

# EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

## July 11, 2013 MEETING SUMMARY

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- AUG 3                      NOSC along with Smoky Mountain Harley Davidson Ride/Concert for Wounded Warrior Project – 3PM-Midnight
- SEPT 14                    Knoxville Area Veterans Stand Down – National Guard Armory
- NOVEMBER 11            Veterans' Day Parade and Veterans' Day Luncheon

**STAY CURRENT:      [WWW.ETMAC.ORG](http://WWW.ETMAC.ORG)**

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, July 11, 2013, at the Knoxville Chamber with President Barry Allen, presiding. President Allen welcomed six new members and guests.
- 60 members and guests were present, and the June meeting summary was approved and distributed with no corrections.
- The Treasurer reported \$437.90 checks were written which included a \$300 donation to the 844<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Family Day. Deposits were made for \$100 - leaving a balance of \$15, 690.86.
- The Webmaster report shows a total hits summary over the last month of 28,791.
- President Allen
  - Patrice announced that Knoxville has been named the most Patriotic City in America by USA today.
  - Patrice announced that O'Charley's will be host another Hometown Heroes Event in conjunction with their restaurant re-opening on Parkside Drive - 22 July at 6:30pm. This event will honor MSG Michael Trost.

### GUEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **ETTAC (East TN Technology Access Center) – Matthew Jones/Stephen White, 865-219-0130** – Collect durable medical equipment and computers, and refurbish it to give to VETS in need; <http://www.ettac.org/>
- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Steve Thompson** – Serving wounded military service members by providing basic fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying and rod building classes, along with clinics; participants ranging from beginners who have never fished before, to those with prior fly fishing and tying experience who are adapting their skills to their new abilities. All fly fishing and tying equipment is provided to the participants at no cost. Fishing trips, both one day and multi-day, are also provided free of charge to participants [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org)
- **Hometown Heroes Celebration for MSG Michael Trost – Patrice Collins - July 22 at 6 pm – O'Charley's on Parkside Drive** – Invitation to all to come out to dinner and celebrate with MSG Trost as one of our Hometown Heroes
- **Knoxville Vet Center – Steve Purello** - Provides a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>
- **TN Dept of Human Services, Child Support Division – Sherry Farmer** – Some of the services provided are as follows – Locating a child's parents, establishing paternity of a child, establishing & enforcing child support orders and establishing & enforcing medical support - [http://www.tn.gov/humanserv/cs/cs\\_main.html](http://www.tn.gov/humanserv/cs/cs_main.html)

## MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY UPDATES

- **UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col Jack Lancaster** - Introduced himself as the new Professor of Aerospace Studies.
- **US Army Knoxville Recruiting Command – CPT Jared Hull** –Had many members working the Oak Ridge Secret City Festival last month.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station – LCDR Jason McNear – Launching new Career Exploration Program**; trying to get it implemented in several area high schools.
- **119<sup>th</sup> Command and Control Squadron – Capt Stephanie McKeen** – Furlough days have begun for the unit; Fiscal year '14 budgeting planning has begun; The unit family day is set for Aug. 4 from 10-2.
- **134<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing – Col Tommy Cauthen** - Furlough days implemented; Still supporting CENTCOM, PACOM, and inspections are in full swing.
- **1-230 Air Calvary Squadron – LTC Mel Clawson** – 68 employees are furloughed - equals 90% of full-time manning; Preparing for a gunnery exercise in August.
- **278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Squadron – LTC Keith Scott** – Busiest training time – high intensity training and new equipment fielding.
- **489<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion – LTC Clifford Faulkner** – Several folks just came back from Joint Readiness Training Center; July is the biggest month for professional development training/courses.
- **844<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion – Maj Allen Floyd** – Several companies headed out to CONUS locations for training; Preparing several folks for upcoming deployments; Brigade won the Commanders trophy for the highest Readiness level; Preparing for family day in July.
- **Co D, 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion – Captain Charlie Hunt** – Headed to Fort Knox for annual training; Gaining a new First Sergeant in October.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Col Cathcart** – 250+ EPME students; New program to gain more International students; Working with the Guard Bureau to gain a Video tele-training system.
- **Naval Operations Support Center – Chief Todd Johnson** – Visited Children's Hospital; Off-site next week at Cumberland County HS to re-paint their blue angel; ESGR will head to the NOSC to give out 11 employer support awards; Smoky Mountain Harley Davidson Ride/Concert for Wounded partnered with the NOSC will be on Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – DVCDR Dave Roberts** – High Boating Season – emphasizing ESG (electric shock grounding) awareness in the month of July.

## VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association – Joleen DeWald** – Nothing Significant to report.
- **American Legion – Marvin Tuggle** – May be selling old building in order to purchase a new Post – raising funds; Poker Run August 17 at the Smokies Ball Park
- **Air Force Association – Steve Dillenburg** – Encouraging area high school students to compete in the AF Cyber Security competition – need coaches and mentors - more info at <http://www.afa.org/Home/>
- **Honor Air – Barry Allen** - Flight #15 will be Wednesday Oct 9<sup>th</sup>;
- **2014 Medal of Honor Convention Update – Joleen DeWald** – website is live – encourages everyone to view at <http://www.mohknoxville.com/>
- **Ben Atchley's Veteran's Home – Doug Ottinger** – Several Open beds because the first 440 veterans on the waiting list were not ready when contacted; Encourages everyone to put your eligible veterans on the waiting list.
- **ESGR** – 53,000+ Guard and Reserve still on active duty; Several area businesses won the Patriot Award and the SECDEF Employer Support Freedom Award – visit <http://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Who-is-ESGR.aspx> for more info; Food City race night Aug 21<sup>st</sup> in Knoxville and Bristol, ESGR will have a booth promoting the H2H program <https://h2h.jobs/>

- **American Red Cross – Knox & Blount Counties – Jess Hernandez** – Working on a financial Grant for Guard/Reserve – more details to come.
- **Knox County Veterans Affairs Office – Buzz Buswell** – Wanting to get the word out that they are willing to travel to any reasonable location to help Veterans who would not otherwise be able to travel to their office.
- **East TN Department of Veterans Affairs Office – POC Bonnie Johnson 865-594-6158** – Roane, Anderson, Morgan – 21 August, 9am – 2pm at VFW in Harriman – there to help with Veteran related issues – [www.tn.gov/veteran](http://www.tn.gov/veteran)
- **Marine Corps League – Laimon Godel** - Mud Run will be 21 September, need participants and volunteers to help.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America – (Knox Chapter) Gary Ellis (President)** – Agent Orange Town Hall meeting – 23 July 2013 from 6pm-9pm –Community Action Center 2247 Western Ave, Knoxville; Contact Don Smith 615-828-5014.
- **MOWW – Joe Eddlemon** - Meets the second Wednesday each month at Rothschild Conf. Center – 11am
- **Volunteers of America – Knoxville Stand Down – Melanie Finuf/Byron Dickerson** - Community-based intervention program designed to help homeless veterans “combat” life on the streets. Homeless vets are provided access to the community resources needed to begin addressing their individual problems and rebuilding their lives.

**Next meeting – Next meeting – Thursday, Aug 1  
Knoxville Chamber**

- **ETMAC Webpage:** Please send anything to be added to the calendar to [webmaster@godel.com](mailto:webmaster@godel.com)
  - **The meeting was adjourned at 0933 am**