

# EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

## Jan 10, 2013 MEETING SUMMARY

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JANUARY 28 & 29 <sup>th</sup>	TVBA EXPO Knoxville Convention Center
FEBRUARY 7	ETMAC Meeting at Chamber
MARCH 7	ETMAC Meeting at Red Cross
APRIL 4	ETMAC Meeting at NOSC
APRIL 19-20	Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg, TN
APRIL 24	HonorAir Knoxville Flight #13
MAY 6	East TN Veterans Memorial Association 3rd Annual Medal of Honor Evening

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### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, January 10, 2013 at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce ETMAC President Barry Allen, presiding. President Allen introduced the 2013 ETMAC Board of Directors and announced that a Secretary was still needed to complete the Board roster, and further added that he would be pleased to receive any suggestions.
- 62 members and guests were present, and the December meeting summary was approved as distributed with no corrections or additions.
- The Treasurer's report shows a current balance of \$16,218.58 with a final reconciliation at the next meeting. Total expenses for the annual Veterans Day luncheon were \$10,740.34.
- President Allen also provided a recap on the Weigels Foundation to assist local military families over the Holiday Season with 12- \$1,500 gifts. He cited the synergy among the members and companies supporting the local military and veteran's community. Sam Hardman suggested ETMAC send a certificate of appreciation to Weigels and the membership agreed.
- Webmaster Liamon Godel provided the year-end information of website usage. With an average of 41 visitors per day, the countries with the most visitors were Ukraine, China and Russia. The most frequently accessed pages were the Red Cross information page and the 2011 Economic Impact Report.

### MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY UPDATES

- **UT Air Force ROTC** – Capt Michael Wilson thanked ETMAC and the AFA for the contribution to the Cadets' Thanksgiving Dinner. He reported that the move was complete from Stokley Hall to the Hoskins Library, and classes were now in session. Upcoming events included providing color guards at the Monster Jam and participating in the Mountain Man Memorial March.
- **UT Army ROTC**- not in attendance
- **US Army Recruiting Command – CPT Scott Glidden** – The Army simulator will be at Karns High School at the end of January; otherwise, business as usual.

- **US Air Force Recruiting Command** – Not in attendance
- **Military Entrance Processing Station – LCDR Lester Isaac** – Business as usual. First quarter enlistments are up and MEPS shipped out 39 more recruits than the same time period last year. Building on track for construction and move in tentatively is scheduled for mid/late July.
- **119<sup>th</sup> Command and Control Squadron – Lt Col Sam Keener** – Col Franklin was promoted, and they are two months out from compliance inspection.
- **134<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing – Col Randall Gratz** – Very busy with planes and approx. 35 crews per month being deployed. They will be supporting the Presidential Inauguration. Not selected as candidate for the KC46 base and as a result, may be losing several aircraft.
- **1-230 Air Cavalry Squadron – LTC Mel Clawson** – Clawson has assumed command, with a busy month. Reported that everyone got home for the holidays. Support and security group are on the Southwest Border.
- **278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment – Col Jeff Archer** – Quiet month –however, beginning to ramp up training and will be participating in training exercises in Smyrna. Serious problem of suicides – with three in regiment.
- **489<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion – Mr. France** – Busy month with community support activities. They will be participating in the “Plug into the Community” recycle event on 29<sup>th</sup>. Focusing on reintegration and yellow ribbon programs.
- **844<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion – Dennis McVey** – Thanks for the help on “Family Day” to many groups in ETMAC. Busy month, with Brigade commander visit next week. March is annual training.
- **Co D, 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion – Capt Charles Hunt** – Toys for Tots is over and they had another very successful year, and were able to assist over 6000 children this past holiday season. Sgt Larkin is leaving USMC. Next month they get back to their mission of “shooting and blowing things up”.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – 1Sgt Bacon** – Started new classes with 256 NCO Academy students and 60 Airmen Leadership, with four Canadians. Bulgarian students expected as well in the future.
- **Naval Operations Support Center –Chief Todd Johnson** – Building remodel going smoothly. Anchor dedication is March 9<sup>th</sup>. Commander Grant is departing and Commander Jordan will be arriving from Hawaii. April meeting offered to be at NAS to show off new building.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol** - Not in attendance
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 - Dave Roberts** – Safety stand down - Life jacket emphasis and Coast Guard culture presentations available for groups. Boat safety classes begin in February at West Marine. USCG recruiter is in Nashville.

### **MILITARY & VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES**

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association– Joleen Dewald** - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Medal of Honor Evening has been scheduled for Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Foundry Building. The honoree will be MOH recipient Paul B Huff from Cleveland TN. Group, individual and corporate tickets will be available for purchase online beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **American Legion – Bob Dewald** – Legion continues to grow and currently has 638 members. They are again sponsoring the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mountain Man Memorial March.
- **Air Force Association – Steve Dillenburg** – AFA “Teacher of the Year” nominees are due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **Air Force Sergeants Association Update – Mike Gates** – AFSA Redistricting has now been completed with a successful transition.
- **Honor Air** – Joe Sutter - Flight #14 has been scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup>
- **Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – Doug Ottinger** – Thanks to those who visited during the Holidays.
- **ESGR – John Dyess** - 55,276 National Guard and Reserve currently deployed. Attended 2 - day workshop on suicides – losing 18 vets a day nationwide to suicide. Coca Cola still actively recruiting veterans for a variety of job openings.
- **Mountain Man Memorial March – Capt Mark Farley** – MMMM is scheduled for 19 & 20 April in Gatlinburg. Anticipating almost 100 Gold Star Families to attend. Need corporate sponsors and currently requesting in-kind donations. For more information on the event or to register a team, please visit the website: [mountainmanmemorialmarch.com](http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com)
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association – Jonathan Williams** – Our 3rd Annual Business and Education expo will be held on January 28 & 29 at the Knoxville Convention Center. This year’s theme is “Full Access to the Public and Private Sector, a Celebration of the Diversity within the East TN Business Community”. The week of January 28th - February 1st has been proclaimed "Veteran Owned Business Week" by the Governor's Office. The keynote speaker for the dinner is Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis. Tickets are still available – please visit <http://www.jointvba.us>
- **American Red Cross – Knox & Blount Counties – Jess Hernandez** – Nursing scholarships are available until end of February. March ETMAC meeting at Red Cross Office
- **East TN Department of Veterans Affairs - Don Smith** – Remains of TN Korean War POW arriving Nashville for escort and military funeral on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Marine Corps League – Laimon Godel** – The League supported the Toys for Tots program with more than 500 volunteer hours.
- **MOWW – Don Amburn** – Leadership conference and JROTC luncheon on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Next meeting – Thursday, February 7 at the Knoxville Chamber**

- **ETMAC Webpage:** Please send anything to be added to the calendar to [webmaster@godel.com](mailto:webmaster@godel.com)