

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE HELPS SECURE McCONNELL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING  
COMMITTEE ACTION MEANS B-1 MISSION TO HAVE HOME IN WICHITA

WASHINGTON -- After weeks of top-level negotiations, Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that the Senate Armed Services Committee has agreed to restore military construction funds necessary to provide a home for the B-1 bomber at Wichita's McConnell Air Force Base.

Dole, one of the driving forces behind the B-1 mission coming to Wichita, said the funding action came during the Committee's mark-up of the Defense Authorization Bill for fiscal year 1986. The restoration of construction funds includes the \$71.5 million needed to prepare the Wichita facility for B-1 bombers.

During the past several weeks, Senator Dole and his staff have worked closely with Pentagon officials, key Senators and committee staffers to make sure that the McConnell funds were restored.

"Our first job was to get the Pentagon on board and publicly support the B-1 mission at McConnell," said Senator Dole. "That was accomplished when Dr. Larry Korb, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics, testified before the Armed Services Committee that the Pentagon felt McConnell was essential for the B-1 and had been erroneously placed on a so-called hit list. Our second goal was to persuade members of the Armed Services Committee of the importance of the McConnell mission."

"The first plane is scheduled to hit the runway in December, 1987, with the remaining 15 to arrive before April, 1988.

"I now look forward to working with the Air Force as they prepare for new construction at McConnell. This is one of those issues that will not only benefit the local Wichita community but also is in the best interest in terms of our national defense," Dole said.