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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Oct. 29, 1969---U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans. today urged the Defense Department to review their decisions to reduce or shut down operations at five Kansas military bases.

Dole's comments came after Defense Secretary Melvin Laird announced details on a cutback that will abolish about 65,000 military and civilian jobs in 42 states. A total of 213 jobs at three Kansas Army bases---Ft. Riley, Junction City; Ft. Leavenworth, Leavenworth; and the USA Engineer District, Kansas City---will be eliminated by June 30, 1970. Twenty jobs will be affected by the planned inactivation of the 838th Division of Forbes Air Force Base, Topeka. An additional 173 military jobs will be eliminated with the phasing out of the Forbes C-130 maintenance manpower authorization. The Naval Air Station in Olathe will be closed by June 30, 1970 with 810 jobs eliminated.

"Although the announcement is in line with the President's desire to pare down federal spending, I am concerned about the difficulties which will be faced by the personnel involved," Dole said. "When the rude realities of economizing hit home, the effects are of deep significance to all of us.

"Currently I am requesting examination of these decisions in Kansas, particularly the decision to inactivate the Olathe installation. Our national security and free world leadership demands assurance that these cutbacks will not irrevocably damage our strength and world stability.

"I have every confidence Secretary Laird's decisions were thoughtfully and equitably made," Dole continued, "and that in our national interest, they deserve our support.

"The decisions were provoked by a long-neglected need to harness federal spending and to inject some reason and purpose into the federal budget," he added. "There comes a time when we must support sound economy moves even at home."

Dole said he has also contacted the Navy Department to assure plans are underway to provide training for the weekend reservists in Olathe and to explore the possibilities of the Naval air strip as a municipal airport.