

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2005

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

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Dear Chairman Principi,

We congratulate you on your appointment to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and we look forward to working with the Commission in the coming months to highlight the contribution that military facilities in our state can make to the Pentagon's goals for this BRAC round.

Massachusetts has developed an innovative, public-private expansion plan that will enable Hanscom Air Force Base and the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick to accommodate significant new operations, at no cost to the Department of Defense. The \$429 million expansion plan will double the mission capacity at Hanscom, add much-needed research space at Natick, and reduce the per employee costs at both bases. In support of this new vision for the bases, a \$261 million state bond bill authorizing funds for the expansion plan was approved unanimously by the state legislature and signed into law by the Governor last month. In addition to the state funds, we support the private development of up to 800 new units of military housing at Hanscom, with an estimated value of up to \$168 million.

A major advantage of the bases is that Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire are home to the nation's premier defense technology cluster, with world-class universities and research centers, experienced military technology firms, and a highly skilled workforce. The proximity of these bases to this extraordinary capability directly contributes to their success – and will enable them to lead the way in developing the next generation of military technology.

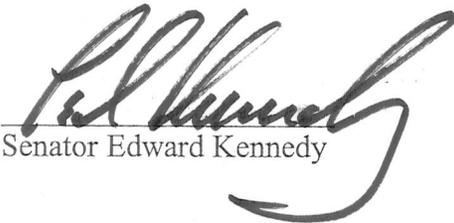
We are enclosing for your review a number of documents that will make the case for Hanscom and Natick:

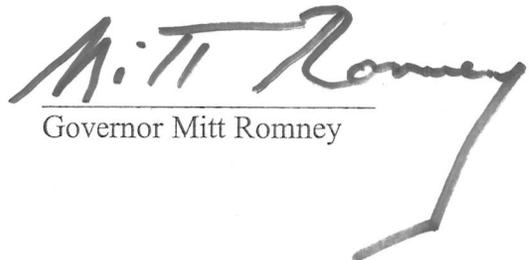
- o "Critical Mass" – This document connects the Defense Department's stated goals in BRAC to the strengths of Hanscom and Natick, including research & development resources, people, institutional strength and physical assets;
- o A Strategic Framework for Base Evaluation; Promoting C4ISR in the 2005 BRAC – This document was presented to the Defense Department in April 2003 to guide the BRAC criteria, so that they properly evaluate the contribution of technical facilities. The findings of this report will help determine whether BRAC 2005 properly evaluated facilities like Hanscom and Natick;

- “More Than Dollars Alone” – This in-depth study by the Donohue Institute measures the strong economic impact of the bases on the regional economy, and also shows the deep ties they have created with New England’s defense technology cluster over many decades;
- “An Act Relative to Expanding the Military Mission at Hanscom Air Force Base and the US Army Soldier Systems Center (Natick)” – Signed into law on February 4, this \$261 million state bond bill codifies the commitment we made to Defense Department officials last year to expand the mission capacity at both bases.

Thank you for the important service you are providing to the nation as a member of the BRAC Commission. If we can be of any assistance to you during this process, please do not hesitate to contact any of us. We look forward to working with you on the important role of Hanscom and Natick in the future of the U.S. military.

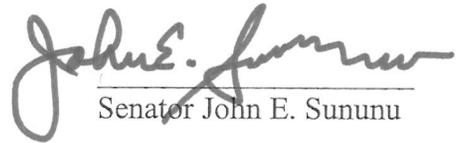
Sincerely,

  
 Senator Edward Kennedy

  
 Governor Mitt Romney

  
 Senator John Kerry

  
 Senator Judd Gregg

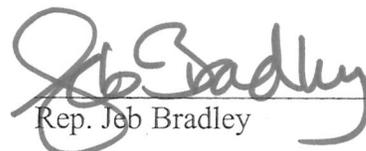
  
 Senator John E. Sununu

  
 Rep. Edward J. Markey

  
 Rep. Marty Meehan

  
 Rep. John F. Tierney

  
 Rep. Charles Bass

  
 Rep. Job Bradley