

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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## DOLE ANNOUNCES RESOLUTION OF JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE OVER FORMER KANSAS AIR BASES

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today announced that, at his urging, a jurisdictional dispute over inspections at three former air bases in Kansas has been resolved.

In response to a call by Dole for clarification of inspection jurisdiction, General Services Administration Administrator R. G. Freeman III has stated that GSA will leave primary compliance monitoring to the agencies which have the resources: the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Interior.

The former military installations -- Olathe Naval Air Station; Forbes Air Force Base, Topeka; and Schilling Air Force Base, Salina -- have recently been declared surplus property and turned over to local authorities at no cost for development. Plans call for continuing use of the land for health, educational, park, recreational, airport or other public programs, to be overseen by the federal government.

Difficulties began when GSA conducted on-site inspections in the summer of 1978. Until that time, local representatives periodically consulted with district and regional officials in the Kansas City offices of the FAA, DOE and Interior to make certain that plans met with their approval. Although these agencies participated in the inspection, GSA alone submitted the resulting recommendations. Other agencies felt this diminished their responsibilities, and local officials were caught in the middle, feeling that their long-term plans were in jeopardy.

Dole's office worked with several of the offices involved, and ultimately helped reach a consensus.

"There are great enough demands made by the government today without the added burden of confusion over jurisdiction," Dole said. "I am pleased to receive confirmation that jurisdiction has been clearly defined and appreciate the spirit of cooperation shared by the local officials and those representatives in the respective agencies. These long-range plans have a significant impact on the economy of Kansas, and progress realized thus far is notable."

Most of the plans are based on a 20-year period. Joe Dennis, executive director of the Johnson County Airport Commission, has been instrumental in developing the former Olathe Naval Air Station site into a 600-acre aviation-oriented industrial complex.

At Forbes Field in Topeka, Gary Richert, executive director of the Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority, hopes to build a large air freight operation on land that was deeded in 1976.

In 1966, the Salina Airport Authority was deeded property and purchased adjacent industrial acreage. This facility has become a self-sustaining operation. Other portions of the Schilling complex were deeded to the state of Kansas, which created Schilling Institute, known today as Kansas Technical Institute. KTI president, Dr. Thomas F. Creech, is committed to formulating a long-range plan for campus development. Enrollment there has increased over 40 percent since the institute was placed under the Kansas Board of Regents in 1976.