

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

MARCH 1, 2012 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- APRIL 4 Rally Point at The Jacob Building at Chilhowee Park
- APRIL 18 HonorAir Knoxville Flight #12
- APRIL 20-21 Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg, TN
- APRIL 21 The Military Order of the World Wars presents “Massing of the Colors” at 2nd Presbyterian Church (2829 Kingston Pike)
- MAY 7 East TN Veterans Memorial Association 2nd Annual Medal of Honor Evening to honor Medal of Honor recipient Mitchell Stout
- JUNE 30 Tennessee Smokies Salute to Heroes night
- NOV. 9 Veterans Day Parade and Veterans Day Luncheon (at Convention Center) – Veterans Day falls on a Sunday this year, so the Parade and Luncheon will take place on Fri., Nov. 9th.

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, March 1st, 2012 at the Knoxville Chapter of the American Red Cross, ETMAC President John Dyess presiding. A total of 64 members and guests were present. The February meeting summary was approved as written. The treasurer’s report shows a current balance of \$17,069.73.

A special presentation by Colonel Dave Evans of the 119th Command and Control Squadron to HonorAir Knoxville. A check of \$4,200.00 was presented to Eddie Mannis, Chairman of HonorAir Knoxville.

President John Dyess presented an award to Colonel Evans recognizing his support for ETMAC.

John Dyess named Patrice Collins the Honorary Command Sergeant Major of ETMAC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **ETMAC Webpage:** Please send anything to be added to the calendar to webmaster@godel.com
- **Knox County Veterans Service Officer Chuck Jones:** After many years as the Knox County Veterans Service Officer, Chuck Jones has retired at the age of 84. Chuck is retired from the United States Navy and has been involved with ETMAC and ESGR for a long time. On March 9th at the City County Building in the Small Assembly Room from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, there will be a reception to honor Chuck Jones.
- **Rally Point (David Leaverton):** Senator Corker, Mayor Burchett, and Mayor Rogero are proudly sponsoring a free event to help Veterans. It will be held at The Jacob Building at Chilhowee Park on

April 4th, from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. This event is to connect Veterans and their dependents with organizations and opportunities that are available to assist them.

- **Veterans Preference (Don Smith):** There has been a lot of questions and concerns about a possible change in preference for Veterans looking for a job. This change would only effect hiring in the state but not effect federal hiring. With this change a Veteran that meets the minimum qualifications will get an interview but there will not be preference points. If all things are equal between two candidates and if one is a Veteran then they will have to hire the Veteran. There have been some other amendments also that would be beneficial to dependents of Veterans.
- **Tennessee Smokies (Matt Strutner):** This year's Salute to Hero's night will be held on Saturday, June 30th with a memorial ceremony beginning at 5:30 pm. This game will be free for military and Veterans and will provide discounted tickets to their family and friends. The Tennessee Smokies will play the Birmingham Barons.
- **The Legacy Centre (Ed Seaver):** Helps business owners in our community live their legacy every day. Recently General Carl Stiner (ret.) spoke at their program. For more information go to tnlegacy.com
- **UT Veterans Pre-College Program (Vicki Cutshall):** Helps Veterans return to school whether to complete GED or college education. Veterans must have 180 days of active duty or 30 days in a conflict. For more information go to <http://web.utk.edu/~utkvub/veterans.html>

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt Col Brian Delamater):** There has been a shift in regards to Air Force ROTC scholarship funds. The majority of scholarship money is now equally divided between high school seniors and those already enrolled at UT. They will have a base visit in March to Hurlburt field and Eglin AFB for the Juniors so they can decide on a career field in the Air Force. The University of Tennessee will fund this trip. In April they will have a ROTC competition in Kentucky. They are planning on the Mountain Man Memorial March and for more info go to www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com
- **UT Army ROTC (LTC Danny Kelley):** The cadets recently completed field training exercises. They are also planning the Mountain Man Memorial March. Thanks for the upcoming resume writing class and this class will help those cadets who will commission in the guard and reserves and will be looking for a job. Recently one of the cadets was picked in the top #2 of all cadets in the country and will represent the University of Tennessee and the Army ROTC at West Point.

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

- **US Army Recruiting Company (CPT Scott Glidden):** During the summer months they will be having a big OCS push and will be looking for college graduates. They will be set up on March 7th at the UT job fair. On April 7th they will be having a big send-off for those who will be shipping off this summer.
- **US Air Force Recruiting Command (Staff Sgt Scotty Atkins):** Recruiting is going great and they are still looking for highly qualified applicants to join the Air Force despite the rumors regarding budget cuts.
- **278th Army National Guard (COL Jeffrey Archer):** Currently preparing for annual training. Every weekend they have soldiers training on the mobile close combat tactical trainer. Headquarters is preparing for a change in responsibility. Command Sgt Major Daniel Jennings will be moving to the state Army Guard as the Command Sgt Major. There are upcoming Change of Commands in Henderson and Lebanon, TN.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Lester Isaac):** Recruiting numbers are up. To date they have processed 1,653 applicants and have shipped out 853 to recruit training. In the school systems they have tested 8,742 students which amounts to 94% of the goal for the year. Still on track to move but have had some contract issues and look to be in the new building in August of 2012.
- **119th Command and Control (Col Dave Evans):** Lt. Col. Vince Franklin has been selected to replace Col. Evans. A Change of Command will be held at 2:00 PM on 8 March. Lt Col Vincent Franklin will assume command of the 119th. Col. Evans will have a retirement ceremony on March 11th at 10:00 am at

McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in the Training and Education Center at Spruance Hall. They will be having an officer evaluation board in May to hire and looking for Information system officers. They have 7 vacancies to be filled. Candidates need to go ahead and complete the AFOQT so they can see the scores prior to the board. Thanks to the American Red Cross, ESGR, and ETMAC for all of their support to the 119th.

- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Capt Joey Keith):** Recently Colonel Harry Montgomery was promoted to Brigadier General and is now the Air National Guard Chief of Staff. He was Wing Commander of the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis and will now be working out of Nashville. About two weeks ago the 134th sent 350 people to Gulfport, MS to prepare for an upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection. The airbase is staying busy and they have people deployed year round. Thanks to John Becker as he recently featured two members of the 134th on the WBIR “Service and Sacrifice” series.
- **1/230 Air Cavalry Squadron (LTC Melvin Clawson):** Their Air Ambulance Unit out of Smyrna, TN recently left for a one-year deployment to Afghanistan. In the spring and fall they will have two major inspections. They will be having their Fallen Aviator Memorial Bass Tournament on April 28th, 2012 to raise money for the fallen aviator scholarship fund. The tournament raised over \$5,000 last year. More details to come.
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion (Mike France):** The 489th remains forward deployed to Afghanistan. They will return within 60 days. About 2 weeks ago Master Sgt Michael Trost was wounded by receiving 4 gunshots and is at Walter Reed recovering. They are preparing for the soldiers return and will soon have Yellow Ribbon event #4 for the families. The rear detachment is completing community service projects and recently helped the Boys and Girls Club. They recently spoke to the Walters State Community College alternative energy program about how they were using alternative energy in Afghanistan. They plan to have a change of command on June 1, 2012 and Lt. Col Clifford Faulkner will become the new battalion commander.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (Josh Richardson):** Hoping to be able to complete various construction projects in the community. They are preparing for their training and will be completing a number of field training exercises and then finish with annual training in Hawaii. They will be having an element going to Germany to complete installation construction and also a company to Honduras to do a humanitarian service mission. Thanks to the American Red Cross for their continuing support.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (1st Sgt Bacon and Master Sgt Stoudt):** Introduced Chief Master Sgt Stoudt as their newest member. He is the Mission Support Division Chief. They recently had a video teleconference with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Craig McKinley. They are looking to do a partnership with the University of Tennessee to offer training and educational opportunities to the 50 states including the District of Columbia.
- **Naval Operations Support Center (CDR Grant):** The NOSC building is currently under construction. Recently dedicated a new 9/11 memorial at the NOSC. A few weeks ago they sent four sailors to participate in the Mitzvah Day at the Jewish Community Center to help make care packages for military service members that are deployed.

MILITARY AND VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** On May 7th, they will host the 2nd annual Medal of Honor at the Foundry to honor Medal of Honor recipient Mitchell Stout. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$500 per table. Mitchell was from Lenoir City, TN.
- **American Legion (Marvin Tuggle):** The Sons of the American Legion are having a golf tournament on June 16th at Three Rivers Golf Course. They will be having a Turkey Shoot on April 28th and 29th. More details to come about the Turkey Shoot.
- **HonorAir (Eddie Mannis):** Thanks to Col. Evans of the 119th for the contribution to HonorAir. Thanks to everyone who has made the HonorAir program a success. There has been almost 1,300 WWII and Korean War Veterans that have been on the HonorAir trip. HonorAir Flight #12 will be on April 18th. Everyone is invited to be at the airport that evening before 8:00 pm for a huge “Welcome Home” celebration. You can purchase a HonorAir watch and cookbook at the HonorAir webpage. To support Honor Air Knoxville, please go to <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>.

- **The Congressional Medal of Honor Society (Joleen Dewald):** They have completed their video and submitted all written materials. A group will be going to New York in March to make an official presentation to bid for the National Convention in 2014. They have a very competitive bid and think they have a great chance on getting the 2014 National Convention.
- **Ben Atchley Veteran's Home (Gene Bayless):** The Veteran's Home is currently full. Recently WWII Veteran and Battle of the Bulge survivor Marian Richards passed away. Thanks to John Becker for the recent Service & Sacrifice series about one of the volunteers there. Recently updated software at the Veterans Home.
- **Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (James Foggin):** Welcomed home the Marines when they returned from Afghanistan. They will be briefing them soon regarding ESGR. There are currently 73,000 reservists and guardsmen on active duty. These service members will come home soon and some will need a job.
- **American Red Cross Blount County (Jess Hernandez):** Thanks for allowing the American Red Cross to be able to host the ETMAC meeting. The American Red Cross needs volunteers for help with disasters. Still have funding with the SAF grant but it does run out in June, 2012. On April 14th they are partnering with Bruster's Ice Cream and the entire day they will honor our local military. This is still in the planning stage and more details will come. They are looking for units that can offer any kind of support for this event.
- **Marine Corps League (Eric Nash):** They are planning for the next Mud Run. A couple members of the MCL recently visited injured Marine Cody Evans in Washington, D.C.
- **The Military Order of the World Wars (Joe Eddlemon):** They meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Rothchild's. Lunch is \$12 and begins at 11:00 am and the meeting starts at 12:00 noon. On April 21st they will present the "Massing of the Colors" at 2nd Presbyterian Church (2829 Kingston Pike) at 10:00 am.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 5th at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
 East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
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