

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

February 4, 2003

8:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch, Chair
Representative James Holm, Vice Chair
Representative Nancy Dahlstrom
Representative Bob Lynn
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Ethan Berkowitz
Representative Max Gruenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Carl Gatto

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CONFIRMATION HEARING

Commissioner, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs

Brigadier General Craig E. Campbell - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION(S) ADVANCED

HOUSE BILL NO. 45

"An Act adding a second verse to the official Alaska state song."

- MOVED HB 45 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS ACTION

BILL: HB 45

SHORT TITLE: SECOND VERSE OF ALASKA'S STATE SONG

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) WEYHRAUCH

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page		Action
01/21/03	0043	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED (1/10/03)
01/21/03	0043	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/21/03	0043	(H)	CRA, STA
01/29/03	0089	(H)	COSPONSOR(S): MORGAN
01/30/03		(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 124
01/30/03		(H)	Moved Out of Committee
01/30/03		(H)	MINUTE(CRA)
01/31/03	0099	(H)	CRA RPT 6DP
01/31/03	0099	(H)	DP: KOOKESH, CISSNA, SAMUELS,
01/31/03	0099	(H)	ANDERSON, CHENAULT, MORGAN
01/31/03	0100	(H)	FN1: ZERO(UA)
01/31/03	0106	(H)	COSPONSOR(S): ANDERSON, Joule, CISSNA,
01/31/03	0106	(H)	KERTTULA, STEVENS, SEATON
02/03/03	0120	(H)	COSPONSOR(S): MOSES, WILSON, HARRIS
02/04/03		(H)	STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 102

WITNESS REGISTER

BRIGADIER GENERAL CRAIG E. CAMPBELL, Adjutant General/
Commissioner

Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs
Fort Richardson, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointed adjutant
general/commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans'
Affairs

CONSTANCE DAVIS
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as the daughter of the author of
the proposed second verse to the Alaska state song, during
testimony on HB 45.

J. ALLAN MACKINNON
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of adopting the second
verse of the Alaska state song during testimony on HB 45.

TERI TIBBIT, Staff
to Representative Max Gruenberg
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Sang the Alaska state song, including the
proposed second verse, during testimony on HB 45.

ACTION NARRATIVE

TAPE 03-03, SIDE A

Number 0001

CHAIR BRUCE WEYHRAUCH called the House State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Representatives Holm, Seaton, Gruenberg, and Weyhrauch were present at the call to order. Representatives Dahlstrom, Lynn, and Berkowitz arrived as the meeting was in progress. Other legislators present were Representatives Hawker and Gatto.

CONFIRMATION HEARING

Commissioner, Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs

Number 0052

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH announced the first order of business, the confirmation hearing on the appointment of Brigadier General Craig E. Campbell as adjutant general/commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA).

Number 0103

BRIGADIER GENERAL CRAIG E. CAMPBELL, Adjutant General/Commissioner, Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs (DMVA), in response to a request for clarification by Chair Weyhrauch, explained that his promotion to general was given by the governor; it's a state promotion, pending the federal recognition process, which started this week. The star on his uniform signifies his title. He explained that he wears two hats. The DMVA has both the National Guard and "the civilian side, which is homeland security." Monday through Friday, he acts as a state employee in the commissioner's role, although he wears his uniform and is addressed as "general." On the weekends, he said, he acts as a general in charge of the Alaska National Guard.

Number 0251

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL referred to his resume [included in the committee packet]. He said he has been an Alaskan resident since 1981, and was assigned on active duty as a captain in air traffic control at Elmendorf Air Force Base. When his three years were up, he requested that he be allowed to stay in Alaska

- a request which was not granted. He left the military because he loved Alaska.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL said he joined the California [Air National] Guard because there was no guard based in Alaska in his field of air traffic control. He added that there still isn't today. He commuted from Eagle River, Alaska, to Hayward, California, for seven years, paying for his own airfare, hotel, and rental car costs.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL said that when the [168th Air Refueling Wing, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska] was activated in 1986, he started looking at the ability to have a home in the guard in Alaska. An opening became available at Eielson [Air Force Base] eventually. He served for many years in several positions, including [logistics] squadron commander and executive support staff officer to the commander.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL noted that he spent one year at the Naval War College. He said, "It excited me to the point that I wanted to expand my education on military affairs." He noted that he volunteered for the U.S. Navy and was accepted. After completion of that, he served as the executive support [staff] officer for the Alaska Air National Guard [1999-2000]. He said that the job penultimate to his present one was as vice-commander of the 168th wing, where he proudly served for 2.5 years with Commander Colonel Tim Scott.

Number 0483

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL turned to his second point, regarding why he wants [to be confirmed as] general. He stated that after 27.5 years in the military, he thinks he has done well in his career and that "Alaska has some quality soldiers and airmen in the officer corps." He reminded the committee that in the last 20 years or so, about half of the adjutant generals for the State of Alaska have not been from the Alaska National Guard, but have come from the active-duty U.S. Army or the active-duty U.S. Air Force unit. Brigadier General Campbell stated that that always concerned him, because he always felt that "having to ... take your senior leader from outside of the Alaska National Guard [sends] a message to those in the Alaska National Guard that they don't have the qualifications or capabilities to be the leader of their own organizations."

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL continued as follows:

Traditionally, this is a purple-type operation, [a mixture of] Army green, Air Force blue, [and] Navy brown. The color mixes together, because you're not representing just your component, you're representing all the military components in the state. So, traditionally, it's gone between green and blue - between the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The last two adjutant generals have both been from the Army National Guard. So I really believe that this time was an opportunity: if the Air National Guard had qualified candidates, ... they ought to put their applications in and ask to be considered.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL said that the aforementioned reasons prompted his decision to apply.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL stated that his reasons for wanting to be adjutant general, in regard to specific issues, center around the fact that his military training [taught] him that he wants to know what his directive is before he marches out under orders. He told the committee that the DMVA web page does not show a strategic plan. Furthermore, he challenged all of the committee members to "look right now, and see if you can find a strategic plan for DMVA in the National Guard." He noted that the last [strategic plan] was initiated by [Major General Jake] Lestenkof approximately eight years ago and never came to fruition.

Number 0701

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL stated, "Without a strategic plan, we don't know where we're going." He said that in his civilian capacity, he was an airport planner for approximately 15 years, including work in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Fairbanks, among other places in Alaska. He said that that discipline taught him the importance of having a plan "that's real." He stated that he feels his strength is [to be able] to begin giving direction through strategic planning.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL noted another reason [for his interest in the position] is in regard to the challenges. He said that [Major General] Oates [his predecessor] told him that two issues he will have to face will make his job even more challenging: homeland security and the budget. Brigadier General Campbell told the committee that he is here today to say

that he understands those challenges and wants to be the adjutant general and the commissioner of DMVA.

Number 0808

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL continued as follows:

For those of you who may not be aware, we have reorganized, and part of the first actions we've [taken] to try to help us with the budget process, as well as the strategic plan order of control, is to decentralize the organization. Prior to my coming on board, it was a very linear organization; Major General Oates had most of the divisions reporting directly to him. We've changed that in our reorganization. I've made it very vertical. I have the deputy commissioners responsible for the administrative side. And I have, basically, two columns: one for the civilian homeland security emergency services, the other for the National Guard that reports to me. I think that's going to help me with my span of control and doing your job effectively.

Number 0880

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL indicated that there are 4,000 employees, part-time and full-time. In closing, he listed his priorities as follows: homeland security; recruiting and retention; missile defense; transforming the National Guard; and serving veterans - primarily to resolve the veterans' home issue.

Number 0926

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG stated that he thinks it is important [to recognize] a group in need composed of baby boomer veterans who are not seniors and wouldn't have need of [an Alaska Pioneers'] Home. He said that some of them have Gulf War disease, some are Vietnam veterans, and some are veterans of other campaigns, or perhaps peacetime veterans. He added, "And I would hope that these people don't get left behind."

Number 0999

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL responded that, after 27.5 years in "this uniform," he has a passion for the support and care of

"all who have served and are serving today." He stated that he thinks one of the good things that DMVA has done in the last few years is the establishment of the [position of Special Assistant, Office of Veteran Affairs, Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs]. He noted that Laddie Shaw, who will be leaving later this month, currently holds the position, and he stated his commitment to bring in another individual later this year to [fill the position]. Brigadier General Campbell said that every person's need resulting from service to his/her country [must] be addressed. He stated his intent to take great interest in "providing for all possible abilities to discuss with the veterans' community what we should be doing to help facilitate." He reminded the committee that the veterans' programs are primarily federal; the [DMVA] is mostly a conduit to help ensure that "the right individuals and the right organizations are attached to the right services."

Number 1084

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ said that emergency response is part of DMVA's responsibility. He asked Brigadier General Campbell why he did not name that in his list of priorities.

Number 1114

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL thanked Representative Berkowitz and admitted fault in not mentioning that. He stated that emergency services is one of the primary roles of DMVA. He said that [the department] has hired a new assistant commissioner who will "oversee the new civilian vertical organization, which is homeland security and emergency services." He said that reorganization will allow the department to "move some of the assets between the two separate divisions" [the Office of Homeland Security and the Division of Emergency Services] so that they will operate more efficiently. He told the committee that the department has just "done an administrative order that's bringing over five individuals from other departments to support the homeland security side."

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL explained that the department is looking to meld homeland security and emergency services. He explained that it will be irrelevant at the moment of a call whether the emergency is an earthquake or an anthrax [scare], for example. A team will be prepared to respond to the emergency. Then, once the emergency is identified, one or the other of the two divisions will pick up the responsibility of handling the emergency. He said that this approach is different

from what has been done in the past where the two divisions were divided. The assistant commissioner will facilitate the synergy between the two [divisions].

Number 1221

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON stated that he is pleased with Brigadier General Campbell's commitment to Alaska.

Number 1243

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ asked Brigadier General Campbell if he has "put together a scenario" whereby he could withstand a 5- or 10-percent cut without compromising the mission [of the department].

Number 1263

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL responded that the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) is still compiling "where we're heading with what the final budget numbers will look like"; however, he stated that he is comfortable that he will be able to provide the services needed with the budget that he submitted to OMB. He added that in that budget "we are looking for adjustments," and he said that he thinks that it is his responsibility to make certain the reorganization is properly funded. He said he will be able to do a good job if OMB approves the budget he requested.

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ asked if the budget request of the department is for the same, more, or less than last year's budget.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL answered that he did not ask for last year's budget. He mentioned adjustments and said he would agree that there should be some cuts. He explained that he took the job as a fiscal conservative [who] believes that "we should ... do only what is required." He stated that the primary pillars of the government, for which his department is responsible, are safety and security, so he has made some recommendations for adjusting funds to cover areas that would enhance homeland security. He said, "It could end up being about the same, but there could be some additions matched by deletions." He explained that he thinks the existing budget for 2003 was not allocated properly for the services needed.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL stated that he is not coming forward with any supplementary requests for personnel costs for 2003, which he said is what instigated his thinking that he needed to make internal adjustments, rather than come to the legislature to ask for money. He said the way that the 2003 budget was put together and executed for the first six months of the year has caused a deficit resulting in "a fairly high vacancy factor." He added, "And I'm going to do that deliberately." He explained that he wants his division managers and others in the department to understand that, if a budget is passed, they have to live within that budget.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL specified that he would ask for additional funding for disasters that happen.

Number 1449

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ stated that it's been the [legislative] majority's practice over the last couple of years not to fund a disaster until it's supplemental. He said, "It's one of those budgetary shell games."

Number 1460

REPRESENTATIVE HOLM noted that he is a member of "the employers' support of the guard and reserve." He asked Brigadier General Campbell what his ideas for recruiting and community involvement are.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL reiterated that recruiting and retention is one of the highest priorities, which he said he will address in more detail during an upcoming overview. He stated, "There's pressure with the civilian side for jobs and, since half of our force is part-time in the National Guard, when they ... find that they can make more money and have their weekends off and get personal satisfaction by not being in the military, I find that discouraging." He said that he wants the military to provide options that attract people to the military, whether it's educational benefits, skill training, or getting a college degree, for example.

Number 1537

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL stated that the department will do "something different" on the Air National Guard side. He referred again to Colonel Tim Scott, a new brigadier general selectee, who is currently in the Middle East and will become

the new air commander for the Air National Guard upon his return. Colonel Scott will be based out of Fairbanks. Brigadier General Campbell opined that one of the problems [the department] has had is being too centered in Anchorage, so that some of the other areas of the state have felt disenfranchised. A general officer in Fairbanks will have more ability to work with ESGR [Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve], the Chamber of Commerce, and the business community to make sure "we do what's right for the guard members, to serve the civilian community and still be members of the guard."

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL challenged the International Guard to "look at why only Fairbanks and Anchorage are where we have bases." He noted that there are smaller operations in the "Army Guard" in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Western Alaska, and some aviation in Bethel and Nome. He said a mission requirement is necessary to "lead us to putting some equipment and some missions outside of Anchorage and Fairbanks." He stated that he thinks this is possible, but is not committing today to do it.

Number 1641

REPRESENTATIVE LYNN indicated a situation he had heard about where classified information that came to [the department] from "the federal side" had been previously withheld from the administration. He asked Brigadier General Campbell to comment on that.

Number 1672

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL responded that it probably is the result of homeland security and of civilians' need to know classified information. He noted that traditionally, military people had security clearances and responded to security activities. He said, "With this changing world, I think it's imperative that the civilian chain of commands, specifically through the executive branch, be available ... at least up to the secret level information, which is the majority of information on terrorism, threats, and that type of information that's out there." He stated that [the department] has already instituted a program to get security clearances for many of the senior staff in the governor's office who would have a need to know, so that they can provide the governor with information, in order that he/she can make the right decisions on whether or not to activate "the force."

REPRESENTATIVE LYNN indicated possibilities of having a U.S. Coast Guard ROTC [Reserve Officers' Training Corps] at the University of Alaska Southeast, in Juneau, and a Junior Coast Guard ROTC at Juneau-Douglas High School. He asked Brigadier General Campbell for his comments.

Number 1726

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL replied that the U.S. Coast Guard has recently been realigned into the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which is a change from its previous alignment with the [U.S.] Department of Transportation. He stated that the Army, Air National Guard, and Navy, for example, are all aligned under the [U.S.] Department of Defense, which is where he said the National Guard and Reserve authorities come from. However, he stated that he does not think that that should be a limiting factor for Alaska to "outreach" to the [U.S.] Department of Homeland Security to work more closely with the Coast Guard to provide programs that are vital to the state.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL noted that the Coast Guard in Alaska plays the role of the Navy; there is not a large Navy contingency in Alaska. In addition, Admiral [James W.] Underwood is the senior naval officer, representing the Navy task force in Alaska as a Coast Guard officer. He said, "I think that sets the stage that opens the door to that relationship between two different federal departments that allows us also to be involved with the Coast Guard in supporting, possibly, an ROTC program or a Junior ROTC program in this state, which would be unique and different for the Coast Guard."

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL explained that the Coast Guard primarily gets its officers through its training in Connecticut and through sources that aren't traditional ROTC programs. He said, "So, we'll be approaching that with the Coast Guard, with the interest of trying to help them and work with them to see if they would be interested in helping the state of Alaska with such a program." He added, "We also will be looking to the Coast Guard to see how our Alaska State Defense Force and our Alaska Naval Militia may be [of] more use to them."

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL stated that - since the Coast Guard at the federal level has moved into the [U.S.] Department of Homeland Security, and [Alaska] now has an Office of Homeland Security under Assistant Commissioner Sam Johnson - he thinks it's reasonable to assume that the state should have the Coast

Guard, the Alaska State Defense Force, and the Alaska Naval Militia integrated into [Assistant Commissioner Johnson's] operations plan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL opined that whenever [Assistant Commissioner Johnson's] division has to activate for emergencies, regarding any terrorist activity, he should not be limited by the resources available, but should already have accessible to him the tools available through the Coast Guard, Alaska State Defense Force, and [Alaska] Naval Militia. He indicated that there would be ongoing training and ongoing integration into operations plans, and he added that [the department] will be pursuing that. Brigadier General Campbell stated that he thinks the Coast Guard has a great future in Alaska, and that [the department] will do what it can to support [it].

Number 1864

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH asked Brigadier General Campbell for his view regarding the nation's implementation of homeland security issues, versus the individual's privacy rights and other constitutional rights.

Number 1877

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL answered that that is a national debate that has many sides to it. He stated his belief that the government has to provide for safety and security within a state. He said that he does not believe that government should trample or even infringe significantly on individual rights. He emphasized that he is "very much an individual rights person." He stated that the strength of the United States of America has been individual rights. He noted that there have been other countries whose individual rights are averted to the point where government becomes the moral leader of the country, and he posited that that's probably not a good thing. He said, "America is formed by the moral leadership of all of us, together, participating in democracy." He stated his concern regarding laws being passed that would take away individual rights. Regarding [the consideration of new laws], he stated his belief as follows: "When it gets to the point when individual rights are infringed upon to the point that it takes away some of the liberties of Americans, ... we probably should look at another means of doing the business."

Number 1949

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG asked Brigadier General Campbell to keep the committee informed if he either formally, or informally, thinks there are statutory changes necessary.

Number 1964

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ referred to Brigadier General Campbell's previous statement regarding extending secret information to the executive branch. He opined that legislative leadership should also be kept apprised, especially for the purposes of checks and balances. He asked Brigadier General Campbell to "contemplate a mechanism for passing that information when it's appropriate."

Number 2002

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL stated that he is aware of that issue. He said that he has already discussed with [Chair Weyhrauch] holding a separate meeting in the future to brief the committee on confidential information on terrorist activities and threat levels, in order to bring the legislative body up [to date]. He said that the classification system for information is complicated at the federal level. He listed categories [from most to least sensitive] as follows: "top secret," which is divided into separate levels; "secret"; "confidential"; "for official use only"; "for law enforcement use only"; and "classified confidential or sensitive." He stated his intent to ensure that the legislature has all of the information that he can possibly give to it, short of requiring its members to go through a process of applying for a "classified 'secret' classification, unless that's what you desire." He told the committee that he can share with it law enforcement-sensitive information, as well as confidential information; however, it would have to be done in a classified executive session.

Number 2080

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH told the other committee members that he [is waiting for word from] the attorney general to discuss "what sort of environment that has to be discussed in."

Number 2091

REPRESENTATIVE LYNN posited that Brigadier General Campbell is a well-qualified nominee.

Number 2108

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH referred to Brigadier General Campbell's previously stated comment regarding a lack of a strategic plan. He asked him to describe his strategic plan for the department.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL offered the following example of a frustration brought about by lack of a strategic plan:

The Air National Guard side, for three years, was contemplating ... bringing the C-17 - that new air lifter - from the Air Force into the Alaska Air National Guard. We had sent individuals to Jackson, Mississippi, to learn how the Mississippi Air National Guard was working that program. We had gone back to Washington [D.C.]. [U.S.] Senator [Ted] Stevens was supportive of the C-17 coming into the reserve component, and he certainly would have been supportive of it coming to the Air National Guard.

Within the last year, unfortunately, a decision was made not to take that mission in the Alaska Air National Guard, and now it's going over to the Air Force. And it will be at Elmendorf - it's coming to Alaska. So, it still brings that airframe into this theatre, which is good for Alaska and good for America.

The disappointment to the Alaska Air National Guard is that we were looking at the C-17 as a future mission that would give us relevancy with the Air Force for the next 20 [to] 30 years. And that opportunity has now disappeared; we now have to look for other opportunities.

Additionally, it has brought the Air Force Reserve into Anchorage, with another former airframe, and they're going to be competing for the same recruits I'm competing for: those weekenders - those people who work in the civilian community [who] are looking to join the reserves. And now they'll have two options: the Air Force Reserve or the National Guard. It will put additional pressure on a limited recruiting base in Alaska.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL said that he sees challenges that have now been created by the C-17's going to the Air Force

reserve. He stated that he is not interested in "readjusting that issue." However, he has asked the Air National Guard to consider what would be a new mission that it can [adopt] in the next few years that brings it relevancy. He said that he does not want a National Guard that's based on legacy missions and aircraft and equipment [that make it] become irrelevant.

Number 2215

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL offered the following example:

About 15 [to] 20 years ago, the Air Force decided to no longer fly the F-4 aircraft, and they gave them all to the Air National Guard. The Air National Guard received these aircraft, trained their crews in the F-4, could not get supplies, could not get any mission tasking - the Air Force had no need for the F-4 - and basically the units that had F-4s became irrelevant. They were struggling to stay alive. The one, such as in Boise, Idaho, only survived by transferring over to another airframe, and they finally got the ability to have another aircraft and built themselves back into relevancy.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL indicated that a strategic plan will identify short-term transformation and identify missions for the next 1-5 years, thereby continuing the relevancy of the National Guard.

Number 2257

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL stated that he thinks the "Army side" has a great opportunity. He explained that, from the active-duty component, it is looking at the striker brigade, which is going to be stationed in Alaska. He told the committee, "That's a whole different way of looking at how we go to war." He said that the striker brigade needs to respond quickly, and it has a full complement of resources it needs to respond to. He stated, "We have an outstanding Army aviation component, and striker brigade requires aviation." He said that he would be talking with General Brown, and others, about seriously finding parts of the striker brigade where the Army National Guard can fit in, and would make that part of the strategic plan and a goal for the Alaska Army Guard to lead towards.

Number 2289

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG said he knows that recruiting for the National Guard will take place in the Bush, and he asked Brigadier General Campbell to also consider the people in urban areas who need jobs and [could be recruited].

Number 2336

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL said, "Absolutely." He reiterated that recruiting and retention are both high priorities. He said that he is certainly interested in Western Alaska, where there has been a declining rate [of recruits]. He stated that he thinks the needs of the individuals there have not been met as well as they could be; there those individuals are not interested in joining.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL told the committee about the Alaska Youth Academy and the "challenge program." He proffered that that program is one of the finest things that the department is doing. The program is accredited, and the "troubled youth" who go through it receive a degree. He said, "They also have recently been tied to the education formula, and so their funding allows us to use them as an educational - a growth - opportunity for youth, other than just a place to put them to give them some military discipline and hope they turn out all right." Brigadier General Campbell stated that [the legislature] has helped that program immensely, and he asked for its continued support.

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG clarified that he was referring to people who have not had "those troubles," but need jobs.

Number 2403

REPRESENTATIVE DAHLSTROM noted that she has the privilege of having two [military] bases in her district. She stated that she considers it enlightening to speak with people in the military. She said that people in leadership positions throughout the state have expressed utmost confidence in Brigadier General Campbell's ability to [serve as adjutant general/commissioner]. She said that, since speaking with Brigadier General Campbell, she feels that he is the correct person for the position.

Number 2429

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ suggested that the recommendation be passed on.

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH asked Brigadier General Campbell which military leader from history he most admires.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL expressed admiration for Teddy Roosevelt as one of the stronger military leaders; although he was not a traditional military leader, he really knew the military, participated in it in many ways that were unconventional, and, as President, gave the military some of the greatest support. Brigadier General Campbell referred to a book called The Greatest Triumph, which is about how President Roosevelt built a team to take America's military and bring America, as a country to the forefront of the international world at the turn of the nineteenth century. He stated that the sailing of "the Great White Fleet" around the world really demonstrated how the military can be used for the interest of America.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL opined that the military should "never have its end goal being a military goal." He said, "Our end goal is nothing more than whatever the national objective of the United States of America is." He stated that he thinks President Roosevelt understood that very well. In response to a question from Chair Weyhrauch, Brigadier General Campbell agreed that the Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs is probably the smallest department in the state.

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH asked Brigadier General Campbell to describe his strengths and weaknesses.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL said that his strength lies in understanding "the organization," and understanding the needs of Alaska. He remarked that he's lived in the state for a long time and has a varied background. He said he thinks his strengths will lead him to do the right things for Alaska and DMVA, and he told the committee that he has strong leadership skills.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL said his weakness is probably that he has been part-time in the National Guard, only serving one year full-time up to the present. He said that he is relying heavily on full-time people in whom he has confidence - including [Brigadier] General [Craig] Christensen and Colonel Tim Scott - to help ensure that he doesn't make any mistakes from his "traditional weekender perspective."

Number 2560

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH asked Brigadier General Campbell to tell the committee why the legislature should confirm him as commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMPBELL replied that he thinks that the legislature should confirm him as commissioner for all the things discussed today, including his vision of where the department could go, his support for Alaska, his understanding of where the department fits in state affairs, his leadership skills, and "for making Alaska a stronger, better place to live and work."

[Although no formal motion was made, the confirmation of Brigadier General Campbell was treated as advanced from the House State Affairs Standing Committee.]

HB 45 - SECOND VERSE OF ALASKA'S STATE SONG

Number 2603

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH announced that the next order of business was HOUSE BILL NO. 45, "An Act adding a second verse to the official Alaska state song."

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH, sponsor of HB 45, noted that the proposed legislation would add a verse to "Alaska's Flag," the Alaska state song. The decision of whether or not to add the verse has been previously debated in the legislature. He said, "It has repeatedly passed the House and gone over to the Senate for its analysis."

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH said the verse is a poem written by Carol Beery Davis, the former poet laureate of Alaska, and is designed to recognize the state flag and the cultural unity in the state of Alaska. He said that the [second] verse has been sung by his own children. A choir of children has sung it at previous events, including the inauguration of Governor Frank Murkowski and the swearing in of the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature. Chair Weyhrauch stated his belief that it would be meaningful to adopt [the second verse] and that it is long past due to address this issue.

Number 2715

CONSTANCE DAVIS told the committee that she is a third-generation Alaskan. She explained that her natural interest in

the song is because her father was on the committee to choose a [state] flag, and her mother took notes [on the event], which she later put into booklet form. She said she thought it was touching that her mother had stayed up long into the night writing "this verse" at the age of 95.

MS. DAVIS said that the [second] verse has continuity with the first verse and shows her mother's love for the land. She mentioned the progress "foretold in that verse" and its historical context. Ms. Davis told the committee that her mother was a friend of Marie Drake and Elinor Dusenbury, the author and composer, respectively, and she said she believed those women definitely would have approved of [the second] verse. Ms. Davis indicated that she had submitted a page listing her mother's accomplishments during previous hearings and added that her mother was a very accomplished musician, as well as a poet.

MS. DAVIS, in response to a question by Representative Berkowitz, confirmed that [a bill requesting the addition of the second verse to the Alaska state song] had passed in the House [during the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature] and, she added, had done so in 1987.

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ asked how many cosponsors were on the bill.

MS. DAVIS said that she did not know.

Number 2850

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG pointed to the first paragraph of Representative Carl Morgan's letter to Senator [Gene] Therriault, dated January 31, 2002. It read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Twenty-nine of my colleagues in the House and three from the Senate have joined with me by co-sponsoring/cross-sponsoring this bill.

Number 2887

J. ALLAN MACKINNON told the committee that Ms. Davis's mother was his [piano and organ] teacher and his inspiration for many years. He told the committee that Ms. Beery was new to the [Alaska] Territory in 1920. He credited her with enabling him to go to Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska, and to

further study music Back East, and for inspiring him to complete his Bachelor of Music degree "earlier."

TAPE 03-03, SIDE B

Number 2950

MR. MACKINNON mentioned the Anchorage Community Chorus, which he believes may have been one of the first choral organizations to sing the second verse. He said he has had the pleasure to accompany [former Lieutenant Governor] Fran Ulmer and others singing both verses.

MR. MACKINNON acknowledged that "some people, in previous testimony, in previous years have criticized later poets ... writing words that would go with music." He said that he believes it can be shown historically that many songs and melodies have been "adopted and later used and misused, and [that] words of various descriptions have been added." He gave an example.

MR. MACKINNON said he thinks it is important to note that Ms. Beery knew and was personally involved with "the contemporaries," Ms. Drake and Ms. Dusenbury. He said that Ms. Dusenbury's husband was stationed in the military at Fort Seward and became friends with the Davises and others.

Number 2820

MR. MACKINNON said there has been "enthusiastic support and usage of the second verse since 1987." He proffered that the official adoption of the [second] verse in statute "is a different level of acceptance to some people," and would broaden the understanding of what Alaska is all about. He urged the committee to adopt the second verse.

Number 2761

TERI TIBBIT, Staff to Representative Max Gruenberg, sang the Alaska state song, including the second verse under consideration by the committee. [Lyrics to both verses are specified in the bill.]

CHAIR WEYHRAUCH commented that HB 45 may or may not be a contentious issue. He added, "Sometimes little things like this are important."

Number 2562

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ noted that although he did not know why, this issue has been a contentious one in the past. He said that [the adoption of the second verse into the Alaska state song] was one of the recommendations of [then-Governor Knowles'] tolerance commission. Furthermore, it is an effort that the legislature can make in healing some of the "divides" in the state. He said that that legislative body often gets caught up in rhetoric and the divisiveness of budgets and forgets that [Alaska] is a small state. Furthermore, an effort should be made to bring people together, whether they have newly arrived in the state or have been here for generations.

Number 2521

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON said that, as the Representative from Seward, he would be proud to have [the second verse] adopted. He stated that he also thought that [the late] Benny Benson, who designed the flag, would be proud, as well. He said that [the addition of the second verse] "bodes well for Alaska, as it indicates the aspirations of all Alaskans." He encouraged the committee to forward [the bill].

Number 2509

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG suggested that the passing of the bill would be an historic event and many members may want to have their names attached to it; therefore, he asked if it would be possible to have another printing of the bill, so that other members of the legislature could cosponsor the bill.

Number 2458

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON noted that he had submitted a cosponsor statement, and he said he thought that [the names] would all be on the official copy when it comes out on the floor of the House.

Number 2445

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ, in response to a question from Representative Gruenberg, clarified as follows: "As long as people cosponsor while [the bill] is in the possession of this body - which it will be until we vote it out - the final version that's read across to the other side will have all the names of all the cosponsors."

Number 2419

REPRESENTATIVE LYNN stated his belief that all 50 states have an official state song, but Alaska is the only state [in which residents stand during the singing of] its song. He explained the reason for that is because the song is more than just a state song - it is also an anthem. He said he thinks that the Alaska state song, as it currently is, "honors all Alaskans past and present, rich and poor, old and young, Native [and] non-Native." It also honors Benny Benson and Elinor Dusenbury. He said he thinks that the current version of the song is "a wonderful expression of tolerance." He opined that, just as words should not be added to the "Star-Spangled Banner," nor should they be added to the Alaska state song. He described both those songs as classics and said he did not think that [the legislature] should "mess with a masterpiece," or fix something that is not broken. Notwithstanding that, he said that he thinks that the second verse is beautiful.

Number 2282

REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ moved to report HB 45 out of committee with individual recommendations and the attached zero fiscal note. There being no objection, HB 45 was reported from the House State Affairs Standing Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Number 2266

There being no further business before the committee, the House State Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.