

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 23, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bill Light- 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:

Jack Walker, Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Fort. Leavenworth
George Webb, Dir. Of KS Commission on Veterans Affairs
Ken Stodgell, Legislative Chairman of VFW

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Myers recognized Jack Walker who gave a briefing on the mission profile and results of the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) for Fort. Leavenworth. (Attachment 1) This included an overview of the Combined Arms Center as well as a history of Fort Leavenworth. He also showed the economic impact, construction, and future planning in dealing with BRAC. They are a major education center and have recently constructed a new academic center. They are also looking at possible building of a new prison to open in 2008. Fort Leavenworth has gone to privatization of housing which is another development at this time.

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **HB 2067 - Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs; Criminal history checks of employees.** He recognized Revisor, Art Griggs, to provide a summary for a Substitute for HB 2067.

Chairman Myers recognized George Webb who spoke as a proponent to the substitute bill. Background checks would be completed on new employees of the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs or ones who have been employed less than 5 years.

Chairman Myers recognized Ken Stodgell who also spoke as a proponent to the substitute bill. (Attachment 2) Concerns surround identity theft and the access employees have to considerable personal information.

There were no opponents present to speak to the bill.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Bethell to amend HB 2067 with the proposed substitute bill 2067.

Motion carried.

Moved by Representative Bethell, seconded by Representative Craft to pass substitute 2067 as amended for passage.

Motion carried. 13 Yea 0 Nay

Chairman Myers requested Representative Spalding to carry this bill to the House floor.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 2:30.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24.