

*Bob Dole*



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

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## \$55 MILLION FOR McCONNELL

### DOLE SECURES SENATE APPROVAL OF \$55.28 MILLION PACKAGE TO REBUILD TORNADO DAMAGED FACILITIES AT McCONNELL AFB

WASHINGTON -- Funding to rebuild McConnell Air Force Base cleared a major hurdle tonight when the U.S. Senate unanimously approved an amendment authored by Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) providing \$55.28 million to help rebuild facilities at McConnell damaged by the tornadoes of April 26th.

Dole's funding request was approved as part of the Senate's FY 1992 Military Construction Appropriations bill. Dole had originally secured Bush Administration approval for the funding in the form of a presidential emergency supplemental appropriations request. That bill, however, became bogged down in the House of Representatives, necessitating Dole's action tonight.

"No doubt about it, Senate approval of these funds is a real breakthrough for McConnell. Thanks to the cooperation of my Senate colleagues, we've overcome the problem of inaction in the House which had derailed our earlier request. It looks like we finally have this nailed down," Dole said.

Of the \$55.28 million approved by the Senate, \$42.98 million will be used for rebuilding facilities such as the base hospital, school and community center. Of the remaining \$12.3 million, \$10 million will go to replace destroyed family housing units, \$1.8 million will be devoted to repair of damaged housing units, and \$500,000 will be for planning and design.

"This funding will be crucial to rebuilding much of the infrastructure at McConnell -- family housing, the base hospital and many other important facilities which were devastated by the April twisters," Dole added. "Since I toured the devastation at McConnell and the surrounding areas on April 27th, I've been committed to getting this job done. We all look forward to the day when McConnell is whole again."

The \$55 million approved tonight is in addition to \$19 million in Pentagon funds redirected to McConnell at Dole's request earlier this year. Those funds were used for clean up operations, as well as the replacement of supplies, equipment and furnishings.

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 rebuild McConnell.

The Military Construction Appropriations bill now goes to a House-Senate conference committee before returning to each house for final action and the President's signature.

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