

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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DOLE PROPOSALS FOR DEFENSE AIRCRAFT PROJECTS
WIN FINAL SENATE APPROVAL

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced that late Tuesday the U.S. Senate gave final approval to legislation which included several defense projects vital to Wichita aviation manufacturers. The projects are part of the 1996 Defense Authorization Bill, which now heads to the President's desk. The President has threatened to veto the bill.

"As we work toward balancing the federal budget, it is necessary to prioritize spending," Dole said. "In my view, guaranteeing our national security is a good investment. These projects are critical to ensure that our service men and women are equipped and prepared to meet any future threat."

TANKER-TRANSPORT TRAINING SYSTEM (TTTS) -- \$4.3 MILLION

The legislation includes \$4.3 million for the procurement of the Tanker-Transport Training System. The TTTS is manufactured in Wichita by the Raytheon 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 bill contains \$55 million for the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS). Raytheon 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 the Air Force can buy up to eight aircraft with funds from this year's budget.

(MORE)

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

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

"The C-XX aircraft will meet the Army's need for small medium range aircraft to provide rapid transportation of equipment and personnel more efficiently. Kansas aviation companies will lead the competition for procurement of the aircraft," said Dole.

B-1B BOMBER -- \$327.2 MILLION

The bill provides \$124.8 million for procurement and \$202.4 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 force."

KC-135 AND RC-135 RE-ENGINE PROGRAMS -- \$100.5 MILLION

The bill includes Senator Dole's request for \$105.5 million for KC-135 and RC-135 re-engining.

"Both of these fleets have high utilization rates by the Air Force," Dole said. "This is a cost-effective approach to ensure that these aircraft will continue to support our forces."

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