

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Mitchell, Representatives Holtzclaw, Monks, Shepherd, Crane(12), Handy, Hill, Petzke, Boyle, Clow, Harris, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Green

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Colonel Mike Alfaro, Commander, 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB), presented the State of the Gunfighters address to the committee. The mission statement for the 366th Fighter Wing is to "provide mission-ready Gunfighters to conduct operations anytime, anywhere." Their vision is to be America's most elite Fighter Wing. He stated their priorities are the three "P's." Invest in their people, be prepared through training and field exercises, and professionalism both inside and outside of work. He remarked, in 2024 they received the Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence award for innovation regarding the design of their portable solar power cells and for their dorm improvements. He stated this award and recognition is a very big accomplishment.

Col. Alfaro summarized several of the ongoing activities including the Deployable Combat Wing and Air Base Wing Validation Exercise, known as DAVE. He explained, DAVE prepares Airmen to ensure they are ready for a battlespace that is vastly different from the past 20 years of counterinsurgency operations. He explained MHAFB is one of six combat support training range sites across the Air Force and is prototyping new requirements to establish best practices for the other locations.

Col. Alfaro wrapped up his presentation with a summary of ongoing projects including the Snake River water pipeline and intake station, which will be a real property gift from the Idaho Department of Water Resources this year. He stated the Air Force will construct a water treatment plant, with completion scheduled for 2026. He highlighted investing in the quality of life for the families through the "Five and Thrive" initiative, which includes Education, Childcare, Spouse Employment, Housing, and Healthcare.

MOTION: **Rep. Mitchell** made a motion for the committee to dissolve into an executive session for the purpose of hearing an unclassified briefing given by Intelligence Experts from MHAFB. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Major Madsen, Wing Director of Intelligence, **Technical Sergeant Hogg**, Intelligence Superintendent, and **Lieutenant Browne**, Officer in Charge, CENTCOM Analysis Team, 366th Fighter Wing, MHAFB, presented an unclassified intelligence briefing to the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Mitchell made a motion to reconvene the public meeting. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary