

# **More than Dollars Alone: The Economic and Security Significance of Hanscom Air Force Base and the Natick Soldier Systems Center**

## **UMass Study Highlights**

### ***Enormous economic and jobs impact***

Natick and Hanscom represent 33,178 jobs, \$1.88 billion in annual payroll and \$3.24 billion in annual economic activity for Massachusetts.

### ***Many regions and communities benefit***

In jobs and contracts awarded, the installations have an economic reach from the Berkshires to Cape Cod. The communities that receive “direct” jobs or economic impact include: Lexington, Lowell, Leominster, Framingham, Fall River, New Bedford, Dracut, Concord, Arlington, Cambridge, Pittsfield, Worcester, and Amherst. In addition, New Hampshire residents hold 238 direct jobs at the bases, with hundreds more employed through procurement contracts. Due to its central location, Natick employees reside in more than half of the 351 Massachusetts cities and towns.

### ***Quality jobs***

The average annual salary of Hanscom-related employees is \$56,259, which is 20 percent higher than the statewide average of \$46,322 per year. Natick’s annual average salary is \$51,558, 11 percent above the statewide average. MassDTI’s plan to expand Hanscom AFB would create more than 4,000 additional direct jobs at the base.

### ***Diversity of businesses***

Hanscom and Natick are a microcosm of the state’s strong technology and service-based economy. The sectors represented by the bases include: software, communications, health care, food processing, textiles, nanotechnology and renewable energy.

### ***Diversity of employers***

Employers of all sizes, industries and regions benefit from their relationship with the two bases. Major contractors include: MIT, Raytheon, SJR Foods (New Bedford), Malden Mills, Draper Labs (Cambridge), Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries, University of Massachusetts, Duro Industries (Fall River), BAE Systems (Bedford and NH), Duffy Plumbing (Natick), Boston College, Titan Systems (Chelmsford), Dynamics Research (Andover), and Protech Armored Products (Pittsfield).

### ***Military/homeland security value of MA technology cluster***

Hanscom and Natick have deep ties to the state’s defense technology cluster. According to the many military technology executives interviewed, the area’s skilled workforce, world-class academic institutions and experienced defense contractors cannot be replicated elsewhere in the U.S. Keeping – and expanding – the missions of Hanscom and Natick is crucial to the overall mission of the US Armed Forces.

### ***Future of the installations***

The 2005 federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process puts Hanscom and Natick at risk. To address that threat, MassDTI – led by Senator Kennedy and Governor Romney – has presented an innovative expansion plan to the Pentagon that will allow Hanscom Air Force Base to absorb additional military technology missions. This \$410 million proposal shows a strong commitment by Massachusetts to the bases and should strengthen the case to maintain and expand the bases through the BRAC process.