

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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NEXT GENERATION TRAINER CONTRACT COULD BE UP FOR GRABS --
DOLE MAKES PITCH FOR CESSNA TO PENTAGON OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON -- A multi-billion dollar Air Force contract for a new training aircraft could soon be up for grabs, and if that's the case, Kansas Senator Bob Dole says Wichita's Cessna Airplane Manufacturing Company can do the job.

The Senate Majority Leader made the revelation today after a meeting in his Capitol Hill office with two top Pentagon officials. Dole called the meeting with Deputy Defense Secretary William Taft and Assistant Defense Secretary Russ Rourke after confirming that the so-called Next Generation Trainer Contract (NGT) with the New York based Fairchild Industries is in jeopardy due to large cost overruns and technical difficulties. Cessna made a strong bid for the same 600 plane, multi-billion dollar Air Force contract in 1982. "I have closely monitored NGT developments ever since my office discovered several months ago that Fairchild was having real trouble keeping costs down. The Pentagon is also aware of these problems and that is why I called today's meeting -- to discuss contingency plans in the event that Fairchild is unable to fulfill its contractual obligations," Dole said.

"As I told the Pentagon three years ago, Cessna is an outstanding aircraft manufacturer with a superb track record and was absolutely qualified to handle the NGT. They are ready now to step in and do the job. The good news is our Kansas company can not only handle the work, but also save taxpayers big money."

The Kansas Republican has been in close contact with Cessna officials during the past several months after learning that cost overruns at Fairchild could approach \$1 billion. "In the light of record-setting federal deficits, every government agency -- especially the Pentagon -- should make sure its getting its money's worth. In this case, our Kansas company can give the taxpayer and the Defense Department the best value and the best product," Dole said.