

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

June 4, 2015 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JUNE 12-13	Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Viewing at South Knoxville Walmart
JULY 14	Flag Retirement Ceremony – American Legion - Red Cross Building
JULY 18	Ray's Diving Service – Free diving instruction
SEPTEMBER 26	Marine Mud Run
OCTOBER 07	Honor Air Flight

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call to Order:** President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 57 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - LCDR Brandi McGhee – MEPS – New Commander – Begins 12JUL15
 - Capt Kevin Rodriguez will be taking over for Maj Hunt Company D
- **Minutes of Previous Meetings:** No changes required on previous minutes. Meeting minutes stand.
- **Treasurer's Report (Steve Dillenburg):** Last month's ending balance was \$13,966. ETMAC wrote checks for a total of \$807: \$300 went to Honor Air and \$300 to TEC for family day. Deposits were made in the amount of \$402. The months ending balance was \$13,561.56. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual 2015 dues can be paid to any ETMAC officer or on the ETMAC website at <http://etmac.org/>
- **Webmaster's Report:** Please send anything to be added to the calendar to Barry Allen, ETMAC Webmaster, at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com. Remember membership applications online. Coins are also available for \$15.
- **Guest Reports:**
 - **Jody Lowry – Woodman of the World – Red Basket Fund Raiser** – Gold Star Memorial Monument – Goal is to raise \$89,000. 100% of funds go directly to fund with no administrative costs. Keli Offerman (877)969-7378 keli@redbasket.org
 - **Patrice Collins – Rays Diving Services** is offering free diving lesson to veterans on 18JUL15 from 11:00-4:00PM, more information to following. Trevor from the Diving Service will be attending the July ETMAC meeting.
- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** ETMAC received letter of appreciation from Eddie Mannis for the Honor Air donation last month. Owen sent a letter of support to the

Vietnam Veterans of America for bringing their national conference to Knoxville in 2019. Owen also plans on writing a letter of appreciation to the Smokies organization for their “Salute to Heroes”.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Capt Matthew McKeen):** Capt McKeen briefed that they had a visit from the newly appointed TN Air Guard Chief of Staff – BG Thomas Kennett from Joint Force Headquarters. Fiscal Year planning for 2016-2017 ongoing. The unit is continuing to work site activation task force items. All of unit leadership is currently at Weapon System Council in Texas.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Lt Col Jason Brock):** Rolling into AEF rotations at the wing over the next couple of months. Continuing the planning phase for the 2016 Smoky Mountain Air Show. It looks like one hanger will be renovated and it may be possible to have hanger “new construction” over the next five years.
- **1-230 Air Cavalry Squadron (LTC Mel Clawson):** Supporting 278th Regiment over the next three weeks at Camp Shelby, MS. Soldiers on ground in Germany inspecting aircraft that they are to receive. Should see aircraft by mid-July or the 1st of August. Staffing a brief for the TAG on plan for receiving aircraft. Awaiting NGB numbers for actual positions full-time and traditional across state.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (MAJ John Bowlin):** They have been involved in two war-fighter exercises with Indiana 38th Infantry Division and Korea 2nd Infantry Division. We have rotated soldiers in and out of Bulgaria – various state partnership missions. Also participated in working groups at Fort Leavenworth. Beginning annual field training next week – 3,000 soldiers through Camp Shelby over a four week period - \$17M payroll, 300,000 gallons of fuel, 150,000 meals, 1000 pieces of equipment to include 60 tanks, 100 infantry fighting vehicles, and one of “Mel’s” helicopters.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (CAPT Robert Henning):** Personnel competed in 4th Engineering Battalion competition, two of our soldiers took home 1st place. Soldiers headed to Fort McCoy for exercise. They also have teams going to Bulgaria and Northern Africa.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (1st Sgt Lambert):** A few Marines headed to Korea. Also having Marines headed to Fort Knox for basic expeditionary training and Camp Shelby for training next month. Maj Hunt headed to Okinawa Japan for a two year tour.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Capt Show):** Col Meyeraan is hosting the Enlisted Heritage Museum curators from Maxwell, AFB. They came up to help TEC take care of its historical memorabilia. NCO and Airman Leadership class currently at TEC, graduating the first part of July. Currently hosting Air War College for the next two weeks. Family day June 12th.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station – (LCDR Jason McNear):** Welcomed new Commander and appreciation to ETMAC and community for great support over his tenure.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (PS2(AW) Felix Garcia):** Nothing significant to report.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** Wrapping up training at Fort Campbell. Ungraded inspection from active Air Force and graded exercise –

Management, paperwork and operations during high ops tempo to test readiness.

Exercise in Elizabethton later this summer and attending Leadership academy at TEC.

- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 (LCDR Dave Roberts):** 2014 Report card - 810 deaths nationwide up 9% from 2013. 85% were not wearing life vests. 13 children died, 8 of those were not wearing life vests. 2014 TN numbers were down 24 to 14. However the stand-up paddle boards are considered vessels, you must wear life jacket or have it on hand. 60% of all accidents involve alcohol, don't drink and boat. Accident in Knoxville on the first day of boating season, vent your gas tank properly. If you smell fumes, trust your nose. We have already had 8 fatal accidents on TN waters.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Capt Drew Ferguson):** Commissioned 14 new officers and 14 cadets attending summer field training. Tracking nine high school scholarship recipients into the fall class. Planning for a busy fall.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **American Legion (Rod Myers):** Next Meeting July 7th with dinner at 06:00PM at the Red Cross building for the foreseeable future. Flag Retirement Ceremony – 14JUL15 starting at 6:00 with Ice Cream social to follow.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** 10 Scholarships available to Active, retired members as well as their immediate family members, the grant is for \$1,100 to become a Nursing Assistant. The veteran has to come up with \$150 to participate in program. Scholarship must be used by Sept 1st. Day and evening classes are offered at the Red Cross. After training the person will take State test to become a Certified Nurse Assistant. Jess is researching “Wounded Warrior” grants for immediate scholarships for Nursing Assistant program in East Tennessee. Red Cross also sends out emergency communications. Call the office at any time for questions: (865) 584-2999. Jess also gave his thanks to all who were present and their support.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** Run for Wall – 250 + motorcycles. Red Cross supported event. We added 21 new names and had 83 readers. 6,221 names were read under five hours during Memorial Day Ceremony. Two families were in attendance that had their family's name on wall.
- **Knox County Veterans Treatment Court (Freddie Owens):** Organization has been around for 16 months and had 5 graduates. Over the next 6 months the program will include Monroe County and Chattanooga. Knox County is the only hub that represents 7 judicial districts in Tennessee.
- **Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (Bob Williams):** On June 24th will have ESGR luncheon to recognize employers in East Tennessee for all of their support. About 24,700 guardsman and reservists are still mobilized.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Since the announcement last month Honor Air has 100 Vietnam veteran's applications on file. Knox, Anderson and Blount counties have preference currently and those personnel that actually deployed to theater. There is a separate application on the website for Vietnam veterans. Please spread the work. There will be a few Vietnam veterans on the 07OCT15 flight. World War II and Korean veterans still have top priority.
- **Marine Corps League (Laimon Godel):** Local detachment “Totaling of the Boats” – Secret City Festival – honoring submariners that have perished. State Convention 19-20JUN in Pigeon Forge. For more information, visit <http://mclknox.org/>

[EVENTS]:

- Sept. 26th: Marine Mud Run. Registration is open. Inform your units and in-service rivalry of the Mud Run event. For more information, visit <http://www.knoxmud.org/>
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Nolan Sharbel)**: Just completed JROTC Awards program – Chair Cliff Campbell is doing well and getting ready for Massing of Colors in September. National Convention in Tampa FL the first week in August. MOWW meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Rothschild Catering and Conference Center. 11 a.m. for lunch and social hour. 12-1 p.m. for regular meeting.
- **Project Healing Waters (Steve Thompson)**: Pint Night at River Sports raised almost \$1,300. Project Healing Waters had a tent at the Mountain Man March and had a fly tying demonstration. Fished Norton Creek (private stream) with 18 veterans. Owner joined advisory board. Ed Nicholson founder of PHW came to event and took back to headquarters local safety procedures. Monthly meeting at Gander Mountain. Project Healing Waters is an organization registered with the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**; 3 cents per dollar spent go to the local Knoxville Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program. Log on to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> to participate. For more information: <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> .
- **Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veteran Families**: Briefed that they can help veterans with housing and utilities. This could include security deposit for housing and utilities as well.
- **Women Marines Association (Lindsay Long)**: Just attended National Conference in Lake Erie, Florida. Three generals in attendance. She is currently working on fundraiser for Blount County Memorial refurbishment. She also thanked Project Healing Waters along with Jenny Testerman for taking photographs at all of the local military events.
- **Women Veterans of America (Pearl Rich)**: Visited Chattanooga Chapter. Currently working on project with more details to come.
- **MOAA (Col Fedderman)**: Completed giving Leadership metals to outstanding cadets in local ROTC programs. Will be having an all-service Putt-Putt Golf Tournament 18SEP15.

Marine 1881 Belt Buckle was presented to Laimon Godel for the Marine Corps League Trophy case.

President's Statement (Owen Ragland): Meeting reminder that the monthly meeting will be the second Thursday July 9th at the Knoxville Chamber. Meeting adjourned at 09:20AM.

- ✓ 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, July 9th at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.