



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 3, 2011 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- NOVEMBER 11 Veterans Day Parade & Veterans Day Luncheon
- DECEMBER 10 “Wreaths Across America” placement of wreaths on Veterans graves. More info to follow in the future.

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, November 3rd, 2011, at the Knoxville Chamber, ETMAC President John Dyess presiding. A total of 40 members and guests were present. The October meeting summary was approved as written. The treasurer’s report shows a current balance of \$21,798.19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **ETMAC Webpage (Laimon Godel):** For the month of October there were 1,201 visitors averaging 38 visits a day. Please send anything to be added to the calendar to webmaster@godel.com
- **The 2011 ETMAC Veterans Day Luncheon and Awards Program (Patrice Collins):** Will be held at the Knoxville Convention Center on November 11. The change was due to being overcrowded at the Foundry. ETMAC has rented 2 golf carts to shuttle those with difficulty walking from parking areas. There will be parking at the Holiday Inn or the main parking lot on Cumberland Ave. The price for the luncheon will be \$27. Currently there are 565 reservations to attend. The featured speaker will be Brigadier General Gill Beck. Go to http://www.etmac.org/html/vet_luncheon.htm to reserve your seat or table.
- **2011 Knoxville Veterans Day Parade (Gene Bayless):** The American Legion Post 2 will be sponsoring the 2011 Knoxville Veterans Day Parade. The parade will be held on November 11 and starts at 10:45 am in Downtown Knoxville. The Grand Marshall’s for the parade will be Eddie Mannis and Sam Hardman. The route is the same as last year. Currently there are over 100 participants signed up to be in the parade. The parade will also be streamed live on WBIR.com. To participate, complete application at legionknox.org
- **American Red Cross “Coping with Deployment and Coming Home” (Debbie Rutland):** Discussed the program “Holiday Mail for Heroes” to send cards to our troops and veterans all around the world. On November 10th and 12th bring your kids to Knoxville Center Mall and West Town Mall to make homemade cards. Contact Janice Campbell for more info. Also covered “The Coming Home Series” and “Coping With Deployments”

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

- **UT Air Force ROTC (LTC Brian Delamater):** Recently held their annual “Dining Out”. The guest speaker for the Dining Out was Brigadier General Stephen Clark, who was commissioned in 1986 through the Air Force ROTC program at UT. Thanks to the American Legion and the American Red Cross for great support to their unit. There was an Air Force ROTC and Army ROTC Flag Football game on November 1st with Army winning 26-6. Will be participating in Veterans Day programs.
- **UT Army ROTC (MSG Allen York):** The senior cadets recently learned what branches they were selected for. Had 4 infantry, 1 FA, 1 aviation, 2 ordnance, 1 quartermaster, and 1 intelligence. Participating in Veterans Day events including the UT National Day of Remembrance Ceremony from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

- **US Army Recruiting Company (CPT Scott Glidden):** Targeting junior and senior high school and college students that would be interested in joining the Reserves. Appreciates all organizations that provide support. Currently about 3 weeks into the new budget year. The Army is shifting focus from active duty to assisting the Reserves.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Lester Isaac):** Recently awarded USMEPCOM Pacesetters Award for exceeding testing goal for FY2011. Tested over 9,800 students. Also earned MEPS of Excellence Award for 2 quarters for FY2011. Conducted over 6,200 enlistment physicals and put in about 2,500 personnel for FY2011. The date for the move to the Federal Building is now July 2012. Introduced 1st Sgt Steven Schaffner who came aboard about 3 weeks ago.
- **119th Command and Control (1st LT Stephanie McKeen):** Leadership is in Orlando for a Leadership Conference. Will be hosting the December ETMAC meeting.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (CPT Joey Keith):** Recently hosted promotion ceremony for Assistant Adjutant General, Brigadier General Don Johnson. They have 2 Command Chiefs retiring. Also participating in Veterans Day activities. On November 17, they will dedicate their new operations facility after Major General Fred Forester. They have men and women deployed all year round.
- **1/230 Air Cavalry Squadron (CAPT Jake May):** Offering a tour to anyone interested that attends the December ETMAC meeting hosted by the 119th.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (COL Jeffrey Archer):** Attending Suicide Prevention Training. Recently held 3 squadron Changes of Command. Also, beginning preliminary gunnery training with their tanks, Bradley’s, and hummers. Continuing platoon level tactical training. Will be participating in Veterans Day Parade.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (Josh Richardson):** Thanks to the American Legion for allowing the 844th to participate in their post clean up. Participating in Veterans Day Parade. Looking for more construction work projects in the community. Sending troops to Germany, Honduras, and Hawaii.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (Captain Joseph Easterling):** Had a change of Battalion Leadership in Baltimore. Completed demolition training at Fort Drum. Amphibious training at Dam Neck. Platoon in Afghanistan and recently lost LCpl Frankie Watson. There have been various other injuries to the Battalion. The Toys for Tots campaign is currently going on. Will deploy to Africa next year. Captain Easterling will be transferring next summer. Capt Wheeler will be his replacement.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Chris Coyne):** Will be graduating around 200 students at the NCO academy. The Training and Education center plans to grow in the next 2-3 years. Working with the 134th for the actual physical growing of the center. Participating in the Veterans Day Parade.
- **Naval Operations Support Center (Chief Johnson):** Building will be remodeled starting next month. A new dock will also be built. Partnered with “Project Live” to help elderly in community. The Sea Cadet program has 20 cadets now. Next week Nascar driver Trevor Bayne will re-enlist a sailor. Has a band that wants to offer a free MWR concert but need a bigger venue.

MILITARY AND VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** Schools will be visiting the memorial on Veterans Day. The UT ROTC cadets will be working at the memorial and will dedicate a new flag for the memorial for Veterans Day.
- **American Legion (Gene Bayless):** Membership stands at 92% of goal. Their post is family with Legion Riders, Sons of the American Legion, and Ladies Auxiliary. They meet on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm (dinner) and meeting is at 7:00 pm. Thanks to the 844th for their work at the post. The Ladies Auxiliary are smoking turkeys for \$22 for Thanksgiving.
- **Honor Air (Sam Hardman):** HonorAir Flight #12 will be on April 18. To support Honor Air Knoxville, please go to <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>.
- **American Red Cross Knox County (Janice Campbell):** Will be working on the “Holiday Mail for Heroes” program. They will have a canteen on Veterans Day at the parade and at the cemetery on Lyons View for their ceremony. The Red Cross Café is held on the third Sunday each month from 2-4 pm at the chapter. Currently has a SAF grant that is good through June of 2012 for Yellow Ribbons, Welcome Home events, family days and other events.
- **American Red Cross Blount County (Jerry Bennett):** Will be providing support on Veterans Day at the Smoky Mountain Harley Davidson. Will be supporting many units for their family events.
- **Knox County Veterans Affairs Office:** They are located at 1000 North Central Street in Knoxville. Their number is 865-215-5645.
- **Blount County Veterans Affairs Office (Nathan Weinbaum):** The Blount County Veterans Day program will start at 9:45 am with a reception and the ceremony beginning at 10:45 am inside the Old Courthouse in Downtown Maryville located at 305 Court Street in Maryville. Their office number is 273-5760.
- **Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs (Don Smith):** They have started on the repairs on the holes at the new Veterans cemetery. There is still not a date planned for the Official Dedication Ceremony for the Veterans Cemetery.
- **Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (James Foggin):** Have been providing briefings to provide support and awareness of applicable laws between guard and reserve members and their employers. Currently about 2,400 Tennessee reservists deployed.
- **National Association for Uniformed Services (Ole Olson):** NAUS is a lobbying group to lobby for benefits for all branches of service. They meet the 3rd Tuesday each month at the McGhee Tyson Airbase mess hall at 11:00 am and a meeting at 12:00 pm.
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association (Jonathan Williams):** Currently 130 Veteran Owned Business members. On January 23-24 they will be having a Business Expo and Job Fair at the Knoxville Convention Center. Everyone is invited. From John Dyess: The US Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a job fair “Hiring Our Heroes” in conjunction with the Business Expo. In the week prior ESGR and the Department of Labor will host a 2-3 day job placement seminar at Homewood Suites in Turkey Creek. For more info please contact John Dyess.
- **US Tennis Association (John Dyess):** Any unit that has family day events or Yellow ribbon programs, please contact John Dyess for a briefing of what they can offer to your unit.
- **Marine Corps League (Laimon Godel):** Sponsoring the 236th Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon on November 10th from 11:00 to 2:00 pm at Rothchilds. Also sponsoring the 2011 Christmas Breakfast that will benefit Toys for Tots on December 3, 2011 at Rothchilds. For tickets go to www.mclknox.org.
- **East TN Veterans Cemetery (Nathan Weinbaum):** Placement of American flags for Veterans Day will take place on Thursday, November 10th at 4:00 pm. Everyone is invited and bring a screwdriver type tool if you wish to help.
- **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.

- **Gold Star Mothers (Joleen Dewald):** Hosting a fundraising event on Veteran's Day from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Wild Wings Café off Campbell Station Road. Money raised will benefit HonorAir, Fisher House, and A Soldier's Child.
- **The Congressional Medal of Honor Society (Chris Coyne):** Fundraising is going well and they now have an official logo for a possible selection for the National Convention in 2014.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 1st hosted by the 119th Command and Control Squadron – 8:30 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
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