



BRAC Commission

AUG 23 2005

Received

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U.S. Senator for Massachusetts
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Fax Cover Sheet

DATE: August 23 TIME: 2:40 pm

TO: The Hon. Anthony J. Principi, Chairman, BRAC

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FROM: _____ PHONE: 202.224.4543

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RE: HANSCOM AFB

CC: _____

Number of pages including cover sheet: 5

Message

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 23, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

As the Commission concludes its deliberations for the 2005 BRAC round, we want to express our strong support for the Defense Department's recommendation to consolidate Air and Space C4ISR Research, Development, Acquisition, Test, and Evaluation at Hanscom Air Force Base. We believe that Hanscom's unique position at the heart of the nation's leading defense technology cluster, combined with its sizable excess capacity, make it well suited to accommodate the mission outlined in the Department's recommendation.

Other communities, which may be losing jobs, disagree with our view of this recommendation, and have written to you to express their objections. One recent letter to the Commission included a critique of the Department's decision to realign Hanscom and raises a series of concerns about various aspects of the recommendation, especially the Department's assessment of the military value and cost savings. They also question whether a proposal to support mission expansion at Hanscom, which was offered to the Air Force by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was treated in the BRAC context. Several of the claims included, however, relate to the ability of Massachusetts and the Hanscom community to implement the recommendation. We believe it appropriate for us to respond to some of these concerns.

Claim 1: "...[A] doubtful expectation exists that Hanscom AFB can hire 189 qualified...civilians in the Boston area that are needed to fill the DFSG authorizations...Adding to the difficulty of the task will be the Boston area contracting firms trying to hire the same individual to fill their contractor ranks to compete for the direct contractor support to DFSG at Hanscom" (Document #7433, Executive Correspondence - Letter from Congressman David L. Hobson (Ohio) Regarding Military facilities in the Columbus and Dayton Communities, pg. 119).

Response: Massachusetts certainly has plenty of qualified civilians that the Air Force could hire to fill any vacancies. Hanscom Air Force Base lies at the center of the Route 128 Technology Corridor of Eastern Massachusetts, one of the

world's greatest concentrations of information technology workers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in May 2004, Massachusetts employed 77,000 information technology (IT) professionals, most of them located in the Route 128 Corridor/Greater Boston technology cluster. Massachusetts ranks second among all states, in terms of percentage of the workforce employed in information technology.

Although the size of this IT workforce indicates a solid worker base from which to draw new contractors, these employment figures likely understate Massachusetts' ability to fill new IT positions. According to the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance, total employment in the IT sector in Massachusetts decreased by over 30,000 between 2001 and 2003. Many individuals who lost jobs in this reduction would be eligible to fill the positions in question. Moreover, Massachusetts is home to scientists and technologists currently employed by the state's many colleges and universities. Those highly-skilled workers are not included in high technology employment figures unless they are also employed by private firms. Therefore, the Route 128/Greater Boston region has the necessary IT workforce to fill any prospective need for contractor support the Air Force may have due to the recommended BRAC realignments.

Claim 2: *"Sufficient land for Military Construction Programs is not available at Hanscom AFB... 'Roughly 40 acres' are required. 'Hanscom reported its largest parcel is 18.27 acres, and only 8.4 unconstrained acres are zoned for industrial ops'" (Document #7433, Executive Correspondence - Letter from Congressman David L. Hobson (Ohio) Regarding Military facilities in the Columbus and Dayton Communities, pg. 121).*

Response: The question is not one of additional acreage for new construction, but excess capacity within the existing infrastructure. According to the certified data submitted by the Air Force, Hanscom has 600,000 square feet of excess capacity within the existing infrastructure—more than enough space to accommodate the 1,383 new personnel that will be transferred to Hanscom under the recommendation. This recommendation would bring the Air Force manpower level at Hanscom to 4172 people*, which is below the 4255 people† level on the base in 1994, on the eve of the last BRAC round. Thus, the Department's recommendation would simply return the Air Force manpower level for Hanscom to that it supported just a decade ago.

Claim 3: *"The Air Force has inadequately responded to claims that the process has not been influenced by a \$410 million offer by the Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative for infrastructure improvements at Hanscom in return for bringing jobs to Massachusetts. Such influence would be a violation of Section*

* Source: COBRA PERSONNEL/SF/SUSTAINMENT/RECAP/BOS DELTAS REPORT (COBRA v6.10)

† Source: BRAC 95 Manpower Baseline, Memorandum for AF/RT, 19 January 1995

2903 (c)(3)(B) of the Defense Base and Closure Realignment Act of 1990 (as amended), which states: 'In considering military installations for closure and realignment, the Secretary may not take into account for any purpose any advance conversion planning undertaken by an affected community with respect to the anticipated closure or realignment of an installation.'" (Document #7433, Executive Correspondence - Letter from Congressman David L. Hobson (Ohio) Regarding Military facilities in the Columbus and Dayton Communities, pg. 138).

Response: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts did express its willingness to support the expansion of mission at Hanscom AFB through state-funded expansion of facilities on the base. This was a statement of Massachusetts's strong support for Hanscom AFB and the role it plays in our nation's defense. This offer was similar to other offers that communities have made to the Department, such as the offer the Dayton Development Coalition makes in an earlier section of its presentation attached to Rep. Hobson's August 12 letter. Under the terms of that offer, the Coalition would provide the Defense Department 500,000 sq. ft. of office space at an annual cost of \$1.00 to make the Dayton region's Kettering Business Park a more attractive home to DFAS-Dayton, a facility recommended for closure.[‡]

In response to the Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative's offer, however, the Air Force and the Office of the Secretary of Defense informed its representatives that in fact, proposals from the public do not constitute certified data on which the Department can base its BRAC analysis. This policy was clearly stated in then-Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Ray DuBois's letter to House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter on October 8, 2004.

As a result, the Technical Joint Cross Service Group, which performed the Department's analysis, in no way considered the MDTI Hanscom expansion plan in its analysis and recommendations related to C4ISR RDAT&E consolidation. As we read the certified data used in the analysis and the COBRA documentation, we see no evidence of the expansion plan having been considered in any way. If the Dayton Development Coalition is aware of evidence that such uncertified data was used in relation to Hanscom AFB, or in relation to any other facility for that matter, we urge them to bring it forward, as it may reveal a violation of the Defense Department's BRAC policy.

As you know, the Commission's decision to close or realign an installation deeply affects the surrounding communities as well as the future capabilities of our armed forces.

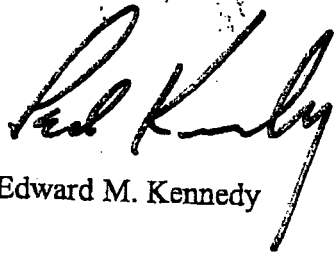
As elected representatives of the citizens of Massachusetts, we are proud of the contributions that our regional intellectual capability has made to our nation's warfighters and believes that any decision to expand Hanscom would give our military a greater

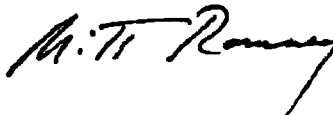
[‡] See page 1 of the Dayton Development Coalition's presentation on the Dayton Defense Finance and Accounting Service, included in Rep. Hobson's August 12 submission, Document DFAS, BRAC Commission Library Document 7433.

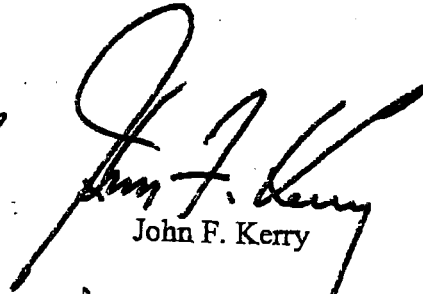
technological edge. We therefore hope that you will uphold the Department's recommendation to realign missions to Hanscom as you enter the final phase of your deliberations.

Thank you for the diligence and professionalism with which you have performed your responsibilities as a commissioner. We appreciate your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

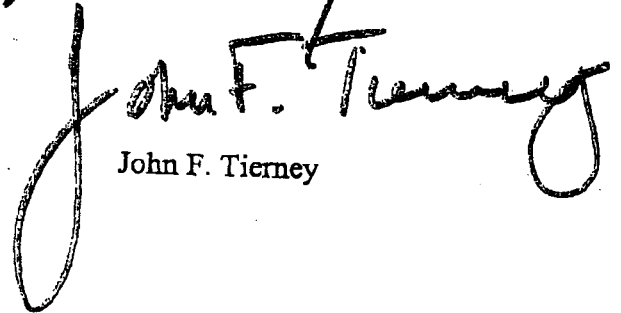

Edward M. Kennedy


Mitt Romney


John F. Kerry


Edward J. Markey


Martin T. Meahan


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