

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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CONTACT: KIM McCREERY
(202) 224-8953

DOLE PROPOSALS FOR WICHITA DEFENSE AIRCRAFT PROJECTS
WIN SENATE APPROVAL

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that the U.S. Senate approved legislation which provides funding for several vital defense aircraft important to Wichita. The projects were part of the 1996 Defense Appropriations Bill and the 1996 Defense Authorization Bill, which now go to joint House/Senate conference committees to work out differences with House legislation.

"As we continue our efforts to trim the federal deficit, defense programs face stricter scrutiny than ever before," Dole said. "The result is that only the most efficient and most worthwhile projects pass the test. In my view, investing in these projects is necessary to protect our national security and our national interests worldwide."

TANKER-TRANSPORT TRAINING SYSTEM (TTTS) -- \$4.4 MILLION

The legislation includes \$4.4 million for the procurement of the Tanker-Transport Training System. The TTTS is manufactured in Wichita by the Beech Aircraft Company.

"These trainer aircraft will help ensure that pilots receive the best training available. As we continue to downsize our forces, we must ensure that they remain the best trained and equipped force in the world," said Dole.

JOINT PRIMARY AIRCRAFT TRAINING SYSTEM (JPATS) -- \$55 MILLION

The bills contain \$55 million for the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS). Beech Aircraft Company recently won this \$5 billion contract, which supplies the next generation of primary pilot training aircraft to the Armed Forces.

"JPATS is one of the Air Force's most important investments in pilot training. For three years, I have actively supported the program, urging the Defense Department to continue funding and to execute the contract on schedule," said Dole.

In addition, the Senate agreed to a Dole amendment which allows the Air Force to procure the JPATS aircraft at a more efficient rate. By protecting funding levels and increasing the number of authorized aircraft, Dole ensured that Raytheon can supply up to eight aircraft with the approved budget.

(MORE)

C-XX MEDIUM RANGE AIRCRAFT -- \$23 MILLION

The legislation includes Senator Dole's request for \$23 million for four, new production, small turbofan C-XX (MR) aircraft for the U.S. Army's utility aircraft program.

"The Army Aviation Modernization program calls for the C-XX aircraft to meet its need for small, medium-range aircraft to provide rapid transportation of critical personnel and equipment more efficiently. Kansas aviation companies have the experience and expertise to supply these aircraft economically," said Dole.

B-1B BOMBER -- \$331.1 MILLION

The bills provide a total of \$143.7 million for procurement and \$187.4 million for research and development of modifications for the B-1B bomber.

"These funds are essential for the modernization of the B-1, which is the backbone of our long-range bomber fleet. We must ensure that our bomber fleets maintain overwhelming superiority in any future conflict."

KC-135 AND RC-135 RE-ENGINE PROGRAMS -- \$191.5 MILLION BOEING

Also included in the Defense Appropriations Bill is Senator Dole's request for \$191.5 million for KC-135 and RC-135 re-engining.

"The Air Force continues to rely heavily on both the KC and RC-135 fleets," Dole said. "These aircraft, which were critical to our victory in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, operate daily in support of on-going U.S. military operations around the world."

NDAA PROGRAM

The bills also contain provisions which allow the Air Force to use current funding to procure Non-Developmental Airlift Aircraft, which will help meet the nation's strategic airlift needs. Boeing is a competitor in the NDAA program.

"My support for the C-17 program is solid. But in my view, we must also begin procurement of additional aircraft to ensure that we can fulfill the National Military Strategy of fighting and winning two nearly simultaneous, major regional conflicts," said Dole. "NDAA offers a near-term solution to our present requirements."

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