

NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

The National Security and Foreign Relations Committee met at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Regency D on 14 June, 2007 . The meeting was opened at 2:28 p.m due to previous committee overrun by chairman Jim Laine. Members present were: Jim Laine, chairman;; Lew Davis, and Bill Welsh. Members excused was Frank Checchio, Blood, Eye, and Vital Organs chairman. There were 4 guests present.

The minutes of the February 16, 2007 meeting were read and approved. Motion by Davis, second by Welsh.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding how to learn when military personnel are returning home, especially with medical problems. Due to security precautions, information about arrivals may only be released to families. The American Legion needs to let the community know about our programs and willingness to help however we can. The Hometown Heroes program is an expensive undertaking and cannot be solved simply by making a \$ 100.00 donation and forgetting about the problems that may arise. Long term assistance needs more funds and fund-raisers at every level. The Department Fund is inadequate at this point, more donations from Posts, individuals and community businesses are required.

Many different routes can be used to welcome home returning veterans. The Metro Airport in Detroit has welcome home banners displayed in the arrival area and baggage claim area. Many posts have parades and festivities to welcome veterans, they need to know that we care and our facilities are available to them.

With no other business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Jim Laine, chairman