



Town of Lexington, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

JEANNE K. KRIEGER, CHAIRMAN
PETER C.J. KELLEY
RICHARD PAGETT
NORMAN P. COHEN
HANK MANZ

TEL: (781) 862-0500 x208
FAX: (781) 863-9468

June 30, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building, Suite 600
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202



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Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the Lexington Board of Selectmen the governing body of the one of the Massachusetts communities supporting the Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative (MassDTI), I am writing in support of the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations to expand Hanscom Air Force Base and preserve the Solider Systems Center – Natick. MassDTI, co-chaired by Senator Edward Kennedy and Governor Mitt Romney, is a public-private partnership created to preserve and expand the missions of these two unique technical facilities.

Lexington is one of the four Hanscom Area Towns (HATS) surrounding Hanscom Air Force base. Lincoln Laboratories, a prime defense contractor and affiliate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, lies within the borders of Lexington and adjoins the Air Force Base. Lincoln Laboratory personnel are active in our community, volunteering their management experience to help run the Town. Much of the Towns commercial development is directly related to base related activities.

The Town of Lexington is proud of its association with the Base and has supported the recommendations made to the BRAC by the MassDTI through resolutions by the Board of Selectmen. We support the initiative of the MassDTI to sustain growth at the Base and recognize the critical role the base plays in our national defense and in our local economy.

For decades, Hanscom and Natick have made significant contributions to the technological advancement that drives our nation's war fighting capabilities. The command and control technologies developed at Hanscom and the solider systems advancements from Natick help give the US military a technological advantage over every other military force in the world.

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The successful track record of these bases can be attributed in large part to their proximity to the nation's top defense technology cluster that stretches from Southeastern Massachusetts into Southern New Hampshire. This region possesses the critical mass of skilled workforce, experienced institutional and academic partners and research and development base to enable these facilities to thrive now and into the future. As this BRAC process has proven, the Pentagon has a willing partner in Massachusetts to help create the future vision for these facilities.

By recommending the addition of more than 1100 new direct jobs to Hanscom and retaining the core technology mission at Natick, the Pentagon has made a tremendous commitment to Massachusetts and its technological capabilities. The Town of Lexington recognizes that commitment and will do our part to help these facilities continue their critical work and grow for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanne Krieger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne K. Krieger
Chairman