

News from Senator

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
on the
TRAGIC CRASH OF A MILITARY AIRCRAFT

YESTERDAY MORNING A DC-8 CHARTER, WHICH LEFT GERMANY BOUND FOR HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY CARRYING 250 SERVICEMEN OF THE THIRD BATTALION/502 INFANTRY OF 101ST DIVISION AND EIGHT CREW, TRAGICALLY CRASHED KILLING ALL ABOARD--INCLUDING SERVICEMEN FROM MY HOME STATE OF KANSAS.

THE FAMILIES OF THOSE BRAVE MEN RETURNING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, DESERVE OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES. WHILE DIFFICULT TIMES LAY AHEAD, I KNOW THEIR LOVED ONES WILL FIND COMFORT IN THE MANY EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE AND AFFECTION FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

IT IS A CRUEL IRONY THAT THESE SERVICEMEN, AS PART OF THE SINAI PEACE KEEPING FORCE, SERVED IN AN AREA OF THE WORLD FRAUGHT WITH VIOLENCE. IT WAS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP MAINTAIN THE PEACE AND SECURITY IN A REGION ACCUSTOMED TO THE "SCOURGE OF WAR". THESE SERVICEMEN MAY NOT HAVE DIED ON THE BATTLEFIELD, BUT HOW OFTEN WE FORGET THAT SIMPLY BEING AN AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IS A DANGEROUS UNDERTAKING. HOW OFTEN WE FORGET THE ROUTINE STRESSES AND STRAINS TO WHICH THESE COURAGEOUS MEN ARE SUBJECTED ON A DAILY BASIS.

THESE PROUD MEN IN UNIFORM WERE RETURNING HOME TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS--IT WAS INDEED GOING TO BE A JOYOUS HOLIDAY. WHILE TRAGEDIES OF THIS KIND HAPPEN ALL TOO OFTEN, THE FACT THAT SO MANY SERVICEMEN DIED IN THIS ONE PLANE CRASH SERVES, ONCE AGAIN, AS A GRAPHIC REMINDER TO ALL OF US THE SACRIFICE THESE PATRIOTIC AMERICANS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE ON BEHALF OF THEIR COUNTRY IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.

I KNOW I SPEAK FOR MY MANY COLLEAGUES--WHO REPRESENT THE MANY STATES THESE MEN HAIL FROM, IN EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW AT THE DEATH OF THESE MEN, AND EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED.

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