

Approved: 4-9-97
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Lana Oleen at 11:15 a.m. on February 24, 1997, at the Topeka Police Department, 320 S. Kansas, Topeka.

All members were present except:

Senator Nancey Harrington
Senator Sherman Jones
Senator Ben Vidricksen
Senator Donald Biggs

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Midge Donohue, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mr. John Metzger, Firearms Training Systems, Inc.,
Suwanee, Georgia
Major R. L. Miller, Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department

A demonstration of the Firearms Training Simulator (FATS), a laser, computer driven mechanism designed to duplicate various confrontational situations for training law enforcement officers when and when not to shoot, was conducted by Mr. John Metzger of Firearms Training Systems, Suwanee, Georgia. Major R. L. Miller of the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department, assisted with the demonstration. Participants in the demonstration were Senators Oleen, Bleeker, Becker, and Brownlee.

The demonstration was arranged at the request of Senator Oleen by Director Larry Welch of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation for the benefit of committee members prior to hearings on carrying of concealed weapons legislation.

Major Miller told the committee that, although he takes a neutral position on the issue of carrying concealed weapons, he firmly believes there must be some type of training requirement included in the proposed legislation before an individual can be issued a permit. He explained the potential liability attached to carrying a concealed weapon and said the FATS is considered reality based training.

Mr. Metzger stressed the responsibility attached to carrying a firearm. He said the more an individual is exposed to stressful situations during training, the better prepared that person will be to control a situation and increase chances of survival.

Mr. Metzger demonstrated the use of the Simulator and participants took turns in the training exercise.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 1997.