

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

MARCH 4, 2010 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- MARCH 8th – 21st “March’ in for Our Military” - The American Red Cross and Food City are teaming up to sponsor this program where you can pay \$10 at area Food City stores to purchase a comfort care bag and a card for a soldier deployed from a unit in East Tennessee. Contact Lori Marsh at the Red Cross at 584-2999 for more info.
- MARCH 13th “K-9 Veterans Day” will take place at the War Dog Memorial in front of the UT Veterinary College at 2407 River Dr at 1 pm.
- MARCH 16th “Insights into the World of Terrorism” A Tennessee Conversation with General Carl Stiner at noon. The lunch and lecture will cost \$25 and will be held at the Tennessee History Center. To make reservations, contact Lisa Belleman at 865-215-8883 by March 11, 2010.
- MARCH 26th UT Baseball “Military Appreciation Day” LSU vs. UT at 7:00 pm. All military and veterans receive free admission.
- MARCH 31st Volunteers are needed Wed., March 31st, to help assemble the Red Cross/Food City comfort care bags that were purchased during the “March’ in For Our Military” event. Bags will be assembled at the Navy Operations Support Center on Alcoa Hwy from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. If you plan to volunteer, they need a head count for the lunch that will be provided, so please contact Janice Campbell at the Knox Red Cross at jbelleman@knoxarc.org or 865-584-2999.
- APRIL 17th The 26.2 mile Mountain Man Memorial March in memory of 1LT Frank Walkup will be held in Gatlinburg, TN. For more details, go to <http://web.utk.edu/~utrotc/MMM/index.html>
- APRIL 28th Honor Air Flight #7. For more info go to www.honorairknoxville.com
- JUNE 6th Smokies Baseball “Salute to Heroes Night” A ceremony to honor Veterans will begin at 4:15 pm and the game will begin at 5:00pm

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, March 4th at the American Red Cross, Joseph Mazzola presiding. A total of 61 members and guests were present. The summary of the February meeting was approved. The treasurer’s report shows an end of the month balance of \$10,530.21 as of February 28, 2010.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **American Red Cross (Lori Marsh):** The American Red Cross and Food City are teaming up for a program called “March’ in for Our Military” that will be held March 8 through March 21 at 39 East

Tennessee Food City stores. Pay \$10 for a comfort care bag for a military soldier and you also sign a card. The Red Cross will send more than 3500 bags to deployed service members who are deployed with local units. Contact Lori Marsh at 584-2999 for more info. See the upcoming event section of the minutes for information on volunteers needed for comfort care bag assembly.

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association:** Anyone that would be interested in donating to the memorial, go to <http://www.etvma.org>
- **Memorial Day Remembrance at Veterans Memorial:** A reading of all 6200 names on the memorial will take place on Memorial Day at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. Any organizations interested in taking part in this, please contact Joe Mazzola at legionnairejoe@comcast.net
- **Honor Air (Sam Hardman):** Flight #7 will be on April 28, 2010 and have currently flown 635 WWII Veterans. To support Honor Air Knoxville, please go to <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- **Ben Atchley State Veterans Home (Terry Pate):** Every Friday in March the residents at Ben Atchley will travel to the museum of Appalachia for free to view the Sgt. York gun and needs volunteers to help escort the residents at the museum. If you're interested please call 862-8100. Introduced Doug Ottinger as the new administrator of the veteran's home.
- **Red Cross (Christy McKiernan/Karen Trotter):** Currently have 3 scholarships available for NAT "Nurse Assistant Training" for members of the military, their spouses, and/or children. Upcoming Red Cross Café will be held on March 13, April 17, and May 22 from 11:00 am til 1:00 pm. The Red Cross also has a kiosk available to service members. The Blount County Red Cross also offers an internet café for service members and their families and you can record a message to be put on a DVD. Blount County offers CPR and First Aid scholarships and also the Living Learning classes.
- **Web Site (Laimon Godel):** Last months web-site activity had 1,539 visitors with an average of 64 visitors a day. If any organizations have a public newsletter they want distributed, please send it to Laimon Godel at webmaster@godel.com
- **A Tennessee Conversation with General Carl Stiner "Insights into the World of Terrorism" (Joe Mazzola):** On March 16, 2010 at noon there will be a luncheon at the Tennessee History Center. A cost of \$25 includes lunch and the lecture by General Stiner. To make reservations contact Lisa Belleman at 865-215-8883. Please make reservations by March 11, 2010.
- **Veterans Jobs Task Force Update (John Dyess/Doug Minter):** Put together a task force to encourage companies to hire our returning soldiers from deployment. Will be covering financial management skills, how to write a resume and many other skills to focus on finding jobs. If anyone knows of any companies that are hiring, please contact Joe Mazzola at legionnairejoe@comcast.net
- **ETMAC Service Project (James Dee):** Held on February 27th, 2010 there was 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 were also able to bring medals and ribbons to be identified. 35 Veterans and their families attended this project.
- **Military One Source (Whitney Fulton):** Presented information regarding Military One Source. Go to www.militaryonesource.com for more information.
- **Junior Achievement of Tennessee (Maria Ryan):** Presented information regarding Junior Achievement. They need volunteers to inspire students to help them succeed, and are especially interested in volunteers with a military background. To volunteer call 457-2461 or go to <http://easttennessee.ja.org/>
- **United States War Dogs Reintegration Program (Tom DeHoog):** Uses guide dogs, service dogs, and innovative technology to help disabled veterans and active duty personnel live again with dignity and self-reliance. Go to www.vetdogs.org

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

- **UT Air Force ROTC (MAJ Shawn Kitchin):** Introduced Captain Zink as the newest Cadre. March 26, 2010 is UT Baseball "Military Appreciation Day". The game will be at 7:00 pm and the Tennessee Vols will host the LSU Tigers. All military and Veterans receive free admission.
- **UT Army ROTC (MAJ John Wells):** The 3rd annual Mountain Man March will be on April 17, 2010 in Gatlinburg, TN to honor 1LT Frank Walkup. Sponsors are needed to cover the operating costs of the

event. There will be a Gold Star Mothers ceremony on April 16, 2010. There will be a free pancake breakfast at American Legion Post 202 on the day of the march. For more details, go to <http://web.utk.edu/~utrotc/MMM/index.html>

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

- **Military Entrance Processing Station (Commander Darrell Neeley):** Attended Lady Vols military appreciation night. Awarded MEPS of Excellence for 1st quarter.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Colonel Brad McRee):** Currently have the largest class for the NCO academy with 200 students and 60 students enrolled for Airman Leadership School. Business and Industry Days will be April 27-29 and Lt. General Wyatt, Director of the Air National Guard will host.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (Dennis McVey):** Conducted Yellow Ribbon event #4 on February 13, 2010 with 50 families in attendance. Yellow Ribbon event #5 will be held on May 14 in Orlando, FL. On May 22, at 1 pm there will be a job fair at the Reserve Center for those who had deployed and also their families. Beginning to make plans for homecoming. More details to come. A letter from Colonel Roth was read. 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 (2nd Lt Mark Farley):** The unit continues to grow in jobs and missions. 23 new full time jobs will soon be filled. Recently received the Air Force Outstanding Unit award, which is the third in a row.
- **Navy Reserve Center (CDR Greg Jones):** The Navy Ball will be held on October 2, 2010. Currently has 32 sailors deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **278th Army National Guard (Jack D'Araujo):** Very impressive send-off ceremony was held at Camp Shelby, MS for 3,500 soldiers and over 1,500 families and friends. The unit is now deployed in Iraq.
- **489th Civil Affairs Company (MAJ Bryan Bailey):** Held a very successful unemployed soldier workshop on February 21.
- **Marines, Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (1stSgt Charles Wright):** Currently have 40 Marines are currently training in Twentynine Palms, CA and will head to Afghanistan in March.
- **ESGR (John Dyess):** Engaged in employer seminars for unemployed soldiers. There are currently 131,000 guardsmen on active duty.
- **253rd Military Police (Mr. Inman):** Will be deploying from Lenoir City on March 27, 2010. The unit will spend approx 30 to 45 days at Fort Dix before heading to Iraq. VFW Post 1205 in Oak Ridge will be having a send off party for the unit on March 25.
- **Boy Scouts of America (Anthony Ingram):** Looking for positive role models. Have some part time jobs available for teenagers for the summer. Call 588-6514 for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
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