



**For immediate release**

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## **Sen. Kennedy, Gov. Romney to Lead Campaign for MA Defense Facilities**

*Hanscom and Natick among installations under U.S. review*

**Waltham, MA (February 24, 2004)** – Sen. Edward Kennedy and Gov. Mitt Romney are among the Massachusetts leaders who today formally launched a new phase in their campaign to preserve the state's major military installations. The "Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative" (MassDTI) is a public-private partnership of leaders of the business, scientific, and educational sectors and public officials working to protect the state's major defense-oriented technical facilities from possible closure when the Department of Defense completes the forthcoming rounds of the Base Realignment and Closure process in 2005.

U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney are co-chairing the bipartisan effort. The group's leadership committee includes members of the state's Congressional delegation and 21 prominent leaders from business, academia, science and the military. Christopher R. Anderson (President, Massachusetts High Tech Council) is MassDTI president and Alan J. Macdonald is executive director.

The two bases, Hanscom Air Force Base Electronic Systems Center (Bedford, MA) and the Army Soldier Systems Center (Natick, MA), have a total impact of \$3.5 billion a year on the state economy and help support an estimated 30,000 jobs.

Kennedy said, "Hanscom and Natick are making an outstanding contribution to our modern high-tech military, and that contribution depends heavily in turn to the close proximity of these two bases to the preeminent R & D community in our state and its high quality workforce. I'm optimistic that the Department of Defense will recognize the extraordinary value of both Hanscom and Natick."

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"This public-private partnership highlights Massachusetts' leading science research and technology clusters, which have strong connections to Hanscom and Natick," said Romney. "The preservation and enhancement of these two important technical facilities are critical for our state economy and the evolving mission and capabilities of the US military."

The 2005 BRAC process is expected to result in closing a large number of the military's domestic and overseas installations. Last month, members of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Congressional delegations and MassDTI submitted comments to DOD officials on the proposed criteria to be used in making decisions on base closure and realignment. The comments emphasized the need to consider the unique characteristics of technical facilities like Hanscom and Natick in applying the criteria.

The primary purpose of the Massachusetts initiative is to ensure that BRAC Commission members clearly understand the essential role of the military's technical facilities in our national defense. Hanscom's research and development programs produce the technology that allows quick, precise and well-coordinated military actions, and the Natick Labs develop components that protect soldiers in combat. MassDTI leaders will continue to stress that ready access by these bases to academic, scientific, and technological resources must be a major consideration in BRAC decisions, not just the physical size, condition, and operating cost of the base.

State leaders participated last month in a high-level meeting in Washington, and recently hosted a senior Defense Department official for a tour and discussion of Hanscom and Natick. In the coming months, DOD will be conducting a comprehensive analysis of the Massachusetts installations and all other U.S. bases around the globe in 2004, and the BRAC Commission will submit its recommendations to the White House and Congress next year.

"Although a final decision on base closures isn't due until 2005, DOD's work is well underway," said Chris Anderson, MassDTI president. "As important as Hanscom and Natick are to national defense, we're facing stiff competition from other states with similar installations. It's clear that the months ahead will be crucial."

NOTE: Leadership Committee list follows.

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# **Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative**

## ***Leadership Committee***

- U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy (Co-chair)
- Governor Mitt Romney (Co-chair)
- U.S. Senator John Kerry
- U.S. Representative Michael Capuano
- U.S. Representative Barney Frank
- U.S. Representative Edward Markey
- U.S. Representative James McGovern
- U.S. Representative Marty Meehan
- U.S. Representative John Olver
- U.S. Representative John Tierney
- Christopher Anderson (President, Mass. High Technology Council)
- Michael Ruetters (Chairman, EMC)
- James Regan (Chairman, President & CEO, Dynamics Research Corp.)
- David Barrett, MD (Chairman & CEO, Lahey Clinic)
- Secretary Sheila Widnall (MIT and former Secretary, US Air Force)
- Jimmy Dishner (US Air Force Brig. General, retired)
- Robert Nesbit (Senior Vice President, The MITRE Corporation)
- Jack Wilson (President, University of Massachusetts)
- Craig Coy (Chief Executive Officer, MassPort)
- Virginia Allan (Executive Director, Natick Soldier Systems Center Business Alliance)
- Bill Flanagan (Vice President & General Manager, Titan Corp.)
- Paul Gudonis (President & CEO, Centra Software)
- William Walsh (President & CEO, Sippican)
- Suzanne Daniels (Vice President, BAE Systems – Lexington)
- Steve Kaufman (President & CEO, Avici Systems)
- Claude Canizares (Associate Provost, MIT and MIT Lincoln Labs)
- Kevin Casey (Government Affairs, Harvard University)
- James Brett (President, New England Council)
- Rick Lord (President & CEO, Associated Industries of Massachusetts)
- Paul Guzzi (President & CEO, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce)
- Joyce Plotkin (President, Massachusetts Software Council)

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