

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE MAKES IT OFFICIAL: NO BASE CLOSINGS FOR KANSAS

THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF RUMORS AND LOTS OF ANXIETY LATELY ABOUT BASE CLOSINGS. I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT OUR BASES ARE TO KANSAS, SO LET ME MAKE THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

THIS OFFICE HAS PERSONALLY REVIEWED THE PENTAGON'S BASE CLOSING LIST, AND I CAN TELL THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS THAT THERE WILL BE NO CLOSINGS OR REALIGNMENTS IN OUR STATE.

THAT MEANS IT WILL BE BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR FORT RILEY, McCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, AND FORT LEAVENWORTH -- AND THAT ADDS UP TO GREAT NEWS FOR KANSAS.

WE DIDN'T LUCK OUT

NOW, THIS DOESN'T MEAN WE LUCKED OUT, THAT WE ARE SOMEHOW SAVING OBSOLETE, NON-ESSENTIAL MILITARY FACILITIES. JUST THE OPPOSITE: TODAY'S GOOD NEWS TELLS US THAT OUR KANSAS BASES ARE FRONTLINE, HIGH-TECH COMPONENTS OF THE WORLD'S FINEST FIGHTING FORCE -- AND THEY HAVE EARNED THAT KIND OF RECOGNITION, AT HOME AND ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, OPERATION DESERT STORM PROVED JUST HOW IMPORTANT KANSAS IS WHEN THE BIG RED ONE, AND MEN AND WOMEN FROM EVERY BASE AND GUARD UNIT IN OUR STATE HELPED WIN THE WAR IN THE GULF.

BIG RED ONE

DURING THE PAST YEAR I BROUGHT DEFENSE SECRETARY CHENEY, ARMY SECRETARY STONE, AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF VUONO TO FT. RILEY TO SEE THE HOME OF THE BIG RED ONE FOR THEMSELVES. EACH WAS IMPRESSED BY THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND THE PRIDE THAT KANSAS TAKES IN THE 1ST DIVISION. IT IS OBVIOUS TODAY THAT KANSAS SUPPORT AND PRIDE FOR THE BIG RED ONE MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION.

TOPEKA -- 190TH REFUELERS

THE VITAL STRATEGIC MISSION CARRIED BY McCONNELL AFB AND THE SUPPORT FROM OUR 190TH AIR REFUELING GROUP IN TOPEKA HAS NOT DIMINISHED. CONTINUED UPHEAVAL IN THE SOVIET UNION MEANS THAT WE MUST STAY ON OUR GUARD. McCONNELL TYPIFIES OUR VIGILANCE AND OUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH.

FORT LEAVENWORTH

MEANWHILE, THE WORLD-CLASS TRAINING AT FORT LEAVENWORTH FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF COLIN POWELLS AND NORMAN SCHWARZKOPFS WILL CONTINUE, AND WILL REMAIN SECOND-TO-NONE.

THE BOTTOMLINE IS, KANSAS IS MIGHTY PROUD OF OUR MILITARY BASES, THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE SO LOYALLY THERE, AND THE KANSAS COMMUNITIES WHO GIVE THEM SO MUCH SUPPORT.

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