

JOINT NEWS RELEASE
SENATOR BOB DOLE AND CONGRESSMAN LARRY WINN, JR.
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OLATHE NAVAL AIR STATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. --Cooperation with local officials in minimizing the "economic impact" of closing the Olathe (Kan.) Naval Air Station has been promised by the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral T.H. Moorer.

In letters to Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) and Congressman Larry Winn (R-Kan.) Moorer said of the base closing, "We fully appreciate the severe economic effect on the local community and share your concern. The Navy will ... cooperate with the local officials to every extent possible to minimize the effect of this base closure."

Admiral Moorer's letters to Dole and Winn were in response to letters they had written him regarding the announced June 30, 1970, closing of the Olathe N.A.S.

In their letters Dole and Winn said that "it is imperative that the Navy cooperate closely with local officials to minimize the loss to our community and economy."

The Senator and Congressman pointed out to the Admiral, "Effective utilization of the base by civilian authorities would in itself effect an even greater cost savings to the Department of the Navy."

The base closing resulted from a \$3-billion defense spending cutback announced recently by President Nixon and Defense Secretary Melvin Laird.

Moorer agreed with Dole and Winn, "that civilian utilization of the airport would be prudent and in the best interest of all concerned."

Admiral Moorer directed that negotiations with appropriate community officials and the Navy may be commenced by contacting Captain Robert E. Dunnells, Assistant Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command for Real Property Management.

Both Congressman Winn and Senator Dole have pledged that they would be available to work and meet with community officials and the Navy to help expedite the negotiations.