

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY

December 12, 2006
Armed Forces Reserve Center, Room 231
Topeka, Kansas

Members Present

Senator Jay Emler, Chairman
Senator Nick Jordan
Senator Chris Steineger
Representative Mario Goico
Representative Carl Krehbiel
Representative Julie Menghini
Representative Lee Tafanelli

Members Absent

Senator Jim Barone
Senator Carolyn McGinn
Representative Judith Loganbill

Staff

Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees

Dick Morrissey, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Captain Eric Pippin, Kansas Highway Patrol
Representative Lee Tafanelli
Mark W. Olesen, President, Summit Solutions, Inc.
Randy Mettner, Executive Office, Adjutant General's Department
Terri Ploger-McCool, Adjutant General's Department
Representative Mario Goico

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Representative Goico, seconded by Senator Jordan, the minutes of the September 5, 2006 meeting of the Joint Committee on Kansas Security, be approved. Motion carried.

Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Dick Morrissey, Deputy Director, Division of Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, provided an overview of the Pandemic Flu and described the various types of viruses; how the virus is spread; who, where, and when influenza affects people; signs and symptoms of the flu; what you can do to prevent the flu; and the flu vaccination. He described the treatment and the side effects of antiviral medications used to treat the flu. Pandemic influenza can be spread rapidly throughout the entire world and can overwhelm health care resources. No immunity is likely for a novel flu virus, so it will make more impact and cause more deaths. There is no way to predict when the pandemic flu will next impact the United States and Kansas. Federal planning efforts are in place and allocation of funding has been made by Congress. Federal guidelines are in place and when current funding expires, it will be subject to further action. Vaccines and antiviral medications will be available but not in sufficient amounts to take care of the whole population. State and local partnerships were explained, including agency collaboration and coordination on policy and preparedness issues. Mr. Morrissey explained the collaboration of various entities to improve linkages between animal and human disease surveillance. Public education programs have been developed and will appear in all media. Attachments include the power point presentation slides, listing of KDHE Educational Efforts 2005-2006, and the KDHE Kansas Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan (Attachment 1).

Update on Statehouse Security (Closed meeting)

Presented by Captain Eric Pippin, Kansas Highway Patrol. *Motion to close the open meeting to receive information and consider matters relating to security of State officers or employees, or both, or security of buildings and property under ownership or control of the State of Kansas or matters relating to security measures.*

Moved by Representative Goico, seconded by Senator Jordan, that the open meeting of the Joint Committee on Kansas Security be recessed for a closed, executive meeting pursuant to Joint Rule 5 of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives and subsection (b)(13) of K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 75-4319, and amendments thereto, for the purpose of consulting with designated individuals from the Kansas Highway Patrol regarding matters (1) relating to the security of state officers or employers, or both, or the security of buildings and property under the ownership or control of the State of Kansas, or (2) matters relating to security measures which matters, if discussed at an open meeting would jeopardize such security measures, that the Joint Committee on Kansas Security resume the open meeting in Room 231 of the Armed Forces Reserve Center at 11:00 a.m. and that this motion, if adopted, be recorded in the minutes of the Joint Committee on Kansas Security and be maintained as a part of the permanent records of the Committee. Motion carried.

The Committee returned to open meeting at 11:00 a.m., and were taken on a 45-minute tour to view a Mobile Command Vehicle by Mark W. Olesen, President, Summit Solutions, Inc.

Kansas Emergency Disaster Relief Fund

Representative Lee Tafanelli discussed proposed legislation which would establish a Kansas Emergency Disaster Relief Fund, prescribing powers, duties, and functions for the Adjutant General. A draft of the language was passed out to the Committee. Representative Tafanelli noted it is very difficult for rural areas who have suffered a major disaster to reach the dollar amount needed to get federal assistance and this would provide timely aid and help citizens get back on their feet. A draft of the bill and a copy of the North Carolina Emergency Management Act was provided ([Attachment 2](#)).

Update on Commission on Emergency Planning and Response

Randy Mettner, Executive Office, Adjutant General's Department, presented a proposal to increase the membership of the statutory Commission on Emergency Planning and Response. He indicated that the Commission has a broad mandate which: (1) may support Homeland Security issues; (2) supports regionalization and regional councils; (3) provides a good source of interaction and communication between government and the private sector; (4) supports the National Response Plan and State Response Plan with assisting in local planning; (5) supports federal law with Toxic, Hazardous Materials issues, release reporting, planning, response, and mitigation; and (6) may support developing and implementing a plan for regional emergency medical response teams. He offered language for proposed legislation for introduction by the Committee to increase the membership on the Commission ([Attachment 3](#)).

Concern was voiced that it would be difficult to get a quorum with the proposed 33 members and suggested a lesser number be considered.

Hurricane Katrina Update

Terri Ploger-McCool, representing Major General Tod Bunting, presented an update on the response teams deployed to Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. She provided visuals on the impact to the various areas on Louisiana and Mississippi. Improved reconnaissance and Scout teams, a statewide database on deployable assets, improved communication and coordination of equipment, deployment training for non-military personnel, improved understanding of the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System, and the need to exercise and continually improve plans were lessons learned. The biggest impact was on hospitals and homes for the elderly where emergency plans were inadequate. The loss of communications, including television, radio, telephones, and electricity, greatly impacted the area.

International Symposium of Agriterrorism

Representative Goico reported on the week-long symposium he and Senator Emler attended and briefed the Committee on the area of agriculture and food security. His ten-page report covered the vulnerability of livestock, crops and poultry in the United States. He noted the initiatives being taken, the national strategy, funding, and goals. He concluded by saying "we can never create a perfect system to safeguard against terrorist use of a biological agent. But, conscientious preparation – to the greatest extent that budgets and available methods allow – will reduce anxiety and greatly mitigate the consequences of an actual attack" ([Attachment 4](#)).

Mobile Command Centers

Senator Barone had requested information on the number of Mobile Command Centers across the state. It was noted that each member was sent a map from the Adjutant General's Department showing the counties owning a Mobile Command Trailer or Vehicle and a table listing each county with the type of unit owned (Attachment 5).

Committee Discussion and Recommendations

Legislative Research staff provided a report on conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Committee (Attachment 6).

Representative Tafanelli recognized Representative Carl Krehbiel for his service as a State Representative for eight years and his participation on the Joint Committee on Kansas Security. Representative Krehbiel has retired and attendance at this meeting was his last official act.

Due to the lack of time, moved by Representative Goico, seconded by Senator Jordan, that the Committee recess and reconvene after the Governor's Council on Homeland Security. Motion carried.

Governor's Council on Homeland Security

The Committee joined the Governor's Council on Homeland Security for a presentation by Barry R. McCaffrey, General, USA (Retired). A copy of the Governor's Council agenda and General McCaffrey's presentation is attached (Attachments 7).

The Committee did not reconvene after the adjournment of the Governor's Council on Homeland Security.

Prepared by Ann McMorris
Edited by Amy VanHouse

Approved by Committee on:

December 22, 2006

(date)