

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER,  
SCOTT RICHARDSON 202/224-6521

DOLE ANNOUNCES REPLACEMENT MISSION FOR WICHITA'S McCONNELL  
AIR FORCE BASE  
B-1 BOMBERS TO REPLACE TITAN II'S

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that a B-1 bomber wing of 16 planes has been selected by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to replace the current Titan II missile mission at McConnell Air Force Base by 1987.

"I am pleased by this decision," Dole said. "It means that the employment and economic impact caused by the scheduled phase-out of 17 Titan II's in Kansas will be virtually neutralized, and better yet, could even be improved, by the deployment of the nation's newest bomber to Wichita.

"Specifically, more than \$75 million in construction will be needed at McConnell to prepare for the B-1 deployment," Dole said. "An additional \$40 million in runway and ramp construction which would have occurred at McConnell even without the B-1 announcement will also take place as scheduled. With the exception of the design work, which will be done by the Army Corps of Engineers, the construction work will be bid on a competitive commercial basis."

"Senator Kassebaum, Wichita civic and business leaders and a host of military officials are to be saluted for their persistence, understanding and plain hard work in the McConnell effort," said Dole. "I am pleased to have played a role in this important addition to my home state."

Dole also announced that Kansas is next in line for the phase-out of the Titan II's beginning in July, 1984 and concluding by the end of 1986.

Additionally, the Kansas Senator was also pleased to announce that a temporary mission of 13 KC-135 tankers will be deployed at McConnell from 1984 to 1987 in order to minimize a personnel shortage resulting from the ICBM draw down.

Following almost two years of discussions with top Pentagon officials, Senator Dole made the announcement that McConnell had in fact been approved for the new B-1 bomber mission after exchanging telephone calls with Defense Secretary Weinberger.

"According to Pentagon estimates, more than 1,200 military personnel will be needed for the B-1 wing to be fully operational," Dole said. The Pentagon agreed with Senator Dole that there are several reasons why the Wichita facility would be ideal for the B-1 bomber, including a relatively favorable climate, a heartlands location that affords maximum warning time in the face of submarine-launched missiles, and an outstanding relationship between the base and the greater Wichita community.

## FACT SHEET

### IMPACT OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS ON MCCONNELL AFB

- B-1 Deployment Schedule.
  - The approximately \$76 million in military construction necessary at McConnell before the B-1's can be based there will begin in 1986. (An additional \$40 million of already scheduled construction will occur as planned - this is unrelated to B-1 construction.)
  - The first B-1 will hit the runways at McConnell in February, 1988. The 16th and final plane in the wing will be in place by June, 1988.
  - Deployment of 16 B-1 Bombers, 13 additional KC-135 tankers, and 6 F-4D fighters will essentially neutralize the negative economic impact ensuing from the inevitable Titan removal.
  
- KC-135 Refueling Tankers.
  - As a stopgap measure to lessen the economic hardship caused by the Titan retirement, 13 additional KC-135 tankers will be deployed at McConnell beginning in late '84. They will remain stationed there until the B-1 wing arrives, at which time 16 KC-135 tankers will be moved to another location. (After that time, 26 KC-135 tankers will remain at McConnell.)
  
- F-4D Fighter Training Squadron.
  - An additional 6 F-4D fighters will be deployed to the reserve squadron located at McConnell starting in late 1984.
  
- Titan II Missiles.
  - Will be phased out at McConnell beginning in July, 1984. All 17 Titan II's will be removed by the end of calendar year 1985. After an additional 6 month period - through June, 1986, all personnel at McConnell in connection with the Titan project will be absorbed elsewhere in the Air Force. Many will be reassigned to Minuteman III locations, or retrained at MX locations.
  - The retirement of the Titans will mean that McConnell will lose 1142 military and 48 civilian personnel.
  
- Economic Impact From Loss Of Titans If No Follow-On Mission.
  - The loss of some 1190 direct jobs, plus an additional estimated 2100 jobs indirectly, would result in an increase in Wichita's unemployment rate of approximately 1%.
  - It is estimated that this would result in a loss of \$19.5 million in direct Air Force payroll spending, which would result in an overall direct and indirect economic impact of approximately \$98 million per year.