

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Clay Aurand- excused
Representative Delia Garcia- excused
Representative Mario Goico- excused
Representative Kay Wolf- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Barbara Lewerenz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mr. Jack Walker , Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Combined Armed Center and Ft. Leavenworth (Attachment 1)
Bonnie Templeton, Researcher of Kansas Veterans Missing in Action (Attachment 2) and (Attachment 3)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Goyle, seconded by Representative George for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security held January 22, 2009 and January 27, 2009. Motion Carried.

Moved by Representative Goyle, seconded by Representative Phelps to request approval of the Senate confirmation of the Governor's appointees to the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. Motion Carried.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Jack Walker, Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Combined Armed Center and Ft. Leavenworth. Mr. Walker then introduced Military Students, Major David Farmer, United States Air Force and Major Richard Wellman, United States Army, both currently attending the Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth. Steve Noland, Strategic Communications Officer and Jeff Wingo, Public Affairs Officer, Ft. Leavenworth were also part of the delegation.

The Chairman thanked Representative Meier for arranging the visit of the Ft. Leavenworth guests.

Mr. Walker presented a power-point presentation (Attachment 1), depicting the history and functions of Ft. Leavenworth and the Combined Armed Center.

The Post was established in 1827 and is considered one of the most significant National Historic Landmark Districts in the United States Army. The Post population year around is over 118,000 and continues to expand. This includes military personnel, family members, employees, inmates, transient students and retirees. Currently a new regional confinement facility is being constructed to take care of inmates from other military facilities. Ft Leavenworth has the only military maximum security prison. A new chapel complex is also underway.

The Combined Armed Center lists priorities as Leader Development and Education; Comprehensive Approach to Operations; and Operating in the Information Domain..

The Command and General Staff College annually serves around 1800 individuals each year. This includes members of all United States Armed Forces and international military students. The cultural experience has been beneficial in developing foreign relations and the program continues to grow.

Questions and answers followed. Mr. Walker explained that the school district at Ft. Leavenworth is like

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Veterans, Military And Homeland Security Committee at 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

other Kansas schools except it is a one-hundred percent impacted school district which enables Federal funds to flow into the state, like Junction City for example. He also said the Army is working to improve communication with other government agencies and is bringing in FBI and CIA agents and their students to see how the military works. .

Majors Wellman and Farmer spoke briefly about their military history. Major Farmer is a Kansas State University graduate and grew up in Chapman, Kansas. Major Wellman is a University of Kansas graduate and grew up in Wichita, Kansas.

The Chairman introduced Bonnie Templeton, Researcher of Kansas Veterans Missing in Action. (Attachment 2) The Chairman thanked Representative Craft for arranging the opportunity for Ms. Templeton to speak to the Committee. Ms. Templeton stated her interest in Vietnam Era Kansas Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIAs) began when she purchased her first MIA bracelet in 1988. She gave personal accounts of the research she has done and families with whom she has visited. She furnished a visual aid with pictures of MIAs and a list of 56 POW/MIAs from Kansas of which 26 remain missing. (Attachment 3)

Questions and answers followed. Ms. Templeton said it is her understanding that the governments efforts in locating POW/MIAs are now focused more on MIAs.

Chairman Myers announced the next meeting is February 3. The Committee will receive a briefing from Adjutant General Tod Bunting, Kansas Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p. m..