

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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ARMY AGREES WITH DOLE: DETONATOR WORK WON'T GO TO TEXAS; PARSONS TO COMPETE FOR NEW ARTILLERY ROUND

Washington, D.C. -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that recent action by the U.S. Army means good news for the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant in Parsons, Kansas.

According to Dole, previously announced consolidation of M55 detonator work at a Texas ammunition plant has been indefinitely postponed, thus it appears that up to 400 Kansas jobs could be retained.

Senator Dole had recently expressed his concern about those jobs to Assistant Army Secretary Jay Sculley.

"Moving that detonator work without the previously promised backfill of another assembly project was totally unsatisfactory," said Dole in a letter to Sculley.

The promised assembly project, an artillery round called the 915, had been cancelled recently for budgetary reasons.

Additionally, Senator announced today that he has secured the Army's commitment to Kansas competition for the assembly of a new 155mm artillery round known as the 864.

"Kansasans are delivering quality products at lower costs and there's no reason Parsons shouldn't assemble and pack the 864 round. The Army had planned to assemble that round elsewhere but concurred with my suggestion that a competition for the contract could drive the prices down, thus producing savings for the Army and our taxpayers," said Dole. "I'm pleased that Parsons can now compete. Securing the 864 assembly contract would go far in replacing jobs now associated with the 483 artillery round, a program that faces completion in 1989."

The competition for the 864 contract is expected this spring.

Finally, Senator Dole has expressed his concern to senior Defense Department officials about the funding levels of a third Parsons assembly project, Combines Effects Munitions or CEM. The funding for this Air Force cluster bomb is facing massive reductions in 1990 and 1991 for purely budgetary reasons, yet the service is still critically short of their planned wartime requirements.

"I will continue to press the Pentagon to assign renewed priority to the CEM program. The Air Force needs the weapons system and it's clearly another Parsons priority."

"Overall, the workers at Parsons are making a solid, professional contribution to our nation's security. Their enthusiasm and hard work go far in providing our forces with the munitions necessary to deter any threat. I'm very proud of their efforts."