



**EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**July 13, 2017 MEETING SUMMARY**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- JUL 19 Joint Operation Event, Chilhowee Park, 9a – 2p
- JUL 15 Navy Ball Carwash, Advance Auto, Kodak Hwy 66
- JUL 22 Passing of the Lead Ceremoby at LexLin Gypsy Ranch, 11a – 9p
- JUL 31 VEGGIE 5-wk UT Garden Therapy Program begins
- AUG 2 Honor Air Flight
- AUG 3 ETMAC meeting Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 am
- AUG 4 Vietnam War: East Tennessee, 5-7 pm @ East Tennessee History Center
- AUG 5-6 USMC Reserve Family Day
- AUG 11 TVBA Meeting, 6-8 pm @ Villa Collina
- AUG 18 Ken Burns: The Vietnam War, 5-7 pm @ East Tennessee History Center
- AUG 29 REBOOT 12-wk course begins, 6:30-8:30pm at Farragut Church of Christ
- SEP 1 Vietman War, UT Student Films, 5-7 pm @ East Tennessee History Center
- SEP 1 Golf Tournament, Air Force Recruiting Command, MSgt Chris Robson
- SEP 16 Marine Corps Mud Run
- SEP 23 Veteran’s Picnic, Chilhowee Park, 11:30 – 1:30 RSVP: [VVA1078@gmail.com](mailto:VVA1078@gmail.com)
- Oct 4-8 “The Wall That Heals” open 24 hours a day @ Lynnhurst Funeral Home
- OCT 6 Healing Waters Banquet, The Foundry, 6-9:30pm, call 866-251-7252 ext. 128
- OCT 21 Navy Ball

For a complete listing please visit <http://www.etmac.org> and click events

## ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. MAJ Stephanie McKeen presided over the meeting. A total number of 72 were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by MAJ Stephanie McKeen
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
  - Charlie Cardwell, Commander, Military Order of Purple Heart Chapter # 356
  - Mike Dublin, Chaplain, Training Center, McGhee Tyson
  - CPT Cullen Torres, Inspector Instructor at Co D, 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers Battalion
  - 1SG Mike Crouse, TEC at McGhee Tyson
  - Eric Barton, President, Tennessee Veteran's Business Association (TVBA)
  - Leigh Ann, Membership coordinator, TVBA
  - LCDR Emily Wilson, MEPS Commander
  - Milly Burnett, UT Gardens Therapy Program for Veterans
  - Mike Simpson, Reboot Combat Recovery
  - Stacey Nichols, Reboot Combat Recovery
- **Treasurer's Report: Darren Burrell** reported income of \$200, expenses of \$125 with just over \$16,000 balance. If you haven't paid your dues, please go online and make that payment. Looking for sponsors for the donuts and coffee for the meeting.
- **Webmaster's Report: Barry Allen** – 161 sessions, 151 users, 83% new users, mostly English, Portuguese, 2 Korea, 1 Greece, 1 Great Britain. Cities, mostly Knoxville and Nashville, also Boston, Maryville, Atlanta, Farragut, Beijing, Louisville and D.C. 36% used Chrome, 27% Internet Explorer and 21% Safari. Phone access – 62% apple and 36% android.
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association:** (<https://gotvba.com/>) **Dawn Williams**, Marketing Manager and **Steve Stilts** are the support team for TVBA which was relaunched in Spring. **Jonathan Williams** is still involved. **Eric Barton** is the new partner, Veteran, multi business owner, and philanthropist. TVBA had a successful golf tournament in June. Will have a booth at Joint operations. Planning stages of January 2018 Expo and Veteran Job fair. Looking for venue and speakers. Teresa and LeighAnn are membership coordinators. Go to website for more information.
- **Joint Operation: Jane Jolley** (865) 637-4180  
Flier in the back that Patrice sent out to everyone about this event to help veterans and family members to learn about the different resources that are available to them. 82 participants. Thanks to Tom Humphries, John Rice, COL Ragland and Patrice Collins who have been instrumental in bringing this together.
- **Knoxville Reboot Combat Recover: Michael Simpson** Structured 12-wk course that helps veterans and their families heal from the spiritual and moral injuries of war associated with post-traumatic stress and combat trauma. Video presented. Next session starting August 29<sup>th</sup>, Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm, FREE for Vets, Meal and childcare provided at Farragut Church of Christ, 136 Smith Road, Knoxville, TN 37934. Contact Stacey Nichols, (865)582-5330. Email: [snich@tds.net](mailto:snich@tds.net). Go to [www.rebootrecovery.com](http://www.rebootrecovery.com) for more information.
- **UT Garden's Therapy Program for Veterans: Milly Burnett** VEGGIE is a 5-week-long horticulture therapy pilot program for veterans. Horticultural therapy is a promising new area of treatment for veterans suffering with PTSD and/or other mental health issues. "Veterans Experiencing Growth Through Garden Interactive Experiences", (VEGGIE) starting on July 31 is from 2-3pm on July 31 at UT gardens. Will have plots for all veterans - growing vegetables and fall plantings and discussion on therapeutic issues. FREE program. For more information contact Derrick Stowell at 865-974-7151 Office [dstowell@utk.edu](mailto:dstowell@utk.edu) | [utgardens.tennessee.edu](http://utgardens.tennessee.edu)
- **PBS Special on Vietnam: Jim Dee** Local PBS will do an entire series on Vietnam. Have fliers in back. One thing not on there is a Prescreening of Vietnam War in East Tennessee at the Tennessee Theater on Saturday, August 19. It is free but you still need to reserve tickets. The website is not up yet, but will get that information out via Patrice so that you can reserve your seat. Also, they will catalog your Vietnam items at this event.

- **ETMAC Announcements: Patrice Collins** Veterans Day luncheon is on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. It will not be on same day as the parade so that it will not be so difficult to fit everything in. We are looking for Commander Nominees for ETMAC to honor at the luncheon so please start thinking about who you will nominate from your unit for this honor. Will send out more info.
- **President's Report: MAJ Stephanie McKeen** Hopefully by August meeting will have an announcement on who our speaker will be at the Veterans Day Luncheon. It's the year of the Navy. Also, we are looking for a volunteer to help out with the powerpoint presentation of pictures from the units to display during the luncheon. We didn't do it last year because it is a time consuming process, but these young military airman or soldiers are really quick at this stuff so if you have someone who can help with this, please let Patrice know. It is very special to have this photo presentation and we would like to do that.

### MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – Major Joseph Westfall** – Defined Tennessee State National Guard as give support and back up for civilian organization and events and also back up and support for the Tennessee National Guard. Will be involved an exercise on the 22 to support the communications and assistance to get recruits form one part of the country to another.
- **1-100<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion** – *unable to attend*
- **119<sup>th</sup> Command and Control Squadron** – *no one in attendance*
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – LTC Pat Wade** – *no one in attendance*
- **134<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing – Col Lee Hartley** deployments has picked up both in Middle East and Pacific. Planning for 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Fall, October time frame. Chaplain Steen is getting a shipment from Dave Ramsey for donation of about 1000 financial peace instruction books for military personnel. When they come in, we will send out the contact information and you can email to get the number that you need for units.
- **278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment – SGM Bobby Lee in for COL Jimmie Cole** and COL Bolland who are TDY out of country. Regiment just back from Ft. Hood, TX. Over 5000 soldiers and airman for 25 days in field. Airman from TN national guard flew down and back. National Guard, Army Reserve and Active duty soldiers from 3<sup>rd</sup> Calvary Regiment at Ft. Hood from 11 states and Puerto Rico. 2000+ pieces of equipment transported to Ft. Hood. Prepping for ATC rotation late spring 2018. Follow on missions end of 18 and all of 2019.
- **489<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion** – *unable to attend*
- **844<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion** – *unable to attend*
- **Air Force Recruiting Command – MSgt Chris Robson** Change of Command - LTC Holmes now Squadron Commander. In the news, had a pipe bomb thrown at AF recruiting office door. No injuries but always keep head up. Recruiting has had a real struggle but picking up pace moving into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Each flight in squadron in charge of raising money for booster club so will do a golf tournament on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please plan to attend and will get more details out through Patrice.
- **Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – AET1 Christopher Rapp** – *Nothing to report*
- **Co D, 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion – CPT Cullen Torres** New Commander from school in Quantico. Thanked Patrice for coming to change of command on 19<sup>th</sup>. Replacing CPT Kevin Druffel-Rodriquez. Sent squad of engineers out to Camp Pendleton for an Engineer Squad Challenge in physical fitness, visual infantry, engineer task. Also sent a platoon out to the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, CA to support an infantry battalion. Also doing a command sponsored Corporal's course, 35 students. Thanked LTC Meece. Sending some folks to AL to support another company. Later this month sending some folks to Baltimore to get tactical vehicle licenses.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Lt Col Dave Meece - Col Kerry Lovely** new commander out this week. Farewell to COL Donovan. 189 ALS students, 119 NCOA students, 20 students for instructor certification course. End of the month will have the building dedication for new dorm and classroom with over 100 people expected at that event. Bringing in a new commandant for EP&B, Chief Hinkley. Welcome the new First Sargeant and we have an intern Chaplain who grew up in Knoxville. Doan's market & Deli is his family business. Full time Chaplain Green is coming late August or early September.

- **Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) - *unable to attend***
- **Military Entrance Processing Station – LCDR Brandi McGehee** current commander. New MEPS Commander – LCDR Emily Wilson is new commander taking over. Thanks to all for what they have done for MEPS, especially to Patrice for help and wealth of information.
- **Navy Operational Support Center – LCDR Kevin Settle**  
CO of Knox Knoxville. Fliers on the back - US Department of Agriculture starting a program, Vets feed families. Will start collecting non perishable food items at the NOSC, 2101 Alcoa Hwy, Knoxville, TN 37920 from July 19 to August 31. Will turn food over to local food pantries, red cross, and other places that need it.  
Navy Ball on Oct 21. MC3 Bryan Tomforde. Due to a change of command at the NOSC earlier this spring, as well as changes in other key staff members over the last couple of months, the local Navy Reserve personnel are about three to four months behind on their fundraising efforts, and \$4,000 short, for the Knoxville Navy Ball, which is Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017 at the Knoxville Marriott. Car wash in August to raise funds for the Ball. This Saturday in Kodak we have an event at AutoZone. Any help appreciated. Email sent out by Patrice with details. We have sailors in Bahrain, Afghanistan, and personally back from Italy. Navy will be 242 years old and would love for all to join us to celebrate. Help requested from money, volunteers, gift cards. Will be at Marriott. (865) 773-2449, Knoxville Navy league is our charity and is all tax deductible. Knoxville Ball and Knoxville Navy Ball 2017 facebook pages.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – Lt Col Dent Young – *no one in attendance***
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – CDR Tom Murphy** peak season for recreational boating safety and support for active duty coast guard. Just got through July 4, holiday period and that is time that experience a lot of activity on water which is a time of great risk. Few incidences and no serious problems but a lot of DUI and other dangerous activities for law enforcement. Our mission is to keep people safe on the water. Malibu boat manufacturing is running a program for couple of days where they will shut down the river, doing wakeboarding and other sports. We provide safety patrols and perimeter security. Oak ridge rowing association events and dragon boat races are other events that we assist. The VFW in Tellico village area is putting on a Boats for Vets program where civilians offer boats and time to take Vets and families out on the water. Date is Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 10a – 4p. Jim Jorgenson from Tellico Village VFW Post 12135 is the point of contact. (865) 458-2792. .
- **UT Air Force ROTC – Captain Mark Farley**  
Reporting for LTC Lancaster who can't be here, visiting family before PCS to Italy. CPT Ferguson PCS to the pentagon. Family and daughter doing well. New commander coming in, LTC Matthew Castillo will be here in August. In November, CPT Jessica Monica is coming from Korea. 2 Cadets in Army Air Assault course at Ft. Campbell. Have 20 rising Juniors at field training and majority coming back as DG's, top 10% or Superior Performance, top 20%. Just commissioned 15, now on active duty. A program many don't know about is Total force commission for guard or reserve troops are welcome in the Senior ROTC program. At UT we have Army and Air Force which is encouraged for enlisted in your active duty organization or reservist working on a degree and want to become an officer, let's get them on the "yellow brick road" of ROTC which is the way for them to get a commission. The program will not interfere with their enlistment commitment. Also, 17 & 18 November, UT veterans alumni reunion at UT. Stay tuned for more information.

#### **VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES**

- **Air Force Association – Paula Pension** August hosted by business partner, Choices in Senior Care. Getting ready for annual golf tournament on October 9. Look for fliers. All recruiters golf free.
- **American Legion Post 2 – Larry Sharp** – Will be involved in outreach program at Jacobs building July 19. We are planning a flag retirement ceremony, dates yet to be announced. Will be involved in The Wall on Oct 4 – 8. Always involved in membership drive if anyone interested in joining.
- **American Red Cross – Tom DeHoog – *not in attendance***
- **Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – Doug Ottinger** We have a full house and still have some open positions, RN nursing and CRN.

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association – Joleen Dewald** quiet at the memorial right now. Still have some of the challenge coins available for a \$20 donation. Date set for dinner honoring Alvin York on Monday, May 7. Date set for Mountain Man Memorial March for April 14. More info to come in the fall.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard – Reid Gerhardt** – nothing to report
- **Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner** – nothing to report
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Freddy Owen** – *unable to attend*
- **ESGR – Bob Williams** Approximately 35,500 reservist and national guard on federal duty. Trying to encourage county government to follow Knox county lead to increase wait time from 20 to 30 days. Will participate in Joint Operation and USMC reserve family day on August 5-6. Putting together list of folks interested in going on a “Boss” day with LCOL Wade and his crew. 6 months ago did one up to Campbell county. Most of employers and civilians have never been on military facility or participate in anything military. When then see what their employees are doing, they are impressed. Need list of employers to invite on this trip.
- **Honor Air – Joe Sutter** Preparing for next flight. Orientation coming up week from Saturday. The flight is on Wednesday, August 2. All Vietnam Veterans flight of 130 attending. Plans on way for flight # 25 on Oct 4.
- **Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries** *nothing to report*
- **Knoxville Vet Center – Emily Feedback** *nothing to report*
- **Marine Corps League – Eric Nash** Marine Corps mud run on Septmeber 17. Go to <https://www.mclknoxville.org/> for more information. We have a pistol shoot this weekend. September will have a rifle shoot. BYObullets and gun. Pearl Ridge still having a rough time with her health condition. Keep them in your prayers.
- **Mountain Man Memorial March – Joleen Dewald** Memorial March set for April 14.
- **MOWW - Owen Haddock** – *not in attendance*
- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Steve Thompson**, 5 fishing outings so far this year. Two of those outings we hosted Wounded Warrior project veterans from Tennessee area so have had over 90 veterans participate this year. This is a relationship based program. Very inclusive, want everyone involved to help people regain confidence an independence. Invite veterans around country for tournament. We have 16 participating this year so we are looking for donations or sponsors. Flier in back. \$50 tickets for the banquet.ETMAC members get an orange shirt.  
<http://www.smokymountainslam.com/>
- **Veteran Appreciation Program – Larry Sharp** continues to be the business connection between veteran friendly business and the veteran and military community in Tennessee. This Saturday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Veteran appraeciation breakfast is happening in Powell, TN at the Powell Community Center at 1708 West Emory. Had over 100 veterans last month for the first event sponsored by Mayor Burchett.
- **Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – Patti McGrew** – *not in attendance*
- **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1076 – Don Smith** \_Sept 23 at Chilhowee Park will have Veterans Picnic for all Veterans and family from all eras. Flier in back. Please RSVP to give some idea of amount of food.  
The wall that Heals replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. will be here from Oct 4 – 8<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Burchett and Knox County made it possible to be here. Organizational meeeting was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. The wall will be open from time arrives at 6pm on October 4<sup>th</sup> to time that it closes down at 4pm on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>. All of these hourse have to be manned along with the education center that goes with it. Takes 8 people on team to man the wall, the grounds and the education center for 24 hours. We broke down those time periods to 4 hour blocks. Need different units and organizations to sign up. We have 19 slots left. Fliers on back table. Knoxwall.org - <https://s-kwolcott.wixsite.com/thewall>
- **Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – Clyde Vincent** We still have funds available to help Veterans and their families to stay in housing or to get to housing. Also covers guard and reserve who have one day of active duty service outside of training. Plenty of money avail.

All veteran standdown – As of now, we are not having a stand down this year in Knox county. We are taking to the standdown to the outlying counties. Sept 9 have one in Claiborne county. Will have more info out soon.

- **Women Marines Association – Lindsay Long** – *not in attendance*
- **Rolling Thunder – Brenda Owensby** We have some flag raising coming up. If you want us to come raise the POW/MIA flag, we will provide the flag, just let us know. We will also be at the Joint Operation event. Also, we have several members who will support The Wall That Heals.
- **Bill Potter, MAJ, Air Force Retired Member of the Military Officer's Association of America** – This spring we assisted with the presentation of 15 + awards, metals and citations of JROTC High School Units. Also made presentations to 3 college ROTC units to rising seniors – UT Army, UT Air Force and the Carson Neuman ROTC units together with a \$500 stipend. Will participate in Joint Operations and working on a membership drive.
- **Greg Crawford, veteran education coordinator, dept of veteran services.** The Tennessee Legislature put out money for the third time to schools to help Veterans achieve in education. This year focused on higher learning assessment so that military can get their military experience into college credit. 13 schools were awarded \$18,000. 6 of them in East Tennessee. One is Pellissippi. UT opened up new VET center at heart of UT. Open from M-F 8-5.
- **TVBA, Eric Barton** has a horse ranch in Rockwood. Next weekend having an open house and a ceremony for a non profit program called Gypsy Gift. Gypsy horses are perfect for equine therapy. This year will have donated 65 horses to equine therapy programs across the nation. LexLin Gypsy ranch will host the family friendly event on Saturday. Everyone is invited. <https://www.gogypsy.com/>
- Joe sutter reminded Patrice to announce that PZ Horton from Memphis interested in getting a WTMAC – **West Tennessee Military Affairs Council** going so may need testimonials or input from commanders or members so just a head up on that. .

CORRECTIONS June 1, 2017 Meeting notes:

Reported: MAJ Joseph *Westpaul*, Tennessee State Guard, SF5 Civil Affairs Coordinator  
Correction: last name – **Westfall**

Reported: Marine Corps League – *The Reserve Association*  
Correction: **The Marine Corps Reserve Association**

**Next Meeting of ETMAC: Thursday, August 3, 2017 at  
Knoxville Chamber of Commerce**

**For Corrections or input, Contact:**

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