

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 27, 1991

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TORNADO RELIEF UPDATE

DOLE SECURES FEDERAL FUNDING PACKAGE FOR REBUILDING McCONNELL AFB & KANSAS TORNADO RELIEF

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole announced today that the Bush Administration has fulfilled the Senator's request for major new funding to help rebuild McConnell Air Force Base this year and to provide more money for repair of public facilities damaged by the tornadoes of April 26th.

The new funding -- including \$55 million for McConnell -- comes to Capitol Hill in the form of a special presidential supplemental appropriations request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Defense. Ever since the devastating tornadoes of April 26th ripped across Kansas, Senator Dole has been working directly with the White House and the Pentagon, especially Budget Director Richard Darman and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, to make certain his request received fast track priority attention.

"The President's request is the bottomline I've been requesting -- rebuilding McConnell this year is absolutely critical. I am pleased that this funding will not require any budget offsets, and therefore will not be competing with any other federal funding requests," Dole said. "This funding will help cover damage to family housing, the base hospital and many other important facilities." The \$55 million in the President's package is in addition to \$19 million in Pentagon funds already redirected to McConnell at Dole's request. "I'll continue to monitor the rebuilding of McConnell, and am ready to request additional 1992 funding if and when necessary," Dole added.

"No less important is the damage to public facilities in Kansas counties and cities suffering tornado devastation, which is why additional funding for damaged roads, REA electric utilities, schools and reimbursement for costly debris removal is included in the President's request for \$693 million in FEMA funds for 1991 natural disasters nationwide."

"President Bush once again has demonstrated his genuine concern for the losses in our state. From the time I called him hours after the tornadoes struck, to today's welcome announcement, the President and his Administration team have demonstrated a real commitment to get this job done."

Dole gave President Bush a first-hand account of the tornado damage on April 27th. Two days later, the President issued an official federal disaster declaration, making federal funds available to Kansans affected by the devastation. On May 9th, Dole secured a commitment from the Defense Department that it would try to fund the repair of McConnell from this year's budget. On May 29th, Dole began working with Budget Director Darman to craft what would be today's funding request.

Today's supplemental funding request requires approval by both the Senate and House, which may come as early as next month.

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