

News from Senator BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE DISAGREES WITH AIR FORCE:
TITAN II'S HAVE NOT YET BEEN GUARANTEED EXTRA YEAR

WASHINGTON -- Despite published statements today by an Air Force official in Washington, Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) said "Congress" has not approved the retention of the Titan II missile system for an additional year.

Dole made the comment in response to a national wire story that stated "Congress wants the missiles kept active an extra year." Dole pointed out the only Titan II action this year has been in the Senate, where \$80 million was added to the Department of Defense Authorization Bill to keep the missiles active. The Titan II question, however, has not been addressed yet in the House.

"As a matter of fact, the necessary \$80 million isn't even in the House Authorization Bill. That sum would have to be added in Committee, hardly a guarantee that the missiles will get the funds needed to sustain another year of readiness," Dole said. "Certainly, the \$80 million is not available now by way of the Senate vote alone."

"Additionally, the Administration, through the Department of Defense, has reaffirmed its position to me that the Titan II phase-out should be carried out as scheduled," Dole continued. "Even if the House adds the \$80 million, both the House and the Senate must still appropriate the funds. I will do all I can to see that the funding for an extra year is deleted. The effort to keep the phase-out of Titan II's on schedule has not been blocked."