

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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MEETING TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE,

OFFICE OF SENATOR ROBERT DOLE - DECEMBER 2, 1983

• Persons in attendance:

Senator Robert Dole
Senator Nancy Kassebaum
Air Force Secretary Verne Orr
General McCarthy, Air Force
Legislative Liaison
Wilson Cadman, Chairman and
President of KG&E
Robert Knight, City Commissioner
and Mayor Elect
Robert Langenwalter, Investments

Ray Reed, President-1st Securities
Investment
Bev Lancaster, Vice President of
Operations-Boeing
Jerry Mallot, President-Wichita
Chamber of Commerce
David Furnas, Chamber of Commerce-
Vice President of Public Affairs
Ron Ryan, President-Ryan Aviation
Bill Rutherford, Vice President-
Government Relations Beech Aircraft

- The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the future of McConnell Air Force Base in light of the pending phase-out of Titan II missiles which are currently deployed around the Wichita area. The Titans at both McConnell and a Little Rock, Arkansas base will be drawn down sometime in the next two to five years. To date, no decision has been made public concerning the timing of either the McConnell or Little Rock Titan draw down.
- Approximately 1,000 military personnel are currently located in the Wichita area as a result of the Titans. Sens. Dole and Kassebaum will discuss with Secretary Orr Air Force plans to mitigate the economic impact of the loss of 1,000 people. Secretary Orr has indicated that he can review at this time with the Senators what kind of follow-on missions are currently being considered for McConnell.
- The Pentagon is in the process of finalizing all basing decisions for the B-1 Bomber. It was announced in early 1983 that the first B-1 wing would be deployed in Texas. It is anticipated that the second public announcement will be made in January, 1984. Secretary Orr is expected to give specific information about the timing of the third and fourth B-1 basing decisions. Early reports indicate that the decisions on the third and fourth bases may be made in early 1984, but that they will be classified announcements until sometime in 1985.
- Secretary Orr will provide specific information about the cost of designing and constructing of a B-1 Bomber wing at McConnell.
- Other options for follow-on missions at McConnell after the Titan drawdown, including a KC-135 wing, and the Advanced Technology (Stealth) Bomber being developed by the Pentagon, will also be discussed.