

Bob Dole



NEWS

U . S . SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

**NEW CHOPPERS FOR KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD AWAIT
BUSH SIGNATURE; MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OKAYED
FOLLOWING DOLE AMENDMENT**

WASHINGTON -- High-tech Blackhawk helicopters will soon be coming to Kansas as part of a modernization program for the state's national guard force, following final Congressional approval today of an amendment by Kansas Senator Bob Dole. The Dole helicopter provision and the rest of the Defense Appropriations Bill now goes to the President for his signature.

The Dole amendment provides the necessary funding to bring UH-60 Sikorsky helicopters to Kansas as part of the FY1993 Defense Appropriation Bill. The Dole provision earmarks \$23 million for four UH-60 Blackhawks, the first installment of what Dole calls a "timely upgrade of our state's helicopter fleet, currently operating out of Topeka and Salina."

Without adoption of the Dole provision, modernization of the Kansas Guard would not have occurred until at least 1996.

"When Kansans need help, our National Guard has always been there, flying missions of mercy, bringing food and relief to victims of storms, floods and tornadoes. That's why the Guard needs the latest in technology when it comes to helicopters. The Persian Gulf War also demonstrated the important role the National Guard plays in our national security, which is yet another reason that Kansas Guard members deserve the latest in military training and preparation," Dole said.

"The venerable HUEY from the Vietnam era has served our state well, thanks to the great expertise of the Guard," Dole added. "It's a legendary chopper but it's time to modernize and these Blackhawks will certainly get the job done."

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