



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

MARCH 3, 2011 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- MARCH 12 2nd Annual Knoxville Honor of Military and Law Enforcement K-9's at 1:00 pm. This will be held at the War Dog Memorial in front of the UT Veterinarian Center on Neyland Dr.
- APRIL 9 The Military Order of the World Wars presents "Massing of the Colors" at 2nd Presbyterian Church (2829 Kingston Pike) at 10:30 am.
- APRIL 13 HonorAir Knoxville Flight #9 to Washington, D.C.
- APRIL 15-16 4th Annual Mountain Man Memorial March
- MAY 2 ETVMA Medal of Honor Evening at The Foundry from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Tickets cost \$75.
- MAY 2 Marine Corps League Dedication of \$40,000 project at the Ben Atchley State Veterans Home. More details to come.
- MAY 28 Tennessee Smokies Salute to Heroes Night. On-Field Memorial Ceremony at 5:00 pm, First Pitch at 6:15 pm. Free Admission for Veterans and active Military.
- MAY 30 Memorial Day

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, March 3rd, 2011, at the Knoxville Chamber, ETMAC Secretary Nathan Weinbaum presiding. A total of 61 members and guests were present. The February meeting summary was approved as written. The treasurer's report shows a current balance of \$12,467.22.

The following people were nominated, and unanimously elected to serve, as 2011-2012 ETMAC Board Members:

-Associate Board Members: Janice Campbell, Joseph Jarrett

-At Large Director for 2011: Dr. Jim Foggin, Wayne Krabbenhoft

-At Large Director for 2011-2012: David Rutherford, Joseph Wasmond

*Note: Board members still serving out their 2009-2012 terms as directors: Laimon Godel, Tom DeHoog

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** They will be having the First Annual Medal of Honor Evening on May 2, 2011 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at The Foundry. This will mark the 101st anniversary of the birth of Medal of Honor winner Sandy Bonnyman. His grandson, Clay Bonnyman Evans, will highlight his life. This program will be followed by a short military service and wreath laying at the memorial. Cost is \$75 or \$150 to become a member of the host committee. For

more info email Joleen at joleen@etvma.org. Anyone that would be interested in donating to the memorial go to <http://www.etvma.org>

- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight # 9 will be Wednesday, April 13th and it will include Korean War Veterans. Everyone is invited to their “Welcome Home” at McGhee-Tyson Airport that same evening. To support Honor Air Knoxville, please go to <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- **Ben Atchley State Veterans Home (Doug Ottinger):** The home is currently full with 140 residents. The facility will host the April, 2011 ETMAC meeting. The Marine Corps League recently completed a \$40,000 project at the facility and will have a dedication on May 2, 2011. More details to come. They are always looking for organizations to spend time with the residents. If you’re interested, please call 862-8100.
- **Knoxville Chapter of the Red Cross (Janice Campbell):** The SAF grant continues and they have funds to assist organizations through June 2011 with Yellow Ribbon events and other programs. Please contact Janice with any upcoming programs or events.
- **Blount County Chapter of the Red Cross (Jerry Bennett):** The Air Guard Training Center at McGhee-Tyson Airbase recently presented the Red Cross a check for \$777.00 to be used for supporting the armed forces.
- **Web Site (Laimon Godel):** The web site had 979 visitors in February. If any organizations have a public newsletter they want distributed, please send it to Laimon Godel at webmaster@godel.com
- **Announcements**
 - Thanks to Joe Sutter for his work on the 2010 Economic Impact report
 - Jim Dee was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his work for last months tribute to Eddie Mannis/HonorAir at the ETMAC meeting
 - The William C. Tallent VA Outpatient Clinic is in desperate need of volunteers.
 - **Massing of the Colors (Paul McNeil):** The Military Order of the World Wars present medals of service to cadets at local ROTC and JROTC units and then brings them together at an annual “Massing of the Colors”. It will be held this year at the 2nd Presbyterian Church on Kingston Pike (2829 Kingston Pike) on April 9th, 2011 at 10:30 am.
 - **Smokies Salute to Heroes (Matt Strutner):** Free Admission for Veterans and active Military. Special rate for family and friends. Tennessee Smokies vs. Mississippi Braves on Saturday, May 28, 2011. On-Field Memorial Ceremony at 5:00 pm, First pitch at 6:15 pm. For more information call Matt Strutner at 865-286-2300.
 - **Burial of Homeless Veterans (Jeff Berry):** The Berry Funeral Home along with the Dignity Memorial has created a way to give homeless Veterans a burial they deserve. The cost of the burials will be taken care of by Berry Funeral Home, but there is still a need for members of the Veteran/Military community to serve as the “family” for the deceased soldier. There will be an information meeting in April for those interested. More details to come.
 - **VFW 1733 (Tom DeHoog):** On Saturday March 12, 2011 at 1:00 pm will be the 2nd Annual Knoxville Honor of Military and Law Enforcement K-9’s. This will be held at the War Dog Memorial in front of the UT Veterinarian Center on Neyland Dr.
 - **Commissary Sale (Ole Olson):** Need to find a place to have a case lot sale. Please contact Ole at cololeolson@bellsouth.net

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

- **UT Air Force ROTC (Captain Jim Carbone):** Currently have about 100 cadets. Recently had a 100% selection rate for assignments. Working on the Mountain Man Memorial March. Recently finished another color guard 17 game season for the Lady Vols basketball team. CAPT Carbone will be transferring to Colorado Springs, CO.

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

- **US Army Recruiting Company (MAJ Jason Deel):** Always looking for referrals to enter the service. Currently have 135 men and women waiting to go to Basic Training. They have recently signed 26 active duty, and 4 reserve. This month they will enlist 22 active duty, and 5 reserves. Talked about the “March 2 Success” webpage which is a free tool that provides educational content to improve test SAT, ACT, state exit exams, and ASVAB scores. For more info go to www.march2success.com. LTC Weems

discussed a program called “Our Community Salutes” <http://www.ourcommunitysalutes.com/>. It recognizes young men and women who decide to join the military after high school.

- **Military Entrance Processing Station (CAPT Tom Keeble):** So far this fiscal year they have shipped 921 patriots to boot camp.
- **134th ANG Air Refueling Station (Col Dave Evans {119th):** Honored last week with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Focusing on the National Level Exercise, which is a national exercise that focuses on responding to a 7.7 earthquake at the New Madrid Fault line in the Memphis area. Will be having an Operational Readiness Inspection coming up. Col Dearing will be retiring in July.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Chief Master Sergeant Don Felch):** Col McRee is attending graduation and commissioning ceremonies for the Academy of Military Science. At the Paul H. Lankford Enlisted Professional Military Education Center, they recently graduated 276 airmen and NCO’s. Currently they have 60 airmen that are set to be E-5, who will be attending Airmen Leadership School. Also have 210 non-commissioned officer academy students at the school. On April 13-15, they will be hosting “Business and Industry Days”.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (LTC John Wolfe):** Recently had an activation ceremony for the 316th Mobilization Augmentation Company in Chattanooga, TN. It is a 122 man unit and only at 25% strength and looking for soldiers. Has had a soldier selected for the McArthur Award which will be given in Washington, D.C. More details to come.
- **119th Command and Control (Col Dave Evans):** Also focusing on the National Level Exercise which is a national exercise that focuses on responding to a 7.7 earthquake at the New Madrid Fault line in the Memphis area. Recognized last week with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, which was the 4th in a row. Been selected for the Air National Guard Verne Orr Award for the organization that demonstrates the most outstanding management of resources. Should become a Group in the end of May or early June. Colonel Don Johnson has been named the new Assistant Adjutant General, Air, for the State of TN.
- **228th Combat Communication Squadron (LtCol Franklin):** Transitioned from Combat Communications and now provides satellite communications and maintenance support to the 219th group. Currently about 93% through the transition. Will be heading down to Savannah, GA for annual training. Will also be participating in the National Level Exercise.
- **1-230th Air Calvary Squadron (MAJ Melvin Clawson):** Former 4th Squadron of the 278th. Currently have 676 members with 30 aircraft. Recently built a brand new flight facility.
- **Navy Operations Support Center (CDR Grant):** Recently, one of their junior E-4 was selected for the Region Blue Jacket of the Year which includes 35 reserve centers. Currently have around 20 sailors mobilized.
- **278th Army National Guard (Col Jeffrey Archer):** While in Iraq, they were responsible for security and ran almost 1,800 missions, covering 240,000 miles and encountered 38 direct fire attacks and 31 IEDs. They did not lose any soldiers during those attacks. They did a lot of logistical work for the 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. Just finished resetting 14,000 pieces of equipment. They are now completing training.
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion (MAJ James Rivenbark):** Battalion Commander Col Coggin will be promoted and have a change of command ceremony sometime in May. Unit will deploy to Afghanistan in May.
- **ETMAC Vice President Barry Allen:** Discussed recent US Supreme Court decisions. One involve filing a late appeal to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The decision was in favor of the Veteran. Another decision involved the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and how a second-level supervisor can’t fire an employee if the first level supervisors are against the military. Another decision protected free speech and ruled in favor of the Westboro Baptist Church, which has been picketing at military funerals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
nathan.weinbaum@knoxcounty.org