

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SENATE PASSES DEFENSE BILL: TRAINER PROGRAM INTACT

Washington, D.C. -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced Senate approval of a new Air Force program that could mean \$1.5 billion in business for Wichita's aviation industry. The Tanker, Transport Trainer System (TTTS) was one of several Kansas projects included in the 1989 Department of Defense Authorization bill passed by the full Senate.

"With the Senate action today, the TTTS program now stands a solid chance of becoming reality. While it was not included in the bill passed by the House, I am confident that we can retain this important project in conference. This trainer program could spell big dividends for Kansas," said Dole.

In related action, Senators Dole and Nancy Landon Kassebaum sent letters to key Appropriation Committee members early this week requesting funding for TTTS. In their letters, the Senators acknowledged a parochial interest in the new trainer program but emphasized the merits of establishing a dual-track system in which tanker and transport pilots would be trained on modified business jets while fighter and bomber pilots would continue to be trained on supersonic aircraft.

The bill also included two ammunition projects sought by Senator Dole that could potentially benefit the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant (AAP) in Parsons. First of all, he requested and received additional funds for the 155mm 864 artillery shell worth approximately \$20.7 million. Secondly, Dole obtained an Air Force statement of commitment to the Sensored Fuse Weapon once several technical problems with the weapon are resolved. Parsons has been site-selected for this weapon.

"My commitment to the Parsons ammunition plant remains firm," said Dole. "The plant plays a vital role in the defense of our Nation and in the Southeast Kansas economy."

Other Kansas projects in the Senate bill include the authorization for the purchase of 40 re-engining kits for the KC-135 modification to be conducted at Boeing Military Aircraft in Wichita. The House bill calls for 47 kits to be purchased. Dole has urged the Senate to accept the House position in conference, a move which would mean an additional \$173 million in funding for Boeing.

Senator Dole also included language in the bill encouraging the multi-year procurement of the AV-8B Harrier. Final resolution of the issue now rests with the Defense Department.