

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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F16'S TO REPLACE OLD JETS AT MCCONNELL TRAINING UNIT

Washington, DC -- Eighteen new F16 fighter jets will be delivered to McConnell Air Force Base at Wichita later this year to replace older planes used to train Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve pilots, Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) announced today.

"By choosing McConnell as the home for the new F16s, the Air Force has again demonstrated its support and commitment to the future of McConnell Air Force Base," said Sen. Dole. "With the deployment of the new B1 bombers there, too, McConnell is quickly establishing itself as a major player in our nation's defensive structure - and that's something that should make every Kansan proud."

Dole said the Air Force will deliver the 18 jets in the fourth quarter of 1987. Currently McConnell uses 44 F4Ds to train pilots. Dole said these will be phased out in favor of the F16s. Dole said the F16 deliveries will mean an additional \$7 million in construction to accommodate the jets at McConnell.

Sen. Dole also said the Air Force will deliver two new KC135 planes to the Air National Guard at Forbes Field, bringing the total number of such tankers there up to 10. He said the new tankers would help create 69 additional manpower slots, 37 of which would be full-time positions.

- 30 -