ETMAC historian and secretary positions are appointed by the President. After December's meeting, Heather Hatcher has been reappointed as Secretary for 2016 and Joleen Dewald reappointed as Historian for

2016. Minutes have been corrected. ETMAC monthly meeting minutes and flyers for upcoming events are posted to the website at <http://etmac.org/>

- **Treasurer's Report (Steve Dillenburg):** Last month's ending balance was \$11,822. ETMAC wrote checks for \$803 and made deposits of \$2,083. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$13,101. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual dues can be given to Patrice at the monthly meetings, or can be paid online at the ETMAC website for a \$2 convenience fee.
- **Webmaster's Report:** Please send anything to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com
- **Mane Support Fundraiser (Kim Henry):** Following the death of her brother, Kim had lost track of her nephew who served in the military, and with the help of ETMAC networking after a recent meeting and with the help of LTC Mel Clawson, she was able to find her nephew and meet him. Kim Henry is Director of Mane Support, a grief counseling program which incorporates horses into mental and personal development needs that works with adults, children, and families alike that have experienced a death or trauma. Mane Support has expanded their services to military and also focuses on TBI and mental health trauma. Their grief counseling program works with pre-deployment families, too. Kim gave thanks to Capt Stephanie McKeen with the 134th ARW who assisted Mane Support in a reintegration program. Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell is also on board, Kim reports. They had their first military task force meeting in February. Friday, Jan. 29th, from 6-8 p.m. is their "Horses Helping Heroes" Fundraiser Dinner at the RT Lodge in Maryville, TN. Lt Gen Robert Tiebout, USMC, Ret., will be the guest speaker at this upcoming event, and Kim has tickets for anyone interested. They are looking for individual or business sponsorships, and sponsors can get free tickets and free food. Tickets are \$75/person and go on sale Jan. 1st. Contact the Mane Support Office at (865) 233-3090 for ticket information or visit the Mane Support site at <http://www.manesupport.org/>.
- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):** Army Captain (Ret.) Michael Trost, who served with the 489th CAB, was wounded by gunfire in 2012 while deployed in Afghanistan. Another service member, Corporal Alexander Peci, was also injured in the same convoy and helped save the life of Captain Trost. Corporal Peci is coming to the U.S. for the first time and they will both be reunited. The "Welcome to America" ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 24th at 10 p.m. at McGhee Tyson Airport. All are welcome to attend to help give Corporal Peci a big thank you and welcome to the United States.
- **President's Report (Owen Ragland):** Said there is a wealth of great programs at ETMAC that support the military units and veterans organizations, and the meetings are a great place to network and fill your event calendar for the upcoming year.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **1-100th Engineer Battalion (Brad Redmond, FRG leader):** Had their family gathering for Christmas. 85 attendees and 35 children. Brad played Santa. Had some wonderful sponsors including Food City and will continue to develop sponsor relationships as they look ahead for their spring gathering for the families. Will be reaching out to the 489th CAB as well as other units in the Army Reserve Center so they can facilitate and grow in supporting each other through the Family Readiness Group. Also, the 1-100th will be

piggybacking with the 489th in getting ready for qualification and will be taking part in online mandatory training.

- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Captain Chris Morin):** Still waiting on their unit manning document to get them into their cyber mission. They've progressed in getting more of their members into the schools, as they're willing to take the last minute seats when they become available. They have been getting into training for the enlisted cyber technicians, and the field for the officer side. Drill is this weekend.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Lt Col Jason Brock):** Had a Christmas party at the base for technicians and the drill guardsmen. Still getting ready for the Smoky Mountain Air Show on April 16-17, 2016. The Blue Angels are secured to perform as well as several other civilian acts. Will have several static aircraft displays. They also received permission to hold Open House. For more information on the upcoming show, visit <http://smokymountainairshow.com/>. The 134th's orange hanger is currently under renovation and will be remodeled. Lt Col Brock will also be promoted to Colonel this Sun., Jan. 10th at 12:30 p.m. on the McGhee Tyson ANG Base in the brown hanger. All are welcome to attend.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (LTC John Bowlin):** Are in steady state operations. Getting ready to transition their gun recycle and to prepare for warfighter later this summer. Gaining force structure. Last year they brought the 190th Engineer Company back in and picked up another artillery battery in Middle TN. However, this year they're going outside the state to pick up a combined arms battalion from Pennsylvania. LTC Bowlin believed this to be the first time they've picked up a sizable unit outside the state since the 278th's inception in 1977. They're very excited about it. Will be supervising visits with them now and are hopeful to gain them fully within the next year. Says we'll start hearing more about "Tennessee Maneuvers" which is a huge statewide exercise expected this year, which both the TN Army and Air National Guard will be participating in. This is reminiscent of the old TN-Louisiana maneuvers that occurred in the late '30s and early '40s in Middle TN. This will touch all the units in TN - Air and Army - and will also include local governments and emergency management systems.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (MAJ Andrew Wyman):** Just finished up their holiday activities and Christmas party in December with their families. Had a luncheon and Change of Command for their first sergeant of their Headquarters Company. They are currently focusing on basic soldier skill tasks and qualifications. Their annual training will be at Ft. Pickett, VA, where they'll be working on a petroleum distribution pipeline operation.
- **Air Force Recruiting Command (MSgt Chris Robson):** Their annual recruiting banquet will pay tribute to those who have exceeded in their 2015 performance and will be held in February at the McGhee Tyson ANG base. A local Knoxville recruiter, TSgt Jeremy Longo, finished his 2015 recruiting year at 180% of the assigned goal and was identified as the top enlisted accessions program recruiter of the year for the entire squadron. He'll be honored at the event along with several others at their February banquet. The Command's other Knoxville recruiter was recently assigned to MEPS; the Command will be transitioning another recruiter in. They are still looking for applicants in fields related to aircraft mechanics; they're also always looking for those in aircraft control. MSgt Robson also thanked ETMAC and the community for getting the word out on the opened positions. They were contacted by several individuals as a result of this.

They're also making an effort to get out in the community and participate in an organization every month. Last month they assisted in Habitat for Humanity. If you have any ideas for community involvement, please let him know.

- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Lt Col David Meece):** Col. Meyeraan is on her way to Maxwell AFB in Ala. with their team to do a concept demo, which is the second of its kind for a newly developed distance learning. It will be delivered from McGhee Tyson ANGB and facilitated online to distance learning program for their Airman Leadership School. This is a huge benefit to the ANG for E4s that have been waiting to get into their first round of professional military education. First demo went well and now this is the sales pitch, and they are hoping to get permission to proceed forward. They started their newest NCO class on Tuesday with 176 NCOs, and next Monday they will be welcoming 95 in-resident airman leadership students. The military construction project is going well and they're on track to finish this summer. They'll send ribbon-cutting ceremony details in the future. In September they will be hosting an international program for NCOs from partnering countries (possibly 50) from around the globe. They'll be bringing in international NCOs and will host it at McGhee Tyson just as they did in 2012.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (YN1 Noah Jaques):** Have drill this weekend. Want to help with the Great Smoky Mountain Air Show coming up in April.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** Present, nothing to report at this time.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt Col Jack Lancaster):** Present, nothing to report at this time.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** Will be having their state convention in Memphis in April and at that time will announce their Teacher of the Year. Last year they nominated a candidate from the elementary school level. They can nominate a teacher from a high school level, too. If you know of any STEM teachers from a local high school you'd like to nominate, please contact Steve to refer any teacher nominations. For more information on the AFA, visit <http://www.afa.org/home>.
- **American Legion (Mike Testerman):** Finished their holiday events and family dinner. Had a good turnout. Thanked Jess Hernandez with the Red Cross for permitting the AL to use their facility for their monthly meetings, while they still try to find a permanent home. They have a steering committee in place to assist in settling their building problems, with plans to be finalized in February so they can move forward. They also have discussed fundraiser events to assist. Thanked Jack D'Araujo for being the guest speaker at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service ceremony in December at the East TN Veterans Cemetery. The American Legion will be helping with the Mountain Man Memorial March and encourage everyone to come out and see the event. For more information on the Knoxville American Legion, go to <http://legionknox.com/>.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** April is the month of the military child. RC is already planning ahead for those events. Last year, they did 4 venues: Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga. In Knoxville, the event was at the zoo and military families from all over the area attended for free and enjoyed free food and entertainment. Estimating to have 100 slots for military families this year, and those interested can pre-register. It's an event to honor the military children. Jess will send out

more information next month. He also asked local units to spread the word and will send out a flyer. Also, Red Cross has 2 open positions. A full-time position in Middle TN working in the Nashville RC office. The staffer can deploy and go anywhere from all over the world for 3-4 months with the Red Cross and alongside the military. The other position open is a part-time spot in Memphis. Interested parties can contact Jess for more information.

- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** Owen recognized that Jess was honored at December's ETMAC meeting for Jess's 25 years of service with the Red Cross. He thanked Jess for all he does for the Red Cross and the military and veterans organizations.
- **Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home (Doug Ottinger):** On Monday, Jan. 11th the Brig. Gen. Wendell H. Gilbert State Veterans Home in Clarksville will officially open. They will have their ribbon-cutting ceremony that day at 2 p.m. Central Time. The new Clarksville building is located at 250 Arrowood Drive, Clarksville, TN 37042. Doug also thanked all the organizations for their support during the holidays.

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):**

[EVENTS]:

- April 22-23rd: *Mountain Man Memorial March* is April 22-23, 2016 in Gatlinburg, TN. For more details, to register, or to sponsor a Gold Star family, visit <http://www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> WWII MOH recipient Woody Williams, USMC, will also be in attendance. Due to the Woody Williams project, where a Gold Star Families Monument would be placed in all 50 states, a memorial honoring Gold Star Families in Knoxville will be placed at the East TN State Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Hwy. Joleen said it's scheduled for dedication in April 2016. To support the project with the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation or to donate, visit <http://hwwmohfoundation.org/>
- May 2nd: May 2, 2016 is *ETVMA's Annual Medal of Honor Evening* at The Foundry at World's Fair Park. They will be honoring Korean MOH recipient Ray Eugene Duke, U.S. Army, who is from Whitwell, TN. He was the only MOH recipient from TN who was a POW. He has family in TN who will be attending. Last year the event was nearly a sold out crowd and they expect it to be again this year. They will have another MOH recipient attending as a special guest. Registration is online and ticket sales start Feb. 1st. Joleen will accept ticket purchases before then. Individual ticket prices are \$75/person, or for a table of 8 purchased before March 1st, it's \$600. Contact Joleen if any questions or visit the ETVMA website at <https://etvma.org/>
- May 30th: *Memorial Day "Reading of the Names"*: They won't be assigning slots this year. You are welcome to show up and get in line to read names. Will need between 75-85 readers. More information will be sent out soon.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Has given Patrice their annual report for review if anyone wishes for a copy so they may learn what all the Council does and has done the previous year. Coming up, they have a support organization group meeting at UT with student veterans. They also have the support meetings with the chapters at Pellissippi State and Maryville College. They will be holding PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution Training (PAIR) and Question,

Persuade, Refer (QPR) programs in Hixson, TN next weekend for a 4 hour training session. If you'd like to attend these programs, contact Freddie or Ed and they can give you more information on the program. To learn more about the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council, visit <http://tnvhc.org/> or to contact them for assistance.

- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D'Araujo):** As of December 23, 2015, there were still more than 17,750 guardsmen and reservists mobilized on federal active duty. Right before the holidays, there were 2 air guardsmen killed in Afghanistan as a result of an attack. As a result of the flooding in Illinois and Missouri, 800 guardsmen have been called up for state active duty for preventive measures of the anticipated Mississippi floods. ESGR will have a booth at the TVBA Fair Expo event this month. As a reminder to units, ESGR is still prepared to support any of your pre-deployments or regional employment briefings or Yellow Ribbon Programs. Next month, the report from the National Commission on the Future of the Army will be reported out to Congress. There will be non-public briefings at the end of this month. The report could have significant implications on the structure of the Guard and the Reserve in the future.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** VA recently proposed to add 8 additional presumptive conditions to the list of conditions related to Camp Lejeune water contamination. For the 8 presumptive conditions named, see here: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/24773/va-plans-to-propose-expanded-disability-benefits-eligibility-for-veterans-exposed-to-contaminated-water-at-camp-lejeune/> Also, VA has proposed a change to the rules on VA copayments for medications. They are proposing to change it from the \$8-9 for a 30-day supply to a 3 tier system starting January 2017. This would mean a Tier 1, for example, would be a \$5 copay, which is more in line with what you'd pay at a civilian drug store. For more information, contact Tom at the Knox County Veterans Service Office at (865) 215-5645. The proposal is currently on the Federal Register and you can make comments on the proposed rule within the next 60 days. View here to see the Federal Register page: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/01/05/2015-33052/copayments-for-medications-beginning-january-1-2017>
- **Marine Corps League (Eddie Knoebel):** In December, three of their Marines passed away and they had ceremonies for them. Lt. Col. Roy D. Black from Harriman passed away recently and they had a ceremony for him. The Wreaths Across America event was successful, as they set out 1,800 wreaths at the veterans' cemeteries. Had a great turnout. MCL will be holding their officer elections this month. Laimon Godel is doing well, and they're hoping he's cancer free. Patty Lewis, which established a family service center at Camp Lejeune, and who is actively involved in engaging other base areas, received accommodation on her support to service members from Lt Gen Keith Stalder, who is the commanding general at Camp Lejeune. The publication *Stars and Stripes* wrote an earlier story on her accomplishments in supporting families in the military; see article here: <http://www.stripes.com/news/mom-mobilizes-parents-network-in-support-of-3-2-marines-1.54347> Patty is not doing well. A GoFundMe account for her has been set up to help her with medical expenses at the following website if you wish to donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/7Keyf7jg> For more information on the MCL, visit their website at mclknnox.org
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Joe Eddlemon):** MOWW meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Rothchild Catering and Conference Center. 11 a.m. for

lunch and social hour. 12-1 p.m. for regular meeting. Membership is open to all uniformed services to include the Coast Guard, the National Health Service, and the National Meteorological departments such as the National Weather Service and the National Atmospheric Service. They are also taking new members. They are currently looking for a speaker for their next meeting. Lt Col David Meece said he would volunteer to speak. Contact MOWW if interested or to send any referrals for upcoming speaking engagements at their monthly meetings.

- **Project Healing Waters (Steve Thompson):** The waters are too high for them to fish right now so Healing Waters is inside. They've moved their meetings to the Red Cross Bldg. Steve thanked Jess for allowing them to have their meetings at his venue. They had their first meeting on Tuesday, with a full room and great attendance. They went over how to select a fly rod for the new veterans in their program. The monthly meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at the Red Cross Building at 6 p.m. Anyone is welcomed to come to the meetings and learn about fly fishing with the veterans. Dan Moneymaker is teaching the fly tying class right now with 10 participants. They'll start their rod building classes in mid-February. Healing Waters has also rented the Rabbit Run Retreat Center in Norris, TN for the 3rd weekend of April, June, and July. They're opening it up to the TN Valley Region of Project Healing Waters and their group will be hosting. The participants will now be guides and teaching classes. Will be 25-30 veterans at the retreat center fishing on those weekends. They also booked the retreat for 4 days during Memorial Day weekend. In April, a store in Fountain City called The Laundry Basket will be supplying their food for the weekend, and the H. T. Hackney Company will be supplying their food for Memorial Day weekend. They will have a booth at the TVBA Fair Expo. Also, Dan Moneymaker will be doing fly tying demonstrations at Little River Outfitters in Townsend, TN. Healing Waters now has 60 people in their program. For more information on their program, visit: <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association:** Their annual expo event is Tues., Jan.26, 2016 at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Park. This is TVBA's 6th year for the Veteran Owned Business and Education Fair Expo, which is a trade show for veteran-owned companies and other entities in the area that want to support the veterans. Colleges are present. There are entrepreneurship opportunities available as well as companies that are hiring. Last year, more than 2,000 people attended. The night before, Mon., Jan. 25th, is the TVBA Annual Keynote Dinner at the Jackson Avenue Terminal, 213 Jackson Ave., Knoxville. The dinner speaker will be Noah Galloway, an Iraqi War Army veteran and double amputee, who was a finalist on the show "Dancing with the Stars." For more information or for tickets, visit <http://www.jointvba.org/>
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Don Smith):** They are looking for a guest speaker for their Saturday, March 26th "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" ceremony at World's Fair Park at 1 p.m. They also recently returned from a successful trip to Vietnam. 18 individuals took the trip to Vietnam in December. Don reported it was a healing trip for many of them. They are planning to schedule another trip to Vietnam in Jan. 2017. Contact VVA if interested in going. VVA meets at the Red Cross bldg. the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. Don thanked Jess for the meeting space. Also, thanked Doug

from Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home for allowing them to use their facility for their Board of Directors' meeting. Don thanked all who came out to the McGhee Tyson Airport to welcome the Vietnam veterans home from their Vietnam trip last month.

- **TN Valley Coalition for the Homeless (Melanie Cordell):** The coalition serves 21 counties in East TN and Southeastern KY. This month they're gathering a national count, which HUD puts together, and are taking volunteers for the region's "Point In Time 2016 Homeless Count" on Monday, Jan. 25th. That day, Knoxville and East TN will be working in a 24 hr. period to count as many homeless individual and homeless veterans they can possibly identify that are on the streets or in the shelters. They will have a survey and training that will be provided to volunteers who participate. The VA will also be helping with the survey. Call the TVCH if you wish to volunteer. HUD will be using the national survey to determine if each region has reached their 2015 end of the year goal to end homelessness. Melanie says this region has not been able to reach those goals due to lack of affordable housing in this region. TVCH is also working in Campbell Co. to build 24 brand new eco-friendly homes for the homeless and those at risk. If are you construction-savvy and would like to volunteer to help, please contact them. They are also looking to hire a data analyst. If any interest or for any referrals, please call at 877-488-8234.
- **Joe Eddlemon:** Told a brief story about Jeep #1, a Chihuahua that was owned by Joe's fellow serviceman whom he served with who later passed away. Jeep #5 later became Joe's dog after his friend's passing.
 - **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** Owen said to remember to keep the deployed service members in your prayers as well as their families, and to keep Laimon Godel in your prayers. ETMAC will have a booth at TVBA's Fair Expo.

- ❖ To become an ETMAC member, go to <https://www.etmac.org/>. Annual membership dues can be paid online or at the monthly meetings. You do not have to be military/veteran to join, need only a desire to support ETMAC's mission.
- ❖ Parking validations are available for those who park in Market Square Garage during the monthly meetings. See Patrice to have your parking validated.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 4, 2016 at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.