

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

JANUARY 7, 2010 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- JANUARY 25th T.D.V.A. Commissioner John Keys will be the guest speaker at the United Veterans of East Tennessee meeting at the Golden Corral (6612 Clinton Highway) at 6:30 p.m. discussing and answering questions regarding the proposed 68.05 acre Veterans cemetery.
- JANUARY 30th There will be an event from 9:00 am till 12:00 pm at the Ben Atchley State Veterans Home to have Veterans come in to apply for medals they have lost or never received. Veterans and families are also invited to come in with medals and ribbons to be identified. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact James Dee at jdenviron@hotmail.com
- FEBRUARY 13th “Field of Flags/Service of Memory” event will be held at 11:00 am at Parkway Presbyterian Church (940 Sanctuary Lane). Volunteers are needed from various local military units and organizations to put out approx. 5,300 American flags the day before on 2/12, with each flag representing one service member killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. For more info contact John Dyess at tnesgr@hotmail.com or Charlie Van Beke at cvanbeke@wmspc.com.
- APRIL 17th The 26.2 mile Mountain Man Memorial March in memory of 1LT Frank Walkup will be held in Gatlinburg, TN.
- APRIL 28th Honor Air Flight #7. For more info go to www.honorairknoxville.com
- JUNE 6th Smokies Baseball “Salute to Heroes Night”

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, January 7th at the Knoxville Chamber, Joseph Mazzola presiding. A total of 61 members and guests were present. The summary of the December meeting was approved. The treasurer’s report shows an end of the month balance as of December 30th of \$9,912.90.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Michael Crawford):** Currently working on planning for the year. Anyone that would be interested in donating to the memorial, go to <http://www.etvma.org>
- **Memorial Day Remembrance at Veterans Memorial (Joe Mazzola):** The American Legion Post 2 is in discussion about possibly having a Memorial Day event at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. Any organizations interested in taking part in this, please contact Joe Mazzola at legionnairejoe@comcast.net
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter and Eddie Mannis):** Flight #7 will be on April 28, 2010 and have currently flown 635 WWII Veterans.

- **Ben Atchley State Veterans Home (Gene Bayless):** They are having a “Coat Drive” through March and anyone can donate coats at the Veterans Home. The coats will be given to homeless Veterans. January through March is usually a slow time at the home and everyone is encouraged to visit the residents during those months. Any groups that are interested in doing a presentation for the residents please call the Activities Director at 862-8100.
- **Red Cross (Karen Trotter):** “Holiday Mail for Heroes” processed about 4000 cards at the Maryville Chapter and sent cards to units in the Middle East and to Veterans in nursing homes, and to local military service members and their families. Blount County “Cents for Soldiers” campaign was successful this year. Those funds are used to increase the information the community gets about the services the Red Cross provides to our military service members and their families and also to fund those programs. The “internet café” kicked off at the Knoxville and Blount County Chapters. The cafés are for service members and their families to be able to use the internet to contact those deployed or living elsewhere. The Maryville Chapter is a site for “Give A Day, Get A Day at Disney” program and people can contact the Red Cross for volunteer opportunities. They also supported many of the Blount County military units this past year and will continue to do so in 2010.
- **Web Site (Laimon Godel):** Last months web-site activity had 1,667 visitors with an average of 53 visitors a day. If any organizations have a public newsletter they want distributed, please send it to Laimon Godel at webmaster@godel.com
- **ETMAC Service Project (James Dee):** On January 30, 2010 from 9:00 am till 12:00 pm there will be an event at the Ben Atchley State Veterans Home to have Veterans come in to apply for medals they have lost or never received. Veterans and families are also invited to come in with medals and ribbons to be identified. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact James Dee at jdenviron@hotmail.com
- **Field of Flags (Charles VanBeke):** “Field of Flags/Service of Memory” event will be held at 11:00 am at Parkway Presbyterian Church (940 Sanctuary Lane). Volunteers are needed from various local military units and organizations to put out approx. 5,300 American flags the day before on 2/12, with each flag representing one service member killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. For more info contact John Dyess at tnesgr@hotmail.com or Charlie Van Beke at cvanbeke@wmspc.com.

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

- **UT Air Force ROTC (LtCol Mike Angle):** Our Company Grade Officer Captain Jim Carbone and our Non-Commissioned Officer Technical Sergeant Shenica Trammell were selected as the Southeast Region Company Grade Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer of the year. On February 9, 2010 they will be bringing 120 cadets to visit Ben Atchley State Veterans Home.

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Darrell Neeley):** Knoxville MEPS is moving to the 5th and 6th floors of the Federal Building in late summer. Thanked the Red Cross for their support with a member of the military in need. Captain Lemons and Captain Butler will be running the Disney Marathon. Captain Lemons was selected as the Air Force District of Washington Junior Officer of the year. The Children’s Christmas party was successful.
- **134 ANG Air Refueling Station (Colonel Dearing):** Received an “excellent” on the Unit Compliance Inspection. Broke ground on a new \$8 million dollar squadron operations building. The “Santa Cops” program that raises money for presents for the children at Children’s Hospital raised \$18,000. They have a unit deploying to Iraq in the next few weeks. Brigadier General Terry “Max” Haston has replaced Major General Gus Hargett as Tennessee’s 75th Adjutant General. MG Hargett will become president of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) in Washington, D.C.

- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Colonel Howard):** They have added 15 Air Force personnel to the staff. Started its largest class of NCO's last week. The eighth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Sam Parish, will be the guest speaker on April 7th. Recently, on November 21, 2009 ETMAC Vice President MG Jack D'Araujo along with a four-star general and other generals went to Washington D.C. to lay out the vision of the future of McGee-Tyson. Thanks to the Red Cross for hosting a class and their support.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (LTC Adam Roth):** The 844th continues its operations in Iraq. A great place to get updates is on Thursdays at 3:00 pm on WIVK in a program called "Voices from the Front" Had a successful Christmas party on December 5, 2009. Special thanks to the American Red Cross, VFW, ESGR, Food City, and Living Legacy International. On February 13th or February 20th, they will be having Yellow Ribbon event #4. A letter was read from Colonel Roth regarding their current mission. Anyone interested in emailing Colonel Roth please email SFC Josh Richardson at joshua.richardson1@usar.army.mil and he will forward it directly to Colonel Roth.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Col Evans):** Presented a check to Eddie Mannis of HonorAir Knoxville for \$5,000. Proposed a future bike ride to raise money, anyone interested in helping plan a ride, please contact Colonel Evans.
- **Navy Reserve Center (CDR Greg Jones):** Currently have 16 sailors serving in Iraq. The 2010 Navy Ball will be held on October 2nd. On June 10th, 2010 they will hold their family support and recognition day. The next family day will be in June, 2010. The February ETMAC meeting will be held at the NOSC.
- **489th Civil Affairs Company (MAJ Bryan Bailey):** The entire company returned home before Christmas. This is the first time since 9/11/2001 without any of its members deployed. Thanks to the Red Cross with support of Christmas dinner and support with soldiers. They have a number of soldiers that are unemployed and if anyone could assist with employment contact Major Bailey.
- **Marines, Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (Captain Joseph Easterling):** This years "Toys for Tots" program was the most successful in Knoxville's history. The program ended with over 5,000 toys remaining and will be given out next year. Thanks to the Red Cross for the grants for the "family day" for pre-deployment training. Three dozen Marines are currently training in Twentynine Palms, CA and will head to Afghanistan in March. A small detachment will be mobilizing in the beginning of March to Okinawa, Japan to assist with the development of counter terrorism. In addition, another group will head to Africa to assist with finding and destroying land mines. The remainder of the Marines will be heading to Alaska to assist with road projects.
- **ESGR (John Dyess):** There was great support and fundraising for the 278th Army National Guard and they were able to return home for Christmas because of those efforts. If anyone knows any soldier that is having difficulties at their workplace because of a deployment or military activity, please have them get in touch with ESGR.
- **United Veterans of East Tennessee (Nathan Weinbaum):** Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner John Keys will be the guest speaker on January 25, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the Golden Corral (6612 Clinton Highway). There has been a lot of discussion and questions regarding a proposed 68.05 acre Veterans cemetery and Commissioner Keys will address the proposed cemetery and answer all questions. Those wishing to eat, please arrive around 6:00 pm.
- **Air Force Sgt Association (Mike Gates):** Adopted a family from the McGee-Tyson Air Base and raised \$1585 for the family. The "Santa Cops" from the 134th ANG Air Refueling Station added another \$1000 which in total gave this family \$2585.
- **U.S. Census (Marty Kauffman):** The US Census 2010 is hiring. Go to www.2010censusjobs.gov for more info.
- **AMVETS Riders (Bruce McElhaney):** On February 27th, they will be traveling to "Camp Hope". 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

- **Thomas Humphries (Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs):** Tips for service members: For service members, make sure the dates and places you deployed to are documented on your DD-214. Also, it is recommended that you sign your DD-214 with blue ink as it will make it easier to determine which one is the original at a later date. Copy your service medical records before you discharge.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
nathan.weinbaum@knoxcounty.org