

FROM: OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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Topeka
Friday
July 26

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Republican candidate for U. S. Senator Bob Dole demanded ~~Thursday~~ *Friday* that the Department of Defense explain its plans for utilizing the approximately 3,900 reservists and guardsmen called to duty last May in the "Kansas call-up."

In a letter to Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford, Congressman Dole, now completing his fourth term in Kansas First Congressional District, asked that three points be clarified by the Secretary of Defense.

They are: "One - Why specifically were the reservists called and why were the guardsmen mobilized?"

"Two - Is there any plan for early release for these men, any or all of them?"

"Three - If there are no plans for early release, can you anticipate the disposition of the 69th brigade, or any portion thereof, as well as any Kansas reserve unit when the training ends?"

Congressman Dole noted that Kansas, with 1.12 percent of the U. S. population, had to produce 16 percent of the 24,450 reservists and National Guardsmen called up last May.

He said Kansas draft calls have not been reduced proportionately since that time and noted:

"Kansans don't expect the best of both worlds, but neither are we entitled to the worst. The Kansas obligation should not be greater than any other state," Congressman Dole wrote.

Congressman Dole said Mr. Clifford should have received his letter Friday.

----- M O R E -----

DOLE ON CALLUP
7/26/68
ADD ONE

Congressman Dole noted that last May 13 approximately 3600 Kansans of the 69th Brigade and 395 Kansas army reservists were mobilized.

He said he visited the brigade, now part of the mechanized 5th Infantry Division training at Fort Carson, Colorado, in July and though his visit was brief, concluded the following:

"Despite what appeared to be generally high morale, there are unquestionably underlying frustrations, resulting, in my opinion, from two factors: First, many are still wondering why they were called to active duty, and second, many wonder what their disposition may be after completing training.

"The apparent lack of national unity on the Vietnam war policy, coupled with the recent effort to end the war through direct negotiations (and I pray this may be done), has led many men and members of their families to question the continuing justification for the May, 1968 call-up. They recognize and accept their responsibility and duty to their country, but they, quite properly would like to know what the future may hold for them."

Congressman Dole said: "It is difficult, I recognize, to determine in advance the future assignment of a particular unit. However, I have been contacted by a number of persons since my visit to Fort Carson.

"The general tenor of the letters indicates that those activated on May 13 are not serving any worthwhile purpose and that they could better serve their nation by returning to their civilian occupations.

"As your records will indicate, the May mobilization affected Kansas more than any other state.

"This will help you understand the widespread concern in our state since on a population basis we have only 1.12 percent of the nation's manpower. Despite this, draft calls in Kansas have not been proportionately reduced, although General Hershey is reviewing at my request the Kansas induction record."