

News from Senator

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TITAN II REPORT DOESN'T REDUCE NEED FOR SENATE HEARINGS

WASHINGTON -- "While a study of the safety of the Titan II missile system released today by the Air Force appears detailed and thorough, Senate Armed Services Committee hearings are needed to confirm and expand upon its findings and study the strategic role of the Titan II in our defense arsenal, an area not covered by the study," Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today.

In a 2 p.m. press conference at the Pentagon today, the Air Force released the findings of the Titan II Weapon System Review Group, which was commissioned to study the safety and supportability of the Titan II system immediately following the Titan II accident at Damascus, Ark., last September.

"I have no reason to question the findings or the recommendations of the Study Group, but it has long been my view that a thorough, objective study of the system by a non-military panel is needed," Dole said. "Continued Air Force statements will not calm the public, which has become skeptical as accidents recur in the wake of military re-assurances. Senate Armed Services Committee hearings can assure the public that everything possible is being done to make the Titan II missiles safe for military personnel and nearby residents alike. The study released today can certainly serve as a basis for these hearings.

"More importantly, Congress must take a comprehensive look at the effectiveness of the Titan II missiles. While this study details safety considerations, it does not address the broader question of the strategic role of the Titan II system.

"I have urged the new chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Senator Tower, to schedule these hearings early in the 97th Congress. These critical questions will not be resolved until Congress takes a complete, unbiased look at the entire Titan II missile system."