

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 1990

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DOLE ANNOUNCES \$140 MILLION CONTRACT FOR 31 MORE KC-135R
RE-ENGINE MODIFICATION KITS FROM BOEING
"GOOD NEWS FOR KANSAS, BAD NEWS FOR SADDAM"

WASHINGTON - Senator Bob Dole (R-Ks) announced today that the Air Force has awarded a firm fixed price contract to Boeing Military Airplanes, Wichita, for the purchase of 31 additional KC-135R re-engine modification kits, a program House Democrats are threatening with extinction next year.

"Now that the ink is dry on this contract, Boeing can get to work on this program which is vital to America's security. If you need proof, ask Saddam Hussein. He's surrounded by U.S. air power, much of it fueled by our Kansas tankers," said Dole.

"The KC-135R Re-engining Program provides the most cost-effective approach to addressing the serious shortfall in our tanker fleet. By upgrading the current tanker force with new engines and other modifications, the KC-135R Program adds the capacity of one and one half tanker aircraft for each aircraft modified," noted Dole. "That's why its such a good deal for the taxpayer."

The contract awarded today is funded in the 1990 Pentagon budget. The House Armed Services Committee terminated the KC-135R during their deliberations on the FY91 Defense Authorization Bill. The full Senate supported the Administration's 1991 request of 24 additional aircraft kits.

"Now we just have to convince the House Democrats to continue this important program," said Dole. "They have been very shortsighted on this one. Let's hope they've been watching the success of our tanker fleet in action in the Persian Gulf."