

Bob Dole

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 23, 1991

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KANSAS DEFENSE PROJECTS

WICHITA -- LEAVENWORTH -- FT. RILEY

PARSONS -- SALINA

DOLE'S KANSAS DEFENSE PROJECTS WIN BIG -- \$898 MILLION;
CONGRESS GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO NATION'S DEFENSE BILL

WASHINGTON -- Key Kansas defense projects introduced by Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) and supported by him throughout Capitol Hill deliberations won final Congressional approval Saturday as Congress worked during the weekend to complete action for 1991.

The Kansas initiatives, totalling \$898 million, are included in the conference report to the FY92 Department of Defense Appropriations bill passed by the U.S. Senate. The measure now heads to President Bush for his signature.

"These Kansas defense successes are not merely automatic add-ons or upgrades, but projects and jobs that withstood tough competition and opposition from many directions," Dole said. "In this year of tight defense dollars, our state's worthwhile projects came out on top -- once again proving that Kansas is a major player when it comes to America's aviation and defense priorities. No doubt about it, these Kansas defense programs are winners, for our national security, for the taxpayers and for our great Kansas workforce," added Dole.

WICHITA

KC-135: \$587 million -- At Senator Dole's request, Congress okayed \$587 million for continued re-engining and maintenance for 26 of the KC-135 tanker at Boeing's Wichita plant.

"The KC-135 helped lead us to victory in the Gulf War," Dole said. "This airborne gas station was the aerial backbone of Operation Desert Storm, making the unprecedented deployment and air war such spectacular successes. It also means continued employment for many of the good workers at Boeing's Wichita plant."

C-12: \$9.3 million -- At Senator Dole's request, Congress approved \$9.3 million to fund the Army Reserve's purchase of 3 C-12 airplanes (King Air) manufactured by the Beech Aircraft Corporation.

"This is an important breakthrough for the National Guard, one that I have been pushing for. The Reserve is ready to modernize its fleet and it's good news that we were able to make certain one of our Wichita manufacturers was selected for this task," said Dole.

TTTS "JAYHAWK": \$156 million -- With Senator Dole's support, Congress agreed to include \$156 million to help fund President Bush's request for the Tanker, Transport, Training System (TTTS), which includes the Kansas-made T-1A "Jayhawk" trainer, built by Beech in Wichita and Salina. The funds will be for 34 additional TTTS's.

"This new generation trainer will continue to make America's pilots second to none, and Kansas at the forefront of aviation advancement. This Beech project already represents history's biggest general aviation contract, and this latest round of Congressional support shows this priority program is right on track," Dole said.

T-47'S: \$35 million -- At Senator Dole's request, Congress agreed to fund \$35 million to lease 15 T-47's (Cessna) to be used by the National Guard in assisting the U.S. Customs in the war on drugs.

McCONNELL AFB IMPROVEMENTS: \$200,000 -- At Senator Dole's request, Congress also approved \$200,000 for a corrosion control project that will protect fuel tanks and fuel lines vital to the operations of the crack 184th F-16 fighter wing based at McConnell.

(MORE)

FT. LEAVENWORTH

HIGH-TECH SIMULATORS: \$2 million -- Congress approved Senator Dole's request for \$2 million worth of new high-tech training equipment for the Army at Ft. Leavenworth.

"These training simulators and computers for the Guard and Reserve Center in Leavenworth are the wave of the future that will help keep our military #1," Dole said. "Simulating battle conditions and troop movements with the latest technology will further enhance Fort Leavenworth as one of the world's premiere training facilities."

FORT RILEY

WATER TREATMENT: \$800,000 -- Congress okayed Senator Dole's request for \$800,000 to fund improvements at the post's water treatment plant.

"This project has been a longtime priority for Fort Riley. Our troops and their families deserve a safe and reliable water supply and this new funding will help them get it," Dole said. "I'm pleased to wrap up this year-long effort for the Big Red One."

PARSONS

CLUSTER BOMBS: \$100 million -- Congress agreed to Senator Dole's request to make \$100 million available to the Air Force to fund continued production of cluster bombs (CEM) at the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant.

"These cluster bombs, which I've been backing for years, proved to be the weapon of choice in America's arsenal when it came time to dismantle Saddam Hussein's vaunted military machine. The KAAP ordnance also helped save countless American lives by clearing the desert of mines and bringing the land war to a speedy end. This is a Kansas project that has more than proved its worth," Dole said.

SALINA

KSU AVIATION SCHOOL: \$7.7 million -- Congress agreed to Senator Dole's initiative to include \$7.7 million to help establish and equip an aircraft maintenance and pilot training program at the Salina campus of Kansas State University. Dole secured the funding last week when a joint House/Senate conference committee took the rare action of adding the measure to the bill. The funds will be used to purchase flight simulators, 16 airplanes, testing equipment, aircraft engines and to begin construction of an electronics equipment lab.

"This funding will help bring the latest in high-tech aviation education to our state along with the latest technology so that students there will get the best in training and hands-on learning," Dole said. "This is an invaluable addition to our state's educational system."

KANSAS MANUFACTURING BASE WINS, TOO

"Several defense programs vital to our national security -- and equally important to Kansas-based subcontractors and their employees -- received high levels of funding by Congress," Dole added.

Projects okayed by Congress include \$2.8 billion for production of the B-2 bomber, \$625 million for the V-22 Tiltrotor aircraft, \$1 billion for the F-16 fighter, and \$1.5 billion for the C-17 Airlifter.

"Our smaller manufacturing firms don't always get the attention they deserve," Dole said, "but they play important roles in these vital programs. When the large defense firms seek quality and solid value, they come to Kansas."

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