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AIR FORCE SECRETARY ACCEPTS DOLE INVITATION TO BRIEF KANSAS OFFICIALS ON TITANS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) announced today that Secretary of the Air Force Dr. Hans Mark has accepted his invitation to conduct a briefing this Saturday in Wichita on the Titan II missile system.

Dole said he invited Mark to brief federal, state and local elected officials on the status of the Titan IIs in light of the accident last week in Damascus, Ark.

"I talked with Secretary Mark this morning, and he said he would be glad to meet with Kansas civic leaders concerned about the safety of the Titans," Dole said. "We both agreed that this briefing would be a valuable opportunity for these officials to meet with experts on the system.

"Air Force officials will be available to explain what happened in Arkansas, and how we can better prepare ourselves should an accident occur in Kansas in the future."

Dole said he was continuing to press for Senate Armed Services Committee hearings on the safety and effectiveness of the Titan II system. He received word Monday from committee Chairman John Stennis (D-Miss.) that the committee was proceeding as rapidly as possible on a full report on the status of the Titan IIs.

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