

BOB DOLE



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DOLE QUESTIONS AIR FORCE OFFICIALS ABOUT NEW
GENERATION TRAINER CONTRACT AWARD

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) met with top Air Force officials today in a continuing effort to find out the details of an Air Force decision to award the New Generation Trainer contract to the Fairchild Republic Corporation of New York instead of the Cessna Aircraft Company of Wichita.

In a closed-door, one-hour session in the Senator's office, Dole questioned Brigadier General Elbert Harbour and Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Research and Development, Dr. Alton Keel.

"Although today's session was thorough and informative, there are still questions to be answered. I asked the Air Force representatives about recent rumors concerning political pressures and other outside influences that reportedly helped sway the Air Force's contract decision, Dole said. "However, General Harbour and Secretary Keel repeatedly assured me there was absolutely no basis for any of the rumors. According to these officials, the NGT award was based solely on 'merit'.

"Nevertheless, I am continuing to look into this contract controversy. Although the final NGT report is confidential and not for public consumption, I have requested the Air Force to deliver a detailed summary for my personal review. This request has been approved," Dole said.

Dole also announced that he would release to the media a transcript of today's meeting with the Air Force. The transcript contains extensive details on the Air Force's decision-making process in the NGT contract award.