

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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DOLE ANNOUNCES BEECH IS JPATS WINNER

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that the Air Force has awarded the \$5 billion Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS) contract to Beech Aircraft Company in Wichita, Kansas.

"Winning this contract was no easy task, and Kansas has a lot to be proud of," Dole said. "Two of the six finalists bidding for JPATS were Kansas companies. Their Kansas work ethic, skilled professionals, and superb management are well-recognized. We're proud that Beech has earned one of the Air Force's largest and most important contracts. This is a real coup for Wichita."

Earlier this afternoon Secretary of Defense William Perry called to inform Senator Dole of the final decision and to congratulate him and Beech on their successful efforts to bring the contract to Wichita.

"This is great news for Beech and for Wichita," Dole added. "For three years I have strongly supported the program, urging the Defense Department to continue funding and to select a contractor on schedule. American pilots are the finest in the world. JPATS will help them keep their edge well into the twenty-first century. Earlier this month, I wrote to General Fogleman that he need look no further than Wichita, the 'Aviation Capital of the World,' to find the best quality and value for the Air Force."

Since the Air Force began its search for a new primary trainer, Senator Dole has supported the program, fighting several efforts to delay the contract award. JPATS will serve as the Air Force's and Navy's initial pilot training aircraft. In addition, Beech will provide flight training simulators and maintenance services.

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