

HANSCOM AREA TOWNS COMMITTEE (HATS)

Elise Woodward, Selectmen Representative
Doris Cole, Planning Board Representative

In 1988, the Hanscom Area Towns Committee was established to coordinate the policies and activities of the four towns that contain Hanscom Field (Bedford, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln) in their relationships with the major organizations that operate in the Hanscom Field area including: the U. S. Air Force, the National Park Service, Massport, Lincoln Labs, and private corporations.

Selectmen representatives from each town comprise the committee with participation from Planning Board representatives. Since 2001, Selectmen representing the four towns serve on both Hanscom-related committees for continuity. The Environmental Subcommittee assists with review of environmental impacts associated with airport activities. In 2010, Bedford chaired the HATS.

Highlights of Activities:

State Representative Jay Kaufman attended a meeting to give an overview of the State and local tax structure.

The Battle Road and Scenic Byway and National Park Service's landscape restoration projects were showcased.

The community appeal of Hangar 24 demolition was monitored.

Air Force Development

Col David Orr, 66th Air Base Wing Commander, Hanscom Air Force Base, provided an update on privatization initiatives at the base, including base housing opened to non-military personnel, accompanied by changes in security check points. HAFB was listed in the *Boston Globe / Business Journal* in the top 100 best places to work. The base provides \$4.8 billion in economic impact, not including construction contracts.

In October, the new 66th Air Base Group Commander, Col. Stacy Yike presented her goals for the coming two years including budget expenditures, completing the housing construction, expanding community relations and the Electronic System Center (ESC) mission to improve technology systems interconnections and enhance the economies of the region.

Transportation Updates

Traffic increases on surrounding roads were monitored including traffic at the Vanderburg Gate. The HATS towns collaborated to support the Mass Highway TIP projects for roadway improvements to Route 2 and Crosby's Corner, as well as the Bruce Freeman bicycle trail and Minuteman Bike Trail extension. MAPC and MPO studied mass transit shuttle initiatives in the region.

Regional Discussions

Topics of regional interest were explored which highlighted the similarities and the differences in the ways each of the towns approaches policy. Topics included:

- Budget processes and broad fiscal policies
- Conservation stewardship
- Utilities and Trees
- Opportunities for regional cooperation
- Support for local agriculture