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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

S.8 -- TROOPS TAX RELIEF

DOLE CARRIES THROUGH ON COMMITMENT TO DESERT SHIELD TROOPS; TAX RELIEF BILL INTRODUCED IN SENATE

WASHINGTON -- AMERICAN SOLDIERS DEPLOYED IN OPERATION DESERT SHIELD WOULD GET MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF FROM TAX FILING DEADLINES AND INTEREST PENALTIES UNDER LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TODAY IN THE SENATE BY REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS).

THE DOLE BILL, S.8, WOULD ALLOW TROOPS AND THEIR SPOUSES 60 DAYS FROM THE END OF THE SOLDIER'S DESERT SHIELD SERVICE TO FILE TAX RETURNS INTEREST-FREE. IF ENTITLED TO TAX REFUNDS, SOLDIERS FILING WITHIN THE 60 DAYS WOULD BE ENTITLED TO INTEREST ON THEIR REFUNDS, PAID AS OF APRIL 15TH.

"THIS COMMONSENSE LEGISLATION SENDS AN IMPORTANT SIGNAL TO OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES -- THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS NOT GOING TO MAKE THEIR LIVES MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE RIGORS OF PERSIAN GULF DUTY ALREADY HAVE," DOLE SAID. "OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE SAUDI DESERT HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO FOCUS ON THAN COMPILING RECORDS, MEETING PAPERWORK DEADLINES, OR WORRYING ABOUT BEING PENALIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT THEY ARE SERVING."

DOLE PROMISED LEGISLATION IN DECEMBER AFTER THE IRS ANNOUNCED IT HAD NO AUTHORITY TO GRANT DESERT SHIELD SOLDIERS RELIEF FROM INTEREST PENALTIES INCURRED FOR FILING AFTER APRIL 15TH.

"BY DESIGNATING THIS LEGISLATION SENATE BILL 8, WE ARE PUTTING OUR TROOPS' EVERYDAY NEEDS ON OUR LIST OF TOP PRIORITIES. WITH CHAIRMAN DAN ROSTENKOWSKI LEADING THE WAY IN THE HOUSE, AND THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION FULLY BEHIND THIS INITIATIVE, I HAVE HIGH HOPES THAT THIS RELIEF BILL WILL SAIL THROUGH CONGRESS WITH STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT AND BE SIGNED INTO LAW THIS MONTH," DOLE ADDED.

DOLE'S LEGISLATION HAS MORE THAN 50 SENATE CO-SPONSORS, INCLUDING MAJORITY LEADER GEORGE MITCHELL (D-ME) AND THE LEADERS OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, LLOYD BENTSEN (D-TX) AND BOB PACKWOOD (R-OR).

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