

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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KSU/SALINA PROJECT

**IT'S OFFICIAL! -- KSU/SALINA AVIATION PROJECT A DONE DEAL;
DOLE SECURES FINAL \$6 MILLION FOR HIGH-TECH TRAINING CENTER**

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that he has personally secured the final \$6 million in Pentagon funding to complete Salina's long-awaited \$7.7 million high-tech aviation training and maintenance center, a cooperative Defense Department venture with Kansas State University.

"This is a perfect three point landing, the successful completion of a two-year effort to bring this state-of-the-art training and research facility to Kansas," Dole said, who had previously secured the initial \$1.7 million to get the project off the ground.

During a recent meeting with Les Aspin, President Clinton's Secretary of Defense, Senator Dole stressed the importance of the Salina project.

"I'm pleased Secretary Aspin agrees that the Salina defense conversion project is a winner, a model partnership between higher education, national security and a community dedicated to economic development. Thanks to this vital project, K-State/Salina will be leading the way to establishing the first-ever international pilot training standards. Two administrations -- Republican and Democrat -- have now endorsed the importance of this priority project to America's military, retraining our men and women in uniform for the challenges of the 21st century.

"This funding will purchase state-of-the-art equipment for an advanced materials testing laboratory, computers, flight simulators, and up to 10 aircraft with advanced avionics manufactured by another Kansas aviation leader, Beech Aircraft," Dole continued.

"The funding will be available for the purchase of 6 Beech Bonanzas, 3 Beech Barons, and one Beech Sundowner -- so this is also good news for the proud workers at Beech in Wichita," Dole added.

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