



TOWN OF CONCORD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S OFFICE
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BRAC Commission

SEP 08 2005

Received

OLD NORTH BRIDGE
September 6, 2005

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

Re: Hanscom Air Force Base

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Concord, Massachusetts, one of four communities in which Hanscom AFB is located. I would first like to express the appreciation of the Town of Concord for the Commission's recognition of the importance of Hanscom AFB in our country's national defense. It is clear that the Commission understands and appreciates the role of high technology in defense matters for the 21st century and how Hanscom is uniquely situated to meet the Defense Department's need for technological innovation.

The Defense Department's 2005 BRAC recommendations included the proposed relocation of two Air Force Research Laboratory operations out of Hanscom AFB. It has been proposed that the Sensors Directorate (Electro-Magnetics Technology) be moved to Wright Patterson AFT in Ohio, and that the Space Vehicles Directorate (formerly the Geophysics Lab) be moved to Kirtland AFB in New Mexico. The deadline for decision-making is fast approaching, but we believe strongly that the analysis of this proposal should be reviewed immediately, before the final recommendations are made. This decision should be reversed.

The proposed move would result in an enormous loss of valuable technological know-how for the Air Force. DoD operations at Hanscom benefit from the constant, daily collaboration between personnel at the base and the Boston scientific and academic community. This collaboration is vibrant and mutually beneficial, and therefore enhances immeasurably the intellectual capacity that is brought to bear on military problem solving. Many of the civilian researchers working on DoD projects are unlikely to relocate to these other bases, and it is quite likely that their experience and expertise will be lost.

The Concord Board of Selectmen shares the view expressed by Senator John Kerry and Representative Marty Meehan that this recommendation should be reversed. I have attached for your review excerpts from statements made by Senator Kerry and Representative Meehan concerning the proposed relocation of these key laboratory operations. These statements are quite clear, and we are in full agreement with them.

While the Air Force Research Lab operations at Hanscom do not involve a significant number of employees, we believe the presence of these activities at Hanscom fosters an exceptional exchange of technology among the DoD, local universities, and private research and development corporations. The loss of the AFRL operations from Hanscom AFB will not only be a significant economic loss for our region, but it will also represent a very real loss to our nation's defense capability.

The Board of Selectmen respectfully requests that the Commission and the Congress take these facts into consideration and **reverse** the recommendation to relocate the AFRL operations away from Hanscom. We believe these functions have not received sufficient study and attention and that implementing this recommendation would be short-sighted. I appreciate your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,



Anne D. Shapiro, Chairman
Concord Board of Selectmen

Cc: Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Governor Mitt Romney
Congressman Marty Meehan
State Senator Susan Fargo
State Representative Cory Atkins
Shelly Moll, Bedford Board of Selectmen
Jeanne Krieger, Lexington Board of Selectmen
Sarah Mattes, Lincoln Board of Selectmen

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."

<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."