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DOLE SAYS TORNADO DAMAGE AT MCCONNELL HITS \$62 MILLION IN PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

WASHINGTON -- According to Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas), the deadly tornadoes of April 26th left a \$62 million path of destruction as it tore through Wichita's McConnell Air Force Base.

Dole received the first official McConnell damage report from General Merrill A. McPeak, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. After reviewing the damage report, Dole pledged speedy action to help rebuild the air base.

"I appreciated the telephone call today from General McPeak. Having toured McConnell, I won't soon forget the devastation that took place on April 26th, especially at the hospital and in the family housing compound," Dole said. "I will do all I can -- as soon as I can -- to secure the funding necessary to make McConnell whole again. During my visit to McConnell, I was pleased to hear the unqualified support this facility received from the Secretary of the Air Force, Don Rice, and SAC Commander, General Lee Butler.

"Let's keep in mind we are not talking about rebuilding bombers or fighter planes: this is the human side of this tragedy -- health care and housing. I am ready to go to work, " Dole added.

FACILITY/PROJECT	ESTIMATE
Family Housing (104 new units)	\$10 million
Repair Family Housing	2 million
Replacement Facilities (hospital, gym, NCO club, etc.)	40 million*
Facilities Repair	4.5 million
Planning & Design	5.5 million
TOTAL	\$62 MILLION
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\* Approximately 50% of the facilities replacement estimate -- \$20 million -- is tied to hospital replacement costs, including approximately \$3.5 million for interim facilities.