

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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Dole: Approval of 10,000 Parsons Bombs
Vindicates Support for Ammo Plant,
Parsons Firepower "Not Pork, it's Pure Muscle"

Kansas Senator Bob Dole said today that the recent congressional approval for the production of 10,000 more cluster bombs at the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant shows the historic success of the Persian Gulf War has vindicated support for the Parsons plant and its workers.

The new order -- backed by Senator Dole -- was included in the Desert Storm Supplemental Appropriations Bill, which Congress approved on March 22.

"It is hard to believe now, but some critics last year were calling cluster bomb production in Parsons 'Congressional pork'. Well, guess what, it wasn't pork, it was pure muscle -- just ask Saddam Hussein," Dole said. "This is good news for the outstanding Parsons workforce, and they have earned it."

Congress approved \$150.5 million for 10,000 additional cluster bombs, also known as Combined Effects Munitions, or "CEMs".

"I have been working closely with the Air Force and the Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, on this Kansas project. They agree with me -- and the Gulf War proved it -- that the Parsons plant is critical to our national security. Thank God our troops had the weapons they needed when they had to go to war. These Parsons-made bombs had a devastating impact on Iraqi armor and artillery, and also helped clear the battlefield of enemy mines. The bottomline is, the good work from Parsons saved a lot of American lives."

Dole said the CEM line was so effective, and used so extensively, that the Department of Defense requested an additional 9,000 units to help replace those expended during the war. Another 1,000 CEMs will be added to the original request, putting the new order at 10,000, according to Senator Dole.

"There has been a lot of talk about a so-called 'Peace Dividend', and in my view, a lot of misunderstanding. Our stunning victory in the Persian Gulf War has told us loud and clear that America can only keep the peace by staying strong, not by disarming. The bigspenders in Congress are always looking to cut defense in order to dump taxpayers dollars on some big government giveaway. But this time commonsense prevailed and Congress agreed with me that America needs to re-invest in this essential made-in-Kansas technology," Dole added.

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