

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

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DEFENSE BUILD-DOWN

GOP DEFENSE ADJUSTMENT TASK FORCE RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS

WASHINGTON -- A series of targeted recommendations aimed at smoothing America's transition to a post-Cold War economy while minimizing human dislocation and the impact upon our industrial base was released today by a special thirteen-member GOP task force on defense adjustment, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) announced.

The recommendations offered by the U.S. Senate Republican Task Force on Adjusting the Defense Base advocate responsible policies to manage the defense build-down and the restructuring of America's defense system in the wake of the nation's Cold War victory and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Task Force, established by Senator Dole in April, has developed policy recommendations in three specific areas: helping individual workers, assisting impacted communities, and retaining and diversifying the defense industrial base.

"This comprehensive report will provide an important blueprint as we meet the challenge of reducing our defense system without devastating the millions of Americans who depend on defense for their livelihood," Dole said. "I'm pleased that this report makes many fiscally responsible recommendations, and demonstrates what Republicans have known all along -- that the best cushion against the defense build-down is controlling the federal deficit and promoting a robust economy."

Areas addressed in the Task Force's report include:

- o Benefit and employment assistance to departing Service personnel and civilian defense employees.
- o Job training program improvements for private sector workers.
- o Redevelopment planning and economic development assistance to impacted communities.
- o Federal use of closing military bases.
- o Diversification of defense production base and procurement reform.
- o Dual-use technology research and development.

Members of the Task Force emphasized that government policies which strengthen the overall economy and provide for sustained economic growth are the best means of ensuring jobs are available for those leaving military service and defense-related industries.

"Even the best defense conversion package will be a poor substitute for efforts that bring the federal deficit under control, for tax policies which spur investment and technological development, and for controlling government spending," members stressed in the report.

"It is the view of every member of this Task Force that no mix of defense adjustment policies can succeed in the face of government policies which weaken the American economy by continuing to sanction out-of-control federal deficit spending," they said.

Senator Warren Rudman served as chairman of the Task Force. Other members were Senator Hank Brown, R-Co, Senator William Cohen, R-Me, Senator John Danforth, R-Mo, Senator Pete Domenici, R-NM, Senator Orrin Hatch, R-Ut, Senator Nancy Kassebaum, R-Ks, Senator Trent Lott, R-Ms, Senator Richard Lugar, R-In, Senator John McCain, R-Az, Senator John Seymour, R-Ca, Senator Ted Stevens, R-Ak, and Senator John Warner, R-Va.

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