

Bob Dole
U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS



NEWS

FROM:

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS
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WICHITA AVIATION

U.S. SENATE GIVES FINAL OK TO DEFENSE SPENDING BILL: BOOST TO WICHITA AVIATION

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that the U.S. Senate has given final approval to several programs important to Wichita aircraft manufacturers. The Wichita aviation measures, supported by Senator Dole, are included in the 1994 Department of Defense Appropriations bill, which now goes to the President for signature.

"I am pleased that the Pentagon continues to rely on the Aviation Capital of the World to modernize its operations," Dole said. "Kansas-made aircraft provide value to the taxpayers and meet our nation's continuing defense needs."

The following programs are included in the bill:

TANKER TRANSPORT TRAINING SYSTEM -- BEECH

The bill appropriates \$140.7 million for the T-1A Jayhawk trainer aircraft, which is built by Beech Aircraft.

"The T-1A Jayhawk is an outstanding training program which provides top value to the taxpayer and state-of-the-art training to our future pilots," Dole said.

KC-135R TANKER RE-ENGINEERING -- BOEING

The Congress funded \$171.5 million for upgrades and re-engining of the KC-135 Tanker fleet. The funds will be used to re-engine up to five tanker aircraft and provided other modifications at the Boeing plant in Wichita.

"I have long supported this cost effective approach to modernizing our critical air refueling capability. These gas stations in the sky give us the flexibility we need for troop movements and air missions," said Dole.

GUARDRAIL -- BEECH

The bill contains \$12.5 million for an additional Guardrail, an intelligence-gathering aircraft system, manufactured by Beech Aircraft.

"I have been working closely with the Department of Defense to develop a follow-on program using the Kansas-built C-12 airframe to provide real-time intelligence to our commanders in the field," said Dole. "I am pleased the Congress has joined me in supporting this important program".

ARMY C-21A -- LEARJET

Congress funded \$5.5 million for a C-21 operational support aircraft for the U.S. Army. The C-21 Learjet will be used by the Army for operational support missions throughout the U.S. and around the world.

"The C-21 is a proven winner for the Army", said Dole.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE AIRCRAFT

Congress included funding of \$800 million to procure modern aircraft for the National Guard and Reserves. The specific aircraft will be designated by the National Guard and Reserve components. These aircraft perform a variety of missions including operational support, air ambulance, transport of cargo and personnel, and other military missions.

"Beech, Boeing, Cessna, and Lear are all proven performers in these critical missions. I am confident that Kansas-made aircraft will, once again, be chosen by the Guard and Reserve to modernize their fleet," said Dole.