



Mass  
Software  
Council

Where Technology and Leadership Connect

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Chairman George Bell, *Upromise, Inc.*  
President Joyce L. Plotkin

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

As a member of 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 Soldier 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.

As you know, Massachusetts is a world leader in the development of software and the birthplace of the Internet. We continue to take the lead in cutting-edge technology areas such as robotics, RFID, and nanotech, primarily because of our capacity to innovate, our sophisticated capital providers, and highly skilled workers. Hanscom's continued presence and expansion here enables it to capitalize on these emerging technologies, our innovation-rich environment, and our commitment to technological leadership.

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. 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 Massachusetts Software Council recognizes that commitment and will do our part to help these facilities continue their critical work and grow for the future.

Sincerely,

  
Joyce L. Plotkin  
President