

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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CONTACT: KIM McCREERY
(202) 224-8953

DOLE PROPOSALS FOR WICHITA DEFENSE AIRCRAFT PROJECTS
WIN FINAL SENATE APPROVAL

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced that the U.S. Senate late yesterday gave final approval to legislation which provides funding for several defense aircraft that are vital to Wichita aviation. The projects were part of the 1996 Defense Appropriations Bill, which now heads to the President's desk to be signed into law.

"If we expect our service men and women to remain the best prepared and the most capable fighting force in the world, then we need to provide them with adequate training and equipment," Dole said. "As we continue to down-size our active forces, it is critical that we maintain strong defense capabilities. In my view, these projects are a necessary investment in our national security."

TANKER-TRANSPORT TRAINING SYSTEM (TTTS) -- \$4.4 MILLION

The legislation includes \$4.4 million for the procurement of the Tanker-Transport Training System. The TTTS is manufactured in Wichita by the Raytheon Aircraft Company.

"These trainer aircraft will help ensure that pilots receive the best training available. As we continue to downsize our forces, we must ensure that they remain the best trained and equipped force in the world," said Dole.

JOINT PRIMARY AIRCRAFT TRAINING SYSTEM (JPATS) -- \$54.9 MILLION

The bill contains \$54.9 million for the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS). Earlier this year, Raytheon Aircraft Company won this \$5 billion contract, which supplies the next generation of primary pilot training aircraft to the Armed Forces.

"JPATS is one of the Air Force's most important investments in pilot training. For three years, I have actively supported the program, urging the Defense Department to continue funding and to execute the contract on schedule," said Dole. "This year's bill will allow us to begin procurement of the first JPATS aircraft. And I'm pleased to see that Kansas came out the winner."

(MORE)

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C-XX MEDIUM RANGE AIRCRAFT -- \$23 MILLION

The bill includes Senator Dole's request for \$23 million for four, new production, small turbofan C-XX (MR) aircraft for the U.S. Army's utility aircraft program.

"The Army Aviation Modernization program designated the C-XX aircraft to meet its need for small, medium-range aircraft to provide rapid transportation of equipment more efficiently. Kansas aviation companies have the experience and expertise to supply these aircraft economically," said Dole.

B-1B BOMBER -- \$317.2 MILLION

The bill provides \$114.8 million for procurement and \$202.4 million for research and development of modifications for the B-1B bomber.

"The 184th was the first Air Guard unit in the nation to fly the B-1," Dole said. "Since converting from F-16s to the B-1, our Kansas Guardsmen have distinguished themselves and have proven the Air National Guard can fulfill the B-1 mission. We can all be proud of the Kansas Air Guard."

KC-135 AND RC-135 RE-ENGINE PROGRAMS -- \$175.5 MILLION BOEING

Also included is Senator Dole's request for \$175.5 million for KC-135 and RC-135 re-engining.

"Both of these air re-fueling tanker fleets continue to have high utilization rates by the Air Force," Dole said. "Most recently, these aircraft were critical to our air war victory in Desert Shield and Desert Storm."

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