



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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GEOFFREY D. HALL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2ND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
CHELMSFORD - PRECINCTS 3, 5, 7
LITTLETON, WESTFORD

July 5, 2005

Chairman
Committee on Post Audit and Oversight

ROOM 146, STATE HOUSE
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Anthony Principi, Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building, Suite 600
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

As a participant in the Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative (MassDTI), I am writing to support in the strongest terms of the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations to expand Hanscom Air Force Base and preserve the Soldier Systems Center in Natick. The MassDTI, which is 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.

Many of the high caliber employees at Bedford and Natick are residents in the communities I represent. Their presence in the towns is mutually beneficial socially and economically, each contributing and elevating the other. These individuals, highly educated, represent a finely honed intellectual network among themselves, supported by outstanding production personnel. By virtue of their quality they attract workers of similar calibre who want to be employed in the same environment.

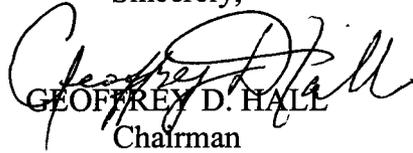
For decades, Hanscom and Natick have made significant contributions to the technological advancement that drives our nation's war fighting capabilities. The command and control technologies developed at Hanscom and the soldier systems advancements from Natick help give the U.S. military a technological 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, including the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts.

This region possesses the critical mass of skilled workforce, experience institutional and academic partners and the 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 1,100 new direct jobs to Hanscom and retaining the core technology mission in Natick, the Pentagon has made a tremendous commitment to Massachusetts and its technological capabilities. I recognize that commitment and will do my part to help these facilities continue their critical work and growth for the future.

Sincerely,



Handwritten signature of Geoffrey D. Hall in cursive script.

GEOFFREY D. HALL
Chairman

Committee on Post Audit & Oversight