

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 14, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
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SENATE PANEL OKAYS DOLE FUNDING REQUEST FOR SALINA AVIATION
SCHOOL; \$7.6 MILLION INCLUDED IN DEFENSE BILL FOR KSU PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) announced today that he has won key congressional approval for \$7.6 million in federal funding to help finance Kansas State University's innovative aviation training center in Salina.

Dole has been pushing for the funding as House and Senate members on the Defense Appropriations Conference Committee worked to complete its \$271 billion defense bill. Once completed, the proposal must go back to the full House and Senate for final approval.

At Dole's request, the conference committee has now included \$7.6 million to help establish and equip an aircraft maintenance and pilot training program at the Salina campus of Kansas State University, formerly the Kansas Institute of Technology.

The funds will be used to purchase flight simulators, 16 airplanes, testing equipment, aircraft engines and to begin construction of an electronics equipment lab.

"This outstanding Salina project is a sound investment in the future. It will bring the latest in high-tech aviation education to our state along with the latest technology so that students there will get the best in training and hands-on learning," Dole said. "I am pleased the conference committee has recognized the value of this innovative addition to our state's educational system."

The training center would serve students pursuing careers in aviation, military or commercial. As a result, there has been great interest in the Salina project from major Kansas aerospace firms, including Boeing, Beech, Cessna and Lear. Additionally, the Kansas National Guard and the Strategic Air Command have expressed interest in training their pilots at the K-State facility.

Dole recently obtained \$2.6 million to help build a new interchange at I-135 & Magnolia, a Salina highway upgrade that will improve access to the aviation center.

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