

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 P.M. on January 10, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research  
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research  
Betty Caruthers, Committee Assistant

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order and members of this new Committee introduced themselves. The Committee rules were then reviewed. Chairman Myers discussed the Session Planner and dates coming up. He pointed out that January 22 was the last day for members to request bill drafts and February 1 the last day for non-exempt Committees to request bill drafts.

Chairman Myers announced presenters for the meeting tomorrow; Colonel Eric Peck, Chief of Joint Staff of the Kansas National Guard and Captain Mark Bruce of the Kansas Highway Patrol. He then recognized the Vice Chair, Representative Mario Goico who shared some about his service on the Joint Committee of Homeland Security.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Ruff to talk about briefings for next week. She pointed out the three Military bases in Kansas of Ft. Leavenworth, Ft. Riley, and the McConnell Air Force Base. The BRACC(Base Realignment Closure Commission) had an affect on all of these bases and communities therefore we will be setting up Mission Briefings regarding that for next week. These will also include a look at the future and how these three bases will be fitting into Homeland Security.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Wilk who expressed an interest in hearing more about anticipating and preparing for any future BRACC.

Chairman Myers asked for any bill requests and recognized Representative Ruff. She talked about the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs which employs Veteran Service Officers who do not have background checks nor do the office employees. She believes the background checks should be required therefore she is presenting a Committee bill pertaining to this.

Moved by Representative Ruff and seconded by Representative Goico to accept the above as a Committee bill.

Motion carried.

Representative Goico talked about a bill he has had drafted regarding bomb threats and prosecution as a level 8 felony. He stated that this will be a bill by sponsors and invited others to co-sponsor the bill.

There were no further bill introductions.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 1:55.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11.

