

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 17 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today cosponsored a bill to help increase safety for airplane travellers by upgrading standards in air traffic control.

Introduced by Senator Vance Hartke (D-Ind.), the bill seeks to amend the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 to elevate qualifications for employment as an air traffic controller and to improve salary and other benefits.

"Since 1958," Dole said, "the bulk of the candidates for positions as air traffic controllers have been drafted from the military. Unfortunately, not enough capable men could be attracted into the air traffic field to keep pace with this country's tremendous aviation growth."

"The result," he said, "has been a mish-mash of under-paid, under-trained men who have dealt inadequately, for the most part, with the congestion at airfields during take-off and landing, thus endangering the lives of all air passengers and causing avoidable delays."

"What our bill does," Dole said, "is establish sound policies to help assure that the air traffic controller of tomorrow meets greater criteria with regard to technology, aptitude, health and proficiency than presently required by the Civil Service Commission and the Federal Aviation Agency and then to reward him with salary and benefits commensurate with his responsibilities."