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State's Competitiveness Ranking Supports Case for Hanscom, Natick

Beacon Hill Institute Study Reinforces Strength of Mass. Technology Cluster

Waltham, MA - The Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative (MassDTI) today hailed the results of the Beacon Hill Institute study that ranks Massachusetts the nation's most competitive state. Massachusetts earned this ranking due to its strength in human resources, technology and business incubation – three key factors in MassDTI's argument to retain and expand the military missions of Hanscom Air Force Base and the Natick Solider Systems Center.

“Senator Kennedy, Governor Romney and our whole team have been making the case to military officials that Massachusetts possesses a critical mass of intellectual, economic and human resources that maximizes the military value of these installations,” said MassDTI President Christopher R. Anderson. “And with the proposed mission expansion plan for Hanscom, we have a vision for further leveraging this premier technology cluster to create the next generation of technical military capability.”

Last week, Kennedy, Romney, and U.S. Representative Ed Markey met in Virginia with the commander of the Army Materiel Command, at Fort Belvoir, to discuss the vital role of Natick in protecting the nation's troops in battle. The state leaders highlighted the importance of Natick's ties to the surrounding high-tech community in its successful research, development and field integration of its state-of-the-art soldier systems.

Earlier this fall, Kennedy, Romney and Markey were joined by Representatives Meehan and Tierney in meetings with Pentagon and Air Force leaders to discuss the state's mission capacity expansion plan for Hanscom Air Force Base. The expansion proposal would add 4000 new jobs to the 33,000 jobs now supported by Hanscom and Natick.

The BHI report reveals that Massachusetts is the top state for “Technology” and “Business Incubation,” and number four in “Human Resources.” Massachusetts improved on its number two ranking from 2003.

MassDTI has set and implemented the state's strategy for protecting Hanscom and Natick through the 2005 Base Closing and Realignment process. Led by co-chairs Senator Edward Kennedy and Governor Mitt Romney – and the state's Congressional delegation – and supported by leaders in the technology and academic community, MassDTI is working to ensure that these bases' unique characteristics and their contribution to military value are fully recognized and carefully assessed during the BRAC 2005 process. Visit www.massdti.com for more information.

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