

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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BEECH WINS CONFIDENCE VOTE FROM AIR FORCE;
AIR FORCE ORDERS 14 TTTS WORTH OVER \$131 MILLION DOLLARS

WASHINGTON -- KANSAS SENATOR BOB DOLE ANNOUNCED THAT THE AIR FORCE HAS EXERCISED AN OPTION FOR 14 TANKER TRAINING TRANSPORT SYSTEMS (TTTS) WORTH OVER \$131 MILLION DOLLARS. THE CENTERPIECE OF THE TTTS IS THE "JAYHAWK", A BUSINESS JET DERIVATIVE BUILT BY BEECH AIRCRAFT IN WICHITA. THE "JAYHAWK" WILL TRAIN FLEDGLING TANKER AND TRANSPORT PILOTS INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

THE INITIAL CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE TTTS WAS MADE ON FEBRUARY 21, 1990, SELECTING BEECH AS THE WINNER TO BUILD THE NEW TRAINER.

"IT DIDN'T TAKE THE AIR FORCE LONG TO EXERCISE THEIR CONTRACT OPTIONS FOR THE TTTS", NOTED DOLE, "THEY SAW A GOOD DEAL AND ARE PRESSING AHEAD. OUR LEADERSHIP IN AVIATION MADE THIS AN EASY DECISION."

THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE TTTS PROGRAM CALLS FOR 211 NEW MILITARY JET TRAINERS. THE OVERALL ORDER, INCLUDING OPTIONS SUCH AS THE ONE EXERCISED TODAY REPRESENTS THE LARGEST IN BUSINESS JET HISTORY.

"THIS IS THE SAME PROGRAM THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TRIED TO KILL," NOTED DOLE, "BUT NOW IT IS CONSIDERED A MODEL PROGRAM. THAT IS BECAUSE THE TTTS IS COST-EFFECTIVE AND IS THE SMART WAY FOR THE PENTAGON TO DO BUSINESS. BY TAKING OFF-THE-SHELF AIRCRAFT, MAKING LOW COST MODIFICATIONS AND ADDING STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAINING AND SIMULATION SYSTEMS, THE AIR FORCE -- AND THE TAXPAYER -- GET REAL VALUE FOR THEIR DOLLARS".