

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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AIR FORCE READY TO PURCHASE BEECH, GATES-LEARJET AIRCRAFT

Washington, DC -- The U.S. Air Force will exercise its option to purchase 80 Gates-Learjet C-21A aircraft valued at \$180 million and 40 Beech C-12F aircraft valued at \$52 million, according to Senator Bob Dole.

In disclosing the completion of negotiations between the Air Force and the aircraft manufacturers for the purchase, Sen. Dole said, "These purchases mean much-needed infusions of capital into two of our major aircraft manufacturers in Kansas, at a time when that capital can mean the difference between staying in business or hanging out on the edge."

In addition, Dole noted, "by buying these planes outright, the Air Force - and ultimately the American taxpayer - ends up saving money, since the purchases could only happen if there could be a 10-percent savings" over the cost of leasing the aircraft, as the Air Force had been doing.

"Although it's taken a lot of hard work and a long time to reach this point, it's been well worth the effort and will serve as a model for future business dealings between the government and the private sector. Everyone comes out smelling like a rose on this one," said Sen. Dole.