

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 30, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bob Bethell- excused
Representative Kenny Wilk- excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Colonel Smith, Garrison Commander, Fort Riley
Rod Barnes, Junction City City Manager
Cheryl Lyn Higgins, Junction City Chamber of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Myers asked for introduction of bills and there were none.

Chairman Myers recognized Colonel Smith who gave a briefing on the mission of Fort Riley and what happened with the Base Relocation and Closure Act. (Attachment 1) Areas he presented centered around managing the changes in schools, civilian workforce, and another 14,000 automobiles on the roads. He also covered on-post housing, off-post housing, child care and major construction projects thru fiscal year 2013. In 2006 the Big Red One came home to Fort Riley which has had a huge effect on the post. The mission of the base is to provide trained and ready forces and that is their focus. Colonel Smith stated the 2006 figures as to the economic impact on the State of Kansas which includes \$1.3 billion broken down as follows:

765 million - payroll

150 million - supplies and services

371 million - construction

62 million - health care

13 million education

Colonel Smith made a point of thanking the citizens of Kansas for the constant support given to the post.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Craft who introduced Rod Barnes and Cheryl Higgins from Junction City, both here to give briefings to the Committee on the effects of the Base Relocation and Closure Act on the civilian sector of Junction City.

Rod Barnes presented first sharing about the massive housing growth taking place in the area. (Attachment 2) A normal year of construction for the area would be 35 homes and in 2006 it was 1,114 homes permitted. This has in turn effected all other areas of the community such as health care, school expansion, job creation, and the development of a number of other recreational facilities in the area.

Cheryl Higgins presented on the increased demands on the workforce in Junction City. (Attachment 3) The point was made that the success in addressing the needs of the area are due to the regionalism which prevails. Junction City is focusing on business training as well as recruitment and retention strategies because they are anticipating more jobs than workers. They are well aware of the numerous challenges ahead.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 3:00.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 2007.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at 1:30 P.M. on January 30, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.