



MASSACHUSETTS
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75 NORTH DRIVE
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581
TEL: 508 870 0312
FAX: 508 898 2275
WWW.MASSTECH.ORG

July 5, 2005

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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 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.

As a quasi-public economic development agency, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) operates at the nexus of government, industry, and academia. We have a long history of working with both Hanscom and Natick, as well as their many academic and industrial partners. As you may know, Governor Romney and Senator Kennedy have asked MTC's John Adams Innovation Institute to work with SSC- Natick to establish a Technology Collaboration Center that will enhance the technology base that supports the soldier, as well as leverage public and private investment in technology transfer and product development to the mutual benefit of the DoD and the Massachusetts economy. I am pleased to tell you that we are well along in our planning effort and would welcome the opportunity to brief the Commission at an appropriate time. I am also pleased to tell you that we believe that we can apply similar approaches to support the mission of the Air Force at Hanscom.

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 solider 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 Technology Collaborative 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 'Mitchell Adams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mitchell Adams
Executive Director

Cc: Chris Anderson