



NEWS
FROM:

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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DOLE: NEW CHOPPERS ON LINE FOR KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD;
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OKAYED FOLLOWING SENATOR'S AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON -- High-tech Blackhawk helicopters may soon be coming to Kansas as part of a modernization program for the state's national guard force, according to Senator Bob Dole.

Just prior to today's passage of the Defense Appropriations Bill, the Senate approved Senator Dole's amendment that provides the necessary funding to bring UH-60 Sikorsky helicopters to Kansas. The Dole amendment earmarks \$23 million for four UH-60 Blackhawks, the first installment of what Dole calls a "timely upgrade of our state's helicopter fleet, currently operating out of Topeka and Salina".

Without adoption of the Dole amendment during Senate floor debate, modernization of the Kansas Guard would not have occurred until at least 1996.

"When Kansans need help, our National Guard has always been there, flying missions of mercy, bringing food and relief to victims of storms, floods and tornadoes. That's why the Guard needs the latest in technology when it comes to helicopters. The Persian Gulf War also demonstrated the important role the National Guard plays in our national security, which is yet another reason that Kansas Guard members deserve the latest in military training and preparation," Dole said.

"The venerable HUEY from the Vietnam era has served our state well, thanks to the great expertise of the Guard," Dole added. "It's a legendary chopper but it's time to modernize and these Blackhawks will certainly get the job done."

The Dole helicopter amendment and the rest of the Senate's Defense Appropriations Bill now goes to a joint House/Senate conference committee before final approval by both houses.

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