

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:40 a.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2005, in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley (E)

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Major General Tod Bunting, Kansas National Guard

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Brungardt called for bill introductions. Bob Alderson, representing the Casey's General Stores, Petroleum Marketeers and Convenience Store Association, and Kansas Food Dealers Association, requested a bill be introduced that would provide cities and counties the option of adopting statutory provisions which would re-define cereal malt beverage and permit the sale of the redefined product by cereal malt beverage retailers and retail liquor dealers situated within the boundaries of any city or county adopting such statutory provisions.

Senator Barnett moved to introduce the proposed bill, seconded by Senator Brownlee, and the motion carried.

The Chair called the Committee's attention to a handout furnished by Secretary Wagon, Department of Revenue, in response to Senator O'Connor's request during the Secretary's recent Committee presentation. The handout related to local sales and use tax distributions for FY 02, 03, and 04. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Brungardt introduced Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General of the Kansas National Guard, to give an update and briefing on the National Guard's activities. General Bunting introduced members of his team that were in attendance: SFC Robert J. Herlinger, who has just returned from duty in Iraq, and his wife Cherie; Asst. Adjutant General-Army, Jonathan Small; CSM Steve Rodena, State Command Sergeant Major; Col. Adam King, Executive Staff Support Officer; Col. Eric Peck, Chief of Staff-Army, and Terri Ploger-McCool, who supervises the seven Regional Homeland Security Coordinators, Kansas Emergency Management.

General Bunting shared with the Committee the National Guard's Constitutional Missions and Charter as formed in 1855, and was the first Kansas Adjutant General (Territorial). This is the Guards 150th anniversary, and he pointed out how things haven't changed that much from the very early years. The General showed the Committee a copy of Vol. 1, covering the years 1861-1865, of the Adjutant General's Report, which contained a report on the number of men called by the President of the United States and furnished by the State of Kansas for federal service during the Civil War. He stated that the Guards are the public safety agency that protects Kansans both here within the state and abroad. He said a 150 years later he made a report to the Governor this summer that there are 1,800 Kansas soldiers now fighting what the military calls the "away game" to prevent terrorism from coming to America.

General Bunting reviewed the dual mission of the Guards, i.e. stateside and federal. He reported that they have approximately 8,000 people of which 5,400 are soldiers and 2,200 are airmen. He said the Guards have assets of a little over \$4 billion, have a direct budget of \$500 million, and have a separate Division of Emergency Management under the Kansas Statutes which falls under the Adjutant General. The

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General reviewed the Chain of Command that reports to the Governor. He said that nationally the Guard has 350,000 citizen soldiers from 2,700 communities throughout the U.S. General Bunting reviewed the four divisions of the Kansas Army National Guard which included the 69th Troop Command, 130th Field Artillery, 35th Division Artillery, and the 35th Military Police Company. He gave a breakdown of the deployment status of the various battalions and their involvement in the military conflicts throughout the world as listed in his briefing handout. The handout also included a map showing where the Army National Guard's Distributive Learning Facilities are located in Kansas. (Attachment 2)

General Bunting said the number one people issue at this time is for tuition assistance. He talked briefly about the Guard recruiting locally within Kansas; they have a 20% turnover per year, and recruit approximately 45% with prior service. He stated that the Guards were holding their own in recruiting, but that there had been a decline in recruiting people with prior service. The prior service recruit ratio had been as high as 75%, and the General shared several reasons for the decline.

General Bunting talked about the Kansas Air National Guard, and said there were two wings located in Kansas, i.e. Wichita's McConnell Air Force Base and the 190th Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field in Topeka. He said the Network Operations and Security Center is located at McConnell, which is the security center for all of the local area networks for the Air National Guard. The General referred to the map on page 10 of his handout, and that it showed the Kansas National Guard was on six continents and 30 countries last year. He also had furnished pictures comparing the size of Iraq and Afghanistan to the State of Kansas. The handouts also contained pictures of heavy equipment used in Iraq along with maintenance and supply operations.

General Bunting briefed the Committee on the recent ice storms that hit the state, and that 32 counties that the Governor has requested for Presidential Disaster Declaration. He touched on the Kansas National Guard Scout Program, and included a chart showing the location of the various regions in the state for that program. His handout included a map showing the Homeland Security Regions and names of the Region Coordinators, along with a map of the location of various aging armories in the state which is the number one infrastructure issue for the Guards. He explained the highly trained 73rd Civil Support Team, which handles weapons of mass destruction events. The General concluded his presentation by briefly talking about the Guard's youth program, Kansas Starbase, and the Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Site (RSMS) located at Ft. Riley.

Chairman Brungardt had to leave the meeting to make a presentation to another group. Vice Chairman Reitz called for questions and comments. Following general Committee questions, the Vice Chairman expressed the Committee's appreciation for the General's briefing and service the military gives to the citizens of Kansas and the nation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2005, 10:30 a.m.