

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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BASE CLOSURES

DOLE TO INTRODUCE 2-YEAR BASE CLOSURE DELAY

WASHINGTON -- Citing the tight budget climate and uncertainty in global security, Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced he will introduce a bill to delay the next round of military base closures until 1997. Dole's legislation would delay for two years the next round of closings scheduled for 1995 under current law.

"The fact is, we haven't realized any savings so far from the very first round of base closures which occurred back in 1988," Dole said. "With escalating costs to pay for environmental clean-up and to assist communities hard hit by the loss of their bases, we simply don't have the money to take on another round of base closures at this time."

"My bill would delay the Base Closure and Realignment Commission process until 1997, providing time to digest the high costs of the previous rounds," Dole added.

"And more importantly, we ought to pause and assess the world situation. There is a lot of danger and instability out there with North Korea, Bosnia, Iraq, Iran and Haiti -- all potential powder kegs. So, before we rush to spend another \$5 to \$7 billion of our scarce defense dollars to close more bases in hopes of achieving some promised savings long after the year 2000, I think we can hold off a couple of years to make sure this makes sense," said Dole.

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