



77 Massachusetts Avenue, Building 3-208  
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307  
Phone 617-253-0148

**BRAC Commission****JUL 18 2005**

Received

July 13, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chairman  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
Polk Building  
Suite 600  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology was very pleased to learn that the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations would preserve and slightly expand Hanscom Air Force Base and preserve the Soldier Systems Center – Natick. While we recognize the need to reduce cost and increase efficiency through selected base closures, we also recognize the great contributions that these installations have made and will continue to make to national security. The advanced technologies that these centers develop, procure and field have greatly enhanced the capabilities of our armed forces and saved lives.

MIT is proud of its close association with Hanscom Air Force Base. MIT's Lincoln Laboratory performs advanced research and development on systems for communications, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance for the Department of Defense. While Lincoln Lab is a "joint" laboratory, working with all three services and several other federal agencies, the Lab is partially located on the Hanscom base and has strong interactions with the Air Force Electronics Systems Center. MIT also has ongoing interactions with the Natick Lab, most recently through our Institute for Soldier Nanotechnology, sponsored by the Army. We believe that the high technology environment of which MIT is a part constitutes a major asset to the DoD centers at Hanscom and Natick.

By preserving and expanding Hanscom and Natick, the Pentagon has made a tremendous commitment to Massachusetts and its technological capabilities. MIT is equally committed to continuing its close working relationship with these facilities in the interest of the nation.

Sincerely,

Susan Hockfield

SH/lsp