

For Immediate Release
October 4, 2004

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KENNEDY, ROMNEY, MARKEY, MEEHAN, TIERNEY MEET WITH
COMMANDERS AT WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB TO PITCH HANSCOM
EXPANSION

Washington, D.C., October 4, 2004 - Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Governor Mitt Romney, and U.S. Representatives Ed Markey, John Tierney and Marty Meehan met today with commanders of the Materiel Command, based at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, to discuss Massachusetts' initiative to expand Hanscom Air Force Base to meet future requirements of the Department of Defense and the Air Force. The high-level delegation from Massachusetts met with General Gregory Martin, who is the Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command, which oversees Hanscom Air Force Base, and Vice Commander, Lieutenant General Richard Reynolds.

The plan, first presented at a meeting last month at the Pentagon to the Secretary of the Air Force among others, would more than double the capabilities of Hanscom in the six areas of command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, called "C4ISR" by the military. The plan would expand the Hanscom C4ISR mission capability on the base by 125% while reducing the Pentagon's annual operating costs for these missions. Hanscom's expansion will be funded by the state at a total estimated cost of \$410 million, of which \$168 million will be self-financed through housing revenue from military personnel's Basic Assistance for Housing allowance.

Kennedy, Romney, Markey, Meehan and Tierney highlighted the importance of the Hanscom community to successful C4ISR capability. Hanscom has spearheaded major improvements in C4ISR through its partnerships with universities, think tanks, and industry in the area.

"General Martin told us he thought we presented an exciting plan," said Senator Kennedy. "We made the case that Massachusetts, with its leading role in high-technology research and its military applications, is the ideal home for the 21st Century missions of the Air Force. Hanscom's expansion will help the Defense Department to meet its future strategic needs more effectively, and with significant cost savings for the Department."

"We face a choice: Hanscom can either grow or it can disappear," said Governor Mitt Romney. "This proposed expansion represents an extraordinary investment by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to turn Hanscom into a premier center for military technology. It will create thousands of new jobs and will ensure that Hanscom is around for many, many years to come."

Rep. Ed Markey (D-Malden), said "Our message had a 'Field of Dreams' quality to it, with a twist; we said essentially, 'If they come, we will build it.' The State of Massachusetts, with the full support of the entire congressional delegation and the strong support of the local communities and the businesses surrounding Hanscom, is putting a very enticing offer in front of the U.S. Air Force. Hanscom AFB can accommodate 1.25 million square feet of new research and development capacity in the heart of the greatest technology cluster in the country. If the U.S. Air Force decides to bring new mission to Hanscom, then Massachusetts will provide the buildings and the infrastructure improvements to accommodate the new mission, and bring 4,000 new jobs here in the process."

Rep. Marty Meehan (D-Lowell), said "Today was a very successful meeting. I was encouraged to hear that the Air Force understands the value of Hanscom to our national security and the importance of the surrounding high-tech cluster. Massachusetts is prepared to make a substantial investment in Hanscom's future by growing and taking on new missions at little cost to the Defense Department. This is good for jobs in Massachusetts and good for the future of the Air Force."

Rep. John F. Tierney (D-Salem), said "our visit today to with the Department of Defense officials is part of an ongoing effort to demonstrate how important Hanscom Air Force Base is to Massachusetts. The Commonwealth's investment plan, along with Hanscom's ties with the local and high-tech and research and development communities have created a public-private partnership not replicated anywhere else. These strong relationships will allow Hanscom to produce unique cutting edge work to address our country's defense needs in the 21st century."