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FROM:

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U . S . S E N A T E A P P R O V E S C O M M U N I C A T I O N S S Y S T E M F O R
K A N S A S A R M Y N A T I O N A L G U A R D ;
H E A D Q U A R T E R S T O L O C A T E I N T O P E K A

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that the U.S. Senate okayed his funding request for a new high-tech communication network system for the Kansas Army National Guard. The Senate okayed Dole's \$750,000 request for an Electronic Tandem Network (ETN) to be headquartered in Topeka during passage of the FY1993 Department of Defense appropriations bill. The measure now goes to a joint House/Senate conference committee before final passage by both Houses.

"The current communication facilities for the Kansas Army National Guard are antiquated and inadequate to support its activities. That's why I went to bat for this advanced network that will maximize communication capability, bringing the Guard to the forefront nationally in communications technology while reducing costs at the same time. At a time of shrinking budget deficits, this project comes out a winner - improving communications for the Guard, while saving our federal dollars," said Dole.

The ETN consists of a series of Public Branch Exchanges which will provide state-of-the-art digital communication capabilities including voice, video teleconferencing, and high speed data transfer. The network will be headquartered in Topeka and have four other Kansas branches located in Kansas City, Wichita, Salina, and Hutchinson.

The Kansas Army National Guard estimates that the new communications systems will pay off in four years including savings by current lease expenses and long distance communication costs.

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