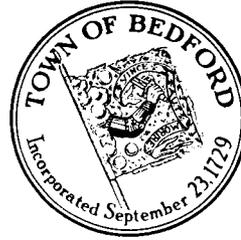


**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730



**SELECTMEN of BEDFORD**

Gordon Feltman, Chairman  
Angelo Colao Catherine Cordes  
Sheldon Moll Mark Siegenthaler

10 Mudge Way  
Bedford, MA 01730  
781-275-1111

July 1, 2005



**RECEIVED**

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

**07 05 2005**

Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the Bedford Selectmen, I am writing in support of the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations to expand Hanscom Air Force Base and preserve the Soldier Systems Center – Natick. The Town of Bedford is one of the communities in which Hanscom Air Force Base is located. We have cooperated with the Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative (MassDTI) which is co-chaired by Senator Edward Kennedy and Governor Mitt Romney. This public-private partnership was created to preserve and expand the missions of these two unique technical facilities.

Hanscom Air Force Base is inexorably connected with the Bedford community at-large. Bedford has educated students from Hanscom at our high school for the last 50 years. Hanscom families participate in many community activities such as youth programs and special holiday events such as Memorial Day and Veterans' Day. Bedford has recently made a significant commitment to the production of affordable and rental housing. In the next few years, approximately 500 rental apartment units will be built in Bedford. This housing, within a few miles of the base, will be ideally located for those civilian and military personnel who are relocated to Hanscom as a result of the Department of Defense's BRAC recommendations.

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

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. Bedford itself is the corporate home of The MITRE Corporation with over 1,700 civilian employees who develop innovative and advanced technology utilized in our national defense systems ensuring a safe world. 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 Bedford recognizes that commitment and will do its part to help these facilities continue their critical work and grow for the future.

Sincerely,

  
Gordon Feltman  
Chairman