

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

DCN: 6395

BRAC Commission

AUG 01 2005

Received

July 28, 2005

Mr. Charles Battaglia
Executive Director
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Battaglia:

Thank you for meeting with us last week to discuss Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT). Both entities are tremendous assets for the Air Force and for our nation.

As we discussed during the meeting, the acceptance of DoD's recommendation to move C4ISR functions from Wright-Patterson to Hanscom AFB should not be accepted. The \$410 million expansion plan proposed by the State of Massachusetts to buy additional missions for Hanscom AFB violates the very fabric of the BRAC process. The analysis by DoD on the C4ISR function does not take into account all the labor costs associated with the mission relocation. These unaccounted labor costs amount to an additional fifty-two million dollars (\$52,000,000) in annual recurring costs. Also, enclosed is an article that appeared today in the Dayton Daily News that focuses on Sen. Kennedy and the Hanscom expansion plan.

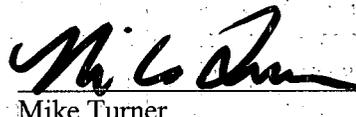
Further, AFIT is an integral piece of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and is uniquely intertwined with the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Dayton community. AFIT is a member of the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute (DAGSI), a consortium of area universities that leverage the combined resources of the partnership schools, including faculty, facilities, equipment, and other assets of the institutions. The DAGSI partnership effectively expands regional educational and research opportunities at the masters and doctoral levels of engineering and computer science. The partnership with DAGSI and AFIT's location on a larger military base in the Midwest account for AFIT's low cost and high military value.

Thank you again for the opportunity to highlight the value of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and AFIT. We look forward to hosting Commissioners Newton and Skinner to show them firsthand the value and importance of AFIT.

Sincerely,



Dave Hobson
Member of Congress



Mike Turner
Member of Congress

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Kennedy: Funds may have influenced plan

Mass. base had state funds to bolster Air Force facility

By Jessica Wehrman

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON | U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., said he believes Defense Department officials recommended sending information technology jobs from Wright-Patterson to Hanscom Air Force Base because of Massachusetts' technological expertise, but acknowledged that a state proposal to pump money into Hanscom may have been a consideration.

Kennedy said Thursday that Defense Department officials made it clear they could not make base closure recommendations based on community improvement proposals.

"Having said that, it had to be in the back of the minds of the Air Force about what the possibilities were going to be — the fact that this had been committed and decided," Kennedy said.

The commitment was the Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative's "Vision for the Future," a \$410 million plan to boost Hanscom's acreage and infrastructure. The plan in part would contribute adjacent land for military family housing and provide improved roads and intersections.

The Defense Department's base closure recommendations, which are now being reviewed by an independent commission, include a plan that would send some 2,250 jobs — including 988 contractor jobs — from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to Hanscom, as part of a recommendation to consolidate work at Hanscom.

Kennedy said defense officials made it clear throughout the base closure deliberation process that his state's improvement plans could not be considered.

"In my six or eight meetings with different defense officials, it never really did come up," he said. "I never found anybody within defense or in any of the considerations brought it up."

In October, Kennedy and a contingent of Massachusetts public officials presented the Air Force Materiel

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Command's top generals with the Hanscom improvement plan. At the time, Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney said the delegation was looking for research and technology from other branches. Hanscom is part of the Material Command, which is headquartered at Wright-Pat.

U.S. Reps. Mike Turner, R-Centerville, and David Hobson, R-Springfield, were skeptical.

It "doesn't pass the smell test," Hobson said.

Turner has criticized the recommendation, saying because it mirrored the Massachusetts economic proposal, it makes the process look like a bidding war.

"Sen. Kennedy claims defense officials never brought up a proposal that he sat across the table from and delivered personally to them," Turner said. "I don't know how he could say he never discussed this. He was in meetings pushing and discussing the Massachusetts plan."

He said the \$410 million proposal "was clearly intended to influence the process."

According to Defense Department criteria, closure recommendations cannot be based on proposed community improvements.

Contact Jessica Wehrman at (202) 887-8328.

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