

## EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

### May 5, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MAY 9	VVA's Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting at Washington Pike UMC
MAY 14	Marine Corps League's William H. Gerst Memorial Rifle Match (M1 & M1A)
MAY 21	"Salute to Heroes Night" at Smokies Stadium
MAY 21	Pancake Breakfast with Blount County AMVETS at Applebee's (Alcoa)
MAY 30	Memorial Day "Reading of the Names" & Service, East TN Veterans Memorial
JUNE 8	Honor Air Flight #21
JUNE 11	Women Veterans of America Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's (Merchants Dr.)
JUNE 18	American Legion Golf Tournament at Three Ridges Golf Course

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

#### ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, May 5, 2016, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 67 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
  - Eric Bollman, USAF Retired, Director of Pellissippi State's Veterans Affairs
  - David Smith, Tennessee Members 1st Federal Credit Union
  - Mark Keck, Morgan County Veterans Service Officer
  - Col. Kevin Donovan, new Commander, I.G. Brown Training & Education Center
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The April 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written. ETMAC monthly meeting minutes and flyers for upcoming events are posted to the website at <http://etmac.org/>
- **Treasurer's Report (Steve Dillenburg):** Last month's ending balance was \$15,538. ETMAC wrote checks for \$871 and made deposits of \$422. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$15,089. ETMAC has a \$4,000 liability for the sponsorship of the Smoky Mountain Air Show. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual dues can be given to Steve or Patrice at the monthly meetings, or can be paid online at the ETMAC website for a \$2 convenience fee.

- **Webmaster's Report (Barry Allen):** 607 views at the ETMAC website in April. Average page duration was 1 min. 3 sec. 73% accessed the site by desktop, followed by 24% by mobile, and 3% by tablet. Most sessions by country was U.S. at 78%, followed by Spain at 4%. Most used Chrome browsers and Internet Explorer. The age range of users leading the views was 25-34 yr. olds at 34%, followed by 18-24 yr. olds at 28%. Viewers were 46% female and 54% male. Please send info to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at [barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com](mailto:barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com)
- **Helen Ross McNabb Military Services Program (Amber McMillan):** Helen Ross McNabb has a grant-funded Military Services program open to all military service members, veterans, and their family members (including children), who suffer from any mental illness. The program currently has 2 master level clinicians who provide specialized services for PTSD, anxiety, depression, etc. Participants do not need insurance to be part of the program. No fees apply. Also, no specific military service discharge is required. Helen Ross McNabb also provides veterans' housing for the program; they have 23 units in the Knoxville area. To qualify for housing, you must be a homeless veteran, have a mental health diagnosis, and be 50% below the poverty level. The housing is fully furnished and utilities are paid for. They do take HUD-VASH vouchers. They have been working with 12 individuals so far. The program will have a new building soon and will be relocated. For more information on Helen Ross McNabb Center's Military Services, call (865) 637-9711.
- **TN Smokies "Salute to Heroes Night" (Jim Dee):** Saturday, May 21st, Smokies' Stadium will be honoring the military with a "Salute to Heroes Night" which will entail live enlistment ceremonies, a flyover, and fireworks. Pre-game ceremony starts at 6 p.m. First pitch at 7:05 p.m. They will be giving away to the first 1,000 fans military trading cards where a veteran/active duty service member's picture is featured on the front and the member's biography on the back. If you'd like to submit your story or a story of a friend/family member, email Kristi Servais at [kservais@smokiesbaseball.com](mailto:kservais@smokiesbaseball.com) For more information on the event go to: <http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t553>. Tickets are free to all past and present military.
- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):** Patrice gave thanks to all who supported Navy Week. The Navy was very impressed with Knoxville's turnout and support. She also thanked NOSC for their support with the Navy breakfast event.
  - [EVENTS]:
    - May 7th: The *Young Marines* will have Aviation Day, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Seymour Air Park. Bring out your families to see the vintage aircraft, flight school, and air rides for young children.
    - May 21: *AMVETS Post 22* is asking you to join them for a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Applebee's on Alcoa Hwy. \$5/per person. Come learn about the new post in Blount County. Proceeds will benefit Sgt. Michael H. Ferschke, Jr. AMVETS Post 22, and will help them assist local veterans in need.
- **President's Report (Owen Ragland):** Owen thanked everyone for their membership dues and said ETMAC has been the most successful this year in dues compared to previous years. ETMAC also partnered with the Smoky Mountain Air Show to be a sponsor in the reserved seating area. Owen said he was very pleased with the signage and placement of the ETMAC logos, and that the Air Show as a whole was very successful.

He thanked the 134th ARW and the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority that were involved. Also, he gave a big thanks to Patrice and Joleen. Owen reminded everyone that we're all recruiters and influencers and that we need good young men and women in our services in all military branches.

### **MILITARY UNITS UPDATES**

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland):** This month they'll be briefing Johnson City government officials on TNSG's emergency management communication abilities. If anyone is connected with a county or government that wants to request a TNSG briefing, they are available to do so. They are continuing their recruiting efforts and looking for radio operators. Next drill is Saturday, May 14th at the Knoxville Guard Armory on Sutherland Ave. If you'd like to attend, contact MAJ Oland and she'll leave your name at the front when they photo ID check. TNSG will also be attending the Greeneville Emergency Preparedness Fair. Also, TNSG is looking for a color guard to perform on Saturday, July 23rd for the National 4th Infantry Division Association's reunion event in Knoxville. Please contact MAJ Oland if you know one that is available that day. For more information on the TNSG, visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.
- **119<sup>th</sup> Command and Control Squadron (Capt Chris Morin):** Drill this weekend. Returned last month from supporting a cyber global exercise in Texas and TN.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Col Jason Brock):** The April Smoky Mountain Air Show was a huge success. Col Brock thanked everyone for their support. The 134th is also nearing completion on the renovation of their orange hanger, and expect to be finished by this Fall. Also have several of their mission support group, civil engineers returning home this week.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (MAJ Andrew Wyman):** Finished their annual 2 week training in April. Had some of their medics take part in the Mountain Man Memorial March by providing medical services.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (CPT Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez/1st Sgt Gabriel Burns):** They're supporting the Young Marines in their Aviation Day, May 7th. Their next drill weekend is May 14th-15th.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Col Kevin Donovan):** Col Meyeraan became the new Chief of Staff for the National Guard Bureau's Joint Staff in Arlington, VA. Col. Kevin Donovan is now the new commander at TEC. Col. Donovan previously served as the Air National Guard Principal Deputy Director for Operations. TEC has 2 classes in session right now and are about halfway through. They have 150 NCO Academy students, 92 in their Airman Leadership School, and 132 in their satellite Airman Leadership School. Their building project is still on track, and they expect to open up the new facility and full occupancy by late September.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Brandi McGehee):** Present, nothing to report at this time.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (YN1 Noah Jaques):** May 21-22nd is drill weekend. They also will have their Family Day that weekend. They'll be sending out a flyer and more information soon with details.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** Welcomed Col Donovan, and said CAP will be descending on the TEC campus in July for their Region Staff College. They just recently graduated 5 new aerial spotters from the DEA Spotting School. Are

also sending their members to school in Savannah, GA for regional training with the DEA. In addition, they graduated 5 new commander/mission observers for search and rescue missions. Recently graduated a female pilot that will also conduct search and rescue missions.

- **US Army Knoxville Recruiting Command (CPT Jeff Neal):** Just had their military ball at Ft. Campbell, KY. They also moved into the top 10 recruiting companies in a quarter of the U.S. Thanked everyone for their support. CPT Neal is leaving in the next 2 months to go to Ft. Stewart, GA. On June 30th at 10 a.m. will be his Change of Command ceremony at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. All are welcomed to attend. He also brought Sarah Casey, one of their newest candidates who enlisted in the U.S. Army, to the meeting and introduced her to everyone. She was also featured on Channel 8 news recently. You can read her story here: <http://www.local8now.com/content/news/Pageant-girl-cheerleader-enlists-in-US-Army--376270981.html>
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 (DVCDR Dave Roberts):** Because of ETMAC's support, the Coast Guard and the Air Force partnered and had one of the most successful regional training conferences. The district commander travelled from New Orleans to attend and was very pleased with the outcome. They had all 4 components of the Coast Guard there, including drilling reservists. Commander Roberts thanked TEC for their hospitality. Boating season is underway. They were given a task from the USCG's National Maritime Center to conduct a risk assessment on 3 reservoirs: Norris, Cherokee, and Douglas Lakes. Will probably be finishing up in the Fall. Also, the Coast Guard is currently hiring and looking for candidates in every component, to include reserve, active, and auxiliary. Also, any interested in being an officer, and have a college degree, prior service counts. Contact Commander Roberts or visit <mailto:http://www.gocoastguard.com/> for more information in applying.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt. Col. Jack Lancaster):** Last month they finished their field training exercise, had their dining out event, and took part in the Mountain Man Memorial March. They will be commissioning 15 new officers next week. Capt Andrew Ferguson's young daughter Daphne had been battling Leukemia, and her condition is now in remission.

### **VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES**

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** Had their AFA State Convention in Memphis on April 23rd, where Farragut High School won the state championship for the CyberPatriot's National Defense Cyber Competition. This year they had 52 teams from the state of Tennessee, 26 of those were from East Tennessee. A Center of Excellence has been designated in East Tennessee, as one of the 6 centers. Their goal is to get one of East Tennessee's teams to the National CyberPatriot Competition. If you know of any high schools or middle schools interested in competing, spread the word regarding entry. For more information, visit AFA's site at <http://www.afa.org/home>.
- **American Legion (Marty Everett):** On May 30th at 11:30 a.m. is the Memorial Day Service at the East TN Veterans Memorial at World's Fair Park. On June 18th, AL will have their golf tournament at Three Ridges Golf Course in Knoxville, sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution. For information on the Knoxville American Legion, go to <http://legionknox.com/>.

- **Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home (Doug Ottinger):** They recently passed their VA and Department of Health surveys. Doug thanked ETMAC and everyone for their support.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** Thanked everyone for their support and the volunteers in April's Mountain Man Memorial March event. She said it was their biggest event yet with 960+ registered marchers, runners, and walkers. They also had another 45-50 Boy Scouts who assisted. 107 Gold Star Families participated. WWII MOH recipient Woody Williams, USMC, attended the event. Due to the Woody Williams project, where a Gold Star Families Monument would be placed in all 50 states, a memorial honoring Gold Star Families in Knoxville was placed at the East TN State Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Hwy. The groundbreaking ceremony was Apr. 24th. The dedication ceremony is planned for mid-July. May 2nd was the ETVMA's 6th Annual Medal of Honor Evening at The Foundry. Joleen said it was a great event and thanked everyone who attended. U.S. Army MOH recipient Clinton Romesha was a guest at the event. Joleen has a few of his signed books, titled *Red Platoon: A True Story of American Valor*, left if you wish to purchase one for \$40. She also still has challenge coins left, which feature Korean War MOH recipient SFC Ray Eugene Duke, U.S. Army, for purchase. Contact Joleen for any questions or visit the ETVMA website at <https://etvma.org/>.

**[EVENT]:**

- **May 30th: Memorial Day "Reading of the Names":** Volunteers are welcomed to read names starting at sunrise at the East TN Veterans Memorial at World's Fair Park. Will need between 70-85 readers. Are also looking for volunteers to help set up the event. There will be more than 6,200 names read. Each volunteer reads approximate 100 names. All are welcomed and families are encouraged to read together. Right after the readings, 7 additional names which have been added to the Memorial in 2016 will be dedicated. The traditional Memorial Day Service organized by the American Legion Post 2 will begin at 11:30 a.m. For more information or to volunteer, email Joleen at <mailto:joleen@etvma.org>
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Last week they received the largest endorsement they've received so far - from the Military Chaplains Association. The MCA plans to make a 3-day trip to Knoxville soon, and Freddie will try to introduce them at an upcoming ETMAC meeting. Currently, 49 churches have partnered with the Veteran Friendly Congregation Initiative in the Knoxville area. The Council just opened their 4th Veterans Treatment Court. Two weeks ago the Council held their PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution Training (PAIR) seminar in Chattanooga with 42 attendees. They also just received their 501(c)(3) certification. Aug. 27th is the 9th Annual Man Run event in which Freddie was asked to be the spokesperson as a prostate cancer survivor. For \$15 any individual in the military can register. 100% of the proceeds from the event will benefit prostate cancer research and outreach and educational programs in East TN. To sign up for the Man Run, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/TN/Knoxville/TheManRun>. If you'd like more information on these programs or the Council, contact Freddie or learn more at the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council's website at <http://tnvhc.org/>.



- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D'Araujo):** There are currently 22,000 involuntary on active duty, and more than 4,000 voluntary on active duty. They've been advised that on the Army side the numbers will increase. On April 15th, they hosted 140 employers and guests for an event at McGhee Tyson for the Smoky Mountain Air Show rehearsal. Jack gave a special thanks to Col. Thomas Cauthen with the 134th ARW and Capt. Stephanie McKeen on their hard work on the Air Show. He also thanked everyone who participated.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #20 took place April 13th. WWII veterans, Korean War veterans, and Vietnam War veterans were onboard. On flight they had one 100-year-old WWII veteran and one 96-year-old Navy veteran, both of whom wore their uniforms during the trip. Joe thanked all the volunteers and escorts. Proceeds from the Smoky Mountain Air Show benefited Honor Air. He also announced that due to the generosity of Holston Gases, Inc. and its chairman Mr. Bill Baxter, and the anticipated revenue from the Air Show, they will be having a 3rd flight this year on June 8th. The flight will be all Vietnam War veterans. 150 will be onboard. After that, the next flight is planned for October 5, 2016. The reunion breakfast from the April flight is May 7th, and then they will begin planning for June's flight. Visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** Tom will be speaking at the May 9th Agent Orange Town Hall meeting at the Washington Pike United Methodist Church, which will cover benefits for those veterans exposed to Agent Orange, Camp LeJeune water contamination, Gulf War Illness, burn pits, etc. The town hall is from 6-9 p.m. Tom introduced Mark Keck, who is the Morgan County veterans service officer.
- **Marine Corps League (Eddie Knoebel):** On April 15th, Laimon Godel passed away from cancer. Eddie said Laimon was well liked and loved around the area. The MCL visited 8 high school JROTC units so far this year, presenting certificates at their ceremonies. Eddie recently helped present the ones for South-Doyle High School students. The William H. Gerst Memorial Rifle Match (M1 & M1A) is May 14th. Said Navy Week was great. Also mentioned the Young Marines' Aviation Day on May 7th. There will be food and games and families are welcomed. The Marine Mud Run is Sept. 17th. They've had many sign up and are still looking for teams, sponsors and volunteers. They're also still looking for volunteers for parking lot assistance. For information on the Mud Run, visit <http://www.knoxmud.org/>. MCL is also preparing for the Secret City Festival in June. Visit [mclknox.org](http://mclknox.org) for more information.
- **Military Officers Association of America (Bill Potter):** Are still looking for new members in regenerating their East TN chapter. Bill joined Lt Col Lancaster in presenting three \$500 scholarship awards - one to the AF ROTC unit, one to Carson- Newman University's ROTC unit, and the other to the UT Army ROTC unit. MOAA also helped present awards to 8 high school JROTC units.
- **Project Healing Waters (Dan Moneymaker):** Just finished their rod-building class. 13 members built rods. 4 of the rods were sent in to national competition. If they place in the top 6 in the nation, they get an all expense paid trip to Michigan to build bamboo rods. They just had their Pint Night at River Sports Outfitters, where they raised more than \$1,300. Also recently had their Rabbit Run Retreat outing. They had 18 veterans from around the region take part. Their next Rabbit Run outing is Memorial Day. Any ETMAC member who wants to come out and watch is welcomed. Next week they have a

Wounded Warrior Project outing with 12 veterans. In July, they are hosting 19 female veterans, where they will have female guides for them. It will be an all women's event. PHW's big tournament is in September. For more information on Project Healing Waters, visit <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>.

- **Veteran Heritage Site Foundation (Pearl Rich reporting out for Jessica King):** Have all their officers in place, and recently received their 501(c)(3) certification. Go to <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> to learn more, to join, or to donate.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Gary Ellis):** On May 9th, from 6-9 p.m., VVA will be co-sponsoring an Agent Orange Town Hall meeting at the Washington Pike United Methodist Church that will cover benefits for those veterans exposed to Agent Orange, Camp LeJeune water contamination, Gulf War Illness, burn pits, etc. Contact Don Smith at (931) 335-0477 for more information. May 10th is the Morristown Town Hall Meeting on PTSD. The Agent Orange Town Hall meetings are happening all over the U.S. now. The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative pin is being given to Vietnam veterans to thank and honor those veterans who served during active duty in the Vietnam War. By direction of DOD, each pin must be presented to each individual it is given to. Thus, VVA will be setting up the following below events to help present these to Vietnam veterans.  
(\*Please make sure to bring a copy of your DD214 or equivalent with you to the below locations)

**[EVENTS]:**

- June 24-25th: Knoxville Center Walmart
- August 12-13th: Turkey Creek Walmart

If you have an organization that has several members eligible for these pins, contact Don to help make arrangements for a pinning ceremony. The pinning must be done from an organization who is a commemorative partner. VVA and Daughters of the American Revolution are both commemorative partners. For more information, visit <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/> VVA monthly meetings are held at the Red Cross Office Bldg. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. At the next VVA meeting, they will be showing a slideshow from all the pictures they took from their recent trip to Vietnam. They will be making another trip to Vietnam in January 2017.

- **Women Marines Association - Rocky Top Chapter (Lindsay Long):** Project Healing Waters' charter does not cover payment for lodging for the guides themselves, only for the participants. However, the WMA's charter does. They're raising funds to house women guides. In July, they'll be raffling a PHW's fly rod that was specially built. They also just attended the 5th Annual Women Veterans Summit in Chattanooga. Their WMA National Convention is in July in Portland, OR.
- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44 (Pearl Rich):** June 11th is their Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's on Merchants Drive. \$6/per person. You can buy tickets online at the WVA website at <http://wvachapter44.org/>. Proceeds benefit WVA and the Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park Project. Pearl attended the 5th Annual Women Veterans Summit in Chattanooga. Jessica King was presented with the Woman Veteran of the Year award. WVA is holding the TriState Women Veterans Summit in Pigeon Forge in April 2017.
- **Barry Allen:** For anyone trying to request their DD214 or military personnel records, you can request online at the National Personnel Records Center's site at: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military->

[servicerecords/?subject=https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/](https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/servicerecords/?subject=https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/)

- **Joe Eddlemon:** Told a story about when he first met Laimon Godel, Jr., USMC Retired, and Col. Jack Westbrook, USAF Retired.
  - **President's Closing Statement (Owen Ragland):** Owen attended Godel's and Westbrook's funeral services. Said the synergy among the ETMAC groups that support each other is tremendous. Said to keep those who are serving, those who are deployed, and the family of the Navy SEAL who was killed recently and the members of his unit in your prayers.
- ❖ To become an ETMAC member, go to <https://www.etmac.org/>. Annual membership dues can be paid online or at the monthly meetings. You do not have to be military/veteran to join, need only a desire to support ETMAC's mission.
- ❖ Parking validations are available for those who park in Market Square Garage during the monthly meetings. See Patrice for a parking validation.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 2, 2016 at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.**