



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE ASKS RICHARDS-GEBAUER RECONSIDERATION: DELAY OF MOVE PENDING RESTUDY

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole has requested that James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense, delay the proposed transfer of the Air Force Communication Service from Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois until results of a General Accounting Office study are completed. Dole requested the G.A.O. study in an attempt to ascertain the most reliable cost effectiveness figures possible because of a great discrepancy between DOD cost projections and a local Kansas City cost survey.

Dole pointed out to Schlesinger that the AFCS was moved from Scott to Richards-Gebauer in 1970 and that move was justified on the grounds of cost effectiveness. "Many Kansas City area residents believe the same economic considerations apply today and favor keeping the facility in Kansas City," Dole added.

The Kansas Senator said that while the base is located in Missouri, "it has a more than \$600 million annual input into the overall economy of the metropolitan area and more than 225 employees are residents of Kansas." According to the study conducted by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, military and civilian personnel from Richards-Gebauer occupy 186 residences in Johnson County.

The Chamber of Commerce's extensive study covers cost projections of the move, including cost of the move four years ago from Scott to Richards-Gebauer. It also relates comparative availability of housing and schools near the two bases, tax structures in surrounding communities, accessibility to engineering consulting firms and universities, and the physical facilities available at each of the bases. The local study provides a strong case for retaining the Air Force Communication Service at Richards-Gebauer. This is in direct contrast to the Department of Defense study which was used to back the proposal to move AFCS to Scott.

Senator Dole requested Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General of the United States, to Conduct the G.A.O. investigation and to report by July 1st on the cost effectiveness of this move "with particular emphasis on the following points of discrepancy between the DOD study and the local study completed by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City:"

(1) Relocation Cost

- (a) What would be the cost of moving the recently modernized telecommunication equipment located at Richards-Gebauer.
- (b) What would be the cost of expanding facilities at Scott Air Force Base to accommodate the Communication Service. The Communications Service was moved from Scott to Richards-Gebauer approximately four years ago. The reason given then was the lack of adequate

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facilities at Scott and no substantial expansion has taken place at Scott since that time.

- (c) What, if any, would be the saving in personnel costs resulting from the move. The Department of Defense claims a reduction of 400 jobs due to the unification, however, approximately 150 of these positions are unfilled at the present time at Richards-Gebauer.
 - (d) What would be the cost of personnel relocation generally and in particular the expenses that would arise from the acquisition of temporary housing facilities in the area surrounding Scott Air Force Base.
 - (e) What would be the costs incurred through lost efficiency resulting from the dismantling and disruption of the operation and the duplication during the transition.
- (2) Compatability of the missions.
AFCS was separated from MAC in 1961 and established as a major command to save manpower and provide more effective management of Air Force communication resources. In 1970, AFCS was located at Richards-Gebauer to further reduce manpower and increase the effective management of critical technical skills and resources. AFCS has now been recognized as the leader among the Services providing the most efficient strategic and tactical communication system in the DOD. The Department of Defense now proposes to reverse this process and revert to the old system of combining dissimilar missions which have previously proven to be ineffective. Can the costs and potential requirements of maintaining the required level of communications services under the new reorganization be estimated.
- (3) Environmental aspects of the relocation.
The local study indicates that demands placed on housing, schools, utilities and general public services in the vicinity of Scott Air Force Base will be overbearing and result in additional costs to the Department of Defense in order to maintain adequate living conditions for personnel. Question, whether or not an environmental impact statement or analysis would not be required prior to the move.