

**CHARLIE BAKER**  
GOVERNOR



**KARYN POLITO**  
LT. GOVERNOR

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## **Governor Baker Names Executive Director for Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force**

*Task Force works to maximize efficiency of Massachusetts' military installations*

**BOSTON** – Governor Charlie Baker today named Christopher Willenborg to serve as Executive Director of the Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force, created in 2012, to promote and strengthen the Commonwealth's six military installations and their impact on local communities and economies at the federal, state and local level.

"Massachusetts' military installations are highly regarded here at home and throughout the ranks of the U.S. Armed Services," **said Governor Charlie Baker.** "From the Natick Soldier Systems Center to advances in cybersecurity at Hanscom Air Force Base, the Commonwealth and its service members are critical to both our local economies and communities and our national defense, and will remain a priority for the Lt. Governor and I throughout our administration. I look forward to Chris Willenborg's service in this important role as one of the Commonwealth's chief advocates for our military families."

Tomorrow, Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Governor Baker is traveling to Washington, DC to meet with top defense officials, including U.S. Senators Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and Jack Reed (D-RI) who are members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services overseeing the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, and Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment John Conger who will play a key role in BRAC for the U.S. Department of Defense.

“The Commonwealth’s six military installations serve as critical defense infrastructure, and generate substantial economic activity in the surrounding region,” **said Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) Secretary Jay Ash.** “Mr. Willenborg’s management experience in the airport industry will be an asset to the administration as we work to retain a robust defense and an expanding economy.”

Housed within the Office of the Governor and supported by EOHED and MassDevelopment, the Task Force coordinates among the Commonwealth’s six military facilities to maximize their efficiency.

“I am excited to work with the Baker-Polito Administration to leverage the unique military assets Massachusetts has to offer,” **said Christopher Willenborg.** “I look forward to working with the military leadership; federal, state, and local legislative delegations; and industry stakeholders to ensure that our bases maximize their national security and economic impact to the Commonwealth.”

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is home to six military installations with over \$13 billion in total economic activity and support for over 61,000 jobs, including Hanscom Air Force Base, Natick Soldier Systems Center, Joint Base Cape Cod, Fort Devens, Westover Air Force Reserve Base and Barnes Air National Guard Base.

**About Christopher Willenborg:**

**Christopher Willenborg** has been an active member of the Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force since 2012, representing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). He has worked in MassDOT’s Aeronautics Division since 2009, where he developed and implemented the first MassDOT Strategic Plan and Operations Plan. Prior to joining MassDOT, Chris was the airport manager of Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport in Western Massachusetts for over nine years and has been involved in airport management and aviation for over 20 years. He serves as a member of the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Corporation Infrastructure Committee, Westfield Technical Academy Aviation Advisory Committee and has served as a board member of the Westfield Rotary Club and the Westfield Chamber of Commerce. Christopher lives with his wife and two children in Southwick, MA.

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