

Approved:

February 7, 2012

(Date)

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mario Goico, at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present:

Chairman, Representative Mario Goico
Vice Chair, Representative Connie O'Brien
Ranking Minority Member, Representative Melanie Meier
Representative Benny Boman
Representative James Fawcett
Representative Randy Garber
Representative John Grange
Representative Dennis Hedke
Representative Mitch Holmes
Representative Steven Johnson
Representative Ann Mah
Representative Robert Montgomery
Representative Annie Tietze

Committee staff present:

Mary Torrence, Office of the Revisor
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department
Rich Mergen, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Lee E. Tafanelli, Kansas Adjutant General

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY Committee
at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Chairman Goico opened the meeting; Committee members introduced themselves, and the Committee staff was introduced. The members were reminded of the Committee rules.

Chairman Goico recognized Jill Shelley who provided an annual report of the interim Joint Committee on Kansas Security which met October 17, 2011. Further, Ms. Shelley detailed the conclusions and recommendations made by the Joint Committee, based on testimony and discussion. (Attachments #1, # 2, #3 ,#4) A question and answer period followed.

Chairman Goico recognized Adjutant General Lee Tafanelli. Major General Lee Tafanelli provided information about efforts of the Kansas National Guard and the support provided to Guard members, and their families, who were going to be deployed and those returning from deployment. (Attachment #5) Question and answer period followed.

Chairman Goico excused himself to attend another Committee hearing and Vice Chair Connie O'Brien took over the meeting.

Vice Chair O'Brien recognized Representative John Grange who informed Committee members of the North Central Kansas Technical College – "Veterans Honorary Associates Degree of Technical Education". A brochure was presented that detailed the program, criteria, and application process for veterans to attain this honorary degree. The honorary degree is free to qualified veterans. More details can be found at: www.ncktc.edu

Vice Chair O'Brien recognized Representative Ann Mah. Representative Mah recalled that legislators, during the 2011 Session, were honored as being veterans of the Vietnam War. A request was made to the Office of the Revisor to prepare an appropriate resolution for the 2012 Session to honor those members that served in a war zone. The Committee agreed that a resolution should be introduced.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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The next House Veteran, Military & Homeland Security Committee meeting is scheduled for
Tuesday, January 17. 2012.

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