



Town of Lexington, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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August 31, 2005

Anthony J Principi, Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

The Board of Selectmen of Lexington, one of the four towns surrounding Hanscom Air Force Base, appreciate the vote of confidence from the Commission to keep the base open. The base has been recognized as the premier centers for technology research and development, due in large part to the synergy with the academic resources of the surrounding communities.

In its 2005 BRAC recommendations, the DoD recommended relocation of two Air Force Research Laboratory operations out of Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts. The Sensors Directorate (Electro-Magnetics Technology) is to be moved to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and the Space Vehicles Directorate (formerly the Geophysics Lab.) to Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. We understand that the deadline is approaching, but we believe the analysis of this situation should be urgently reviewed before the final recommendations are made and this decision needs to be reversed.

The proposed move would result in a loss to our communities and an enormous loss of most valuable technological know-how for the Air Force. As leaders of the community, we are concerned about the loss of any jobs at the base, particularly civilian scientific research positions that benefit from the daily collaboration that occurs between personnel at the base and the Boston academic community. Many of these researchers are unlikely to move, depriving the nation the benefit of their expertise. In recent past, similar research cutbacks by the Army have created a major problem with equipment for our troops in Iraq.

Anthony J Principi, Chairman
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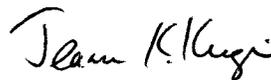
The Lexington Board of Selectman shares the position of Senator John Kerry and of Representative Markey (Lexington and Lincoln); Representative Meehan (Concord); and Representative Tierney (Bedford) that this recommendation should be reversed. The parts of BRAC statements of our congressional delegation that deal with the proposed move of the Sensors and Space Vehicles Directorate operations out of Hanscom are enclosed. Their arguments are very clear and we support them.

While the AFRL operations at Hanscom are not large in the number of employees, we believe its presence at Hanscom is not only a most valuable research asset for the Air Force, but it also helps technology exchange with, and transfer to, the local enterprises and universities, and encourages high school students to pursue a technical education, all of which are of critical national interest.

The loss of the AFRL operations from Hanscom will not only be a loss to our area, but a loss to the nation.

We respectfully request that the Commission and the Congress take these facts into account and reverse this particular recommendation. The AFRL assets at Hanscom seem to have received too little attention compared to the issue of the proposed other major military base closures.

Sincerely,



Jeanne K. Krieger
Chairman

cc: Senator Edward Kennedy
Governor Mitt Romney
Representative Markey
Representative Jay Kaufman
Senator Susan Fargo
Representative Tom Stanley
Shelly Moll, Bedford Selectman
Anne Shapiro, Concord Selectman
Sara Mattes, Lincoln Selectman

<http://www.massdti.com/articles/news/newsDetail-3137.htm>

7/6/2005

Boston, MA - Below is the testimony that Senator John Kerry submitted to the BRAC Commission today. He also testified before the BRAC Commission's public hearing in Boston this afternoon.

PART OF THE TESTIMONY OF SENATOR JOHN KERRY

. . . "In contrast to the wisdom of expanding the high-tech mission at Hanscom which the Air Force has already embraced, the service wants to move the Battlespace Environment Division of the Space Vehicles Directorate and the Electromagnetic Technology Division of the Sensors Directorate of Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) from Hanscom. Doing so would be a mistake. The unique synergy and collaboration that occurs every day between AFRL and the high-tech community in and around Boston would be lost. Equally important, it is expected that of the 225 scientists and engineers who would be affected by relocating these missions, only about 10% would move -- depriving the Air Force of one of its most vital assets --human capital.

This type of expertise does not come easily and is sustained by the cluster of high-technology companies, research universities, and professionals in the Boston area. If the professionals who run these programs and conduct this research refuse to move with their jobs, the impact on vital programs, including sensor fusion, automated target recognition, space-situational awareness -- all vital components of future military capability -- will be disrupted. Hanscom -- and the high-technology cluster around Boston -- is the place for these missions."

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/ma05_meehan/NR050706BRAC.html

5 July 2005

U.S. Representatives Marty Meehan, Ed Markey, and John Tierney, today released the following testimony for the record to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission Regional Field Hearing.

Rep. Markey (Lexington and Lincoln); Rep. Meehan (Concord); and Rep. Tierney (Bedford).

. . . "We are concerned, therefore, that the decision to realign the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Hanscom by relocating the Sensors Directorate to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and the Space Vehicles Directorate and Geophysics Lab to Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico may be inconsistent with aspects of the Pentagon's analysis of Hanscom, and could disrupt key programs. For instance, Hanscom scored highly across key Development and Acquisition (D&A) areas, including sensors, electronics, and electronic warfare. Additionally, as the AFRL components at Hanscom Air Force Base draw heavily upon regional human capital capabilities in science and technology, the proposed relocation of the Sensors and Space Vehicles Directorates appear to carry significant costs with few gains. It may prove virtually impossible to reconstitute the seismic work of the Geophysics Lab at another location, and a previously attempted transfer of the Lab's mission in 1997 was overturned in 2003 at the urging of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and the Nuclear Threat Monitoring Group within the Air Force Technical Applications Center with the full support of the Air Force.

"We understand that internal polls of employees at these Directorates and past BRAC rounds suggest that less than 20% of professionals currently employed in the Directorates would be likely to relocate, should Hanscom AFRL's Sensors and Space Vehicles Directorates be moved in accordance with the Department of Defense's proposals. Without access to a similar strong employee base, the AFRL mission may be negatively and unnecessarily impacted.

"We respectfully request that you re-examine the Pentagon's analysis as it relates to the Sensors and Space Vehicles Directorates and appropriately weigh the difficulty of reconstituting the formidable intellectual and business cluster that exists in Massachusetts, as well as the value of the highly skilled workforce currently serving at these Directorates' facilities at Hanscom."

OTHER NOTES FROM THE WEB

Hanscom AFB, MA, conceives, demonstrates, and transitions advanced sensors and sensor technologies for air and space reconnaissance, surveillance, precision engagement, and electronic warfare. The directorate is organized into ten divisions (Contracting, Financial Management, Aerospace Components & Subsystems Technology, Electromagnetics Technology, RF Sensor Technology, EO Sensor Technology, Sensors Automatic Target Recognition (ATR) Technology, Sensor Applications & Demonstration; Integration & Operation; and Rome Operations) and three offices (Corporate Information, Corporate Development, and Signature Technology). The directorate's focus areas include radar, active and passive electro-optical systems, navigation aids and automatic target recognition.

In addition to the valuable research by its staff, the laboratory is the Air Force's manager for technology transfer to, and exchange with, civilian enterprises. It's also the Air Force manager for the Small Business Innovation Research (**SBIR**); **D**ual **U**se **S**cience and **T**echnology (**DUS&T**); the Air Force Science Fair Program, which encourages high school students to pursue a technical education; and for monitoring the aerospace industries' Independent Research and Development (**IR&D**) programs.