

TESTIMONY HB 2036

THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONY IS A RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ASKED BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, “Is there an external evaluation/assessment of our military installations, programs, and policies in Kansas?”:

Response/Answer: Yes, faced with an impending Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in 2005 the United States Army developed the Military Value Analysis (MVA) Model. This assessment tool is comprised of 16 attributes (metrics): Maneuver Land, Range Sustainability, Training Facilities, Airspace, Indirect Fire, Deployment Infrastructure, Seaport of Embarkation, Aerial Port of Embarkation, Access to Medical Care, Quality of Life Facilities, Family Housing, Brigade Complex, Buildable Acres, Urban Sprawl, Connectivity, and Geographic Distribution. It is used in the determination of future installation closures and stationing decisions. Each of the 16 attributes has a formula or categorical definition that measures certain characteristics; the results of the categorical ratings are converted to a score of 0 to 10. The attributes are weighted within the model based on their operational importance. The Army will not release the formula or the weighted criteria it applies to the 16 attributes. Installation scores can only be released to an installation’s Congressional Delegation at the request of the Delegation.

Armed with a keen appreciation the role that the military family and community plays in the retention and recruitment of the service member, the Army developed the Community Support Value Analysis (CSVA) Model. This new model focuses on off post assets, programs, policies, and laws that impact the quality of life of service members, veterans and their families.

The Community Support Value Analysis focus areas are:

Professional Licenses: Whether or not a state allows for the expedited reciprocity of license, certifications, and training for military spouses and dependents. **The State of Kansas addressed this issue by passing House Bill 2066.**

Housing: Focused on private sector shortfall, which gives the number of families who are unable to find affordable/suitable off-post housing near installations.

Schools: Focus on quality of education, infrastructure, and programs. Focused primarily on the state test scores for 4th grade math, 4th grade reading, 8th grade math, and 8th grade reading. This metric was selected because it is the only measurement that is consistent across the United States. Other focus areas as directed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military One Source Office were the Federal Impact Aid Program and Purple Star School Program. **The State of Kansas addressed these issues by passing Senate Bill 341 regarding Federal Impact Aid and the Kansas Department of Education designating the State of Kansas as a “Purple Star School Program” state.**

Medical: The network fit percentage, which measures, for each of a list of specialties, the ratio of providers available in the community to the providers estimated to be required to service the general population.

Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSAs): The number of Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Common Levels of Support (CLS) services at an installation that are under an Intergovernmental Support Agreement. **Fort Riley has been recognized at the Office of the Secretary of Defense level for their excellence in working with communities surrounding Fort Riley and implementing several critical Intergovernmental Support Agreements.**

Veteran's Benefits: Focusing on state polies and legislation that provides an increase in the quality of life for our Veterans and their families.

As the Executive Director, Governor's Military Council, State of Kansas, I want to thank the Committee for all that you have done and continue to do for our Service men and women, Veterans and their families in Kansas. Your Herculean efforts do not go unnoticed and as a Veteran I want to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude. I also want to thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the member's question regarding an external evaluation/assessment.

I have had the distinct honor and privilege to wear the cloth of a United States Army Officer in service to this nation for 33 years. I have witnessed first-hand this nation's most precious resource, its sons and daughters standing on point willing to sacrifice their lives to protect our very way of life. Sadly, as a commander I have had to knock on a door to deliver the tragic news of a fallen loved one and have executed one of our nation's most sacred duties and honored a fallen comrade by presenting a loved one on bended knee our nation's folded flag on behalf of a grateful nation. It was through these types of experiences that I gained a true realization and appreciation for the incredible debt we owe our families of the fallen and our Veterans. A debt the nation will never truly be able to repay.

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