



JEANETTE NUÑEZ
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 1, 2022

The Honorable Frank Kendall
Secretary
United States Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Secretary Kendall:

I am writing to urge your consideration of Patrick Space Force Base (PSFB) and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (CSFS) as the home for the Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) and Space Delta 13 education and training facility. Florida is the ideal location to help STARCOM and the United States Space Force (USSF) fulfill its mission: "To prepare the USSF to prevail in competition and conflict through innovative education, training, doctrine, and test." Locating STARCOM and Space Delta 13 in Florida means tapping the most innovative military training technology hub in the country, accessing an experienced and trained national security workforce, leveraging unique financing opportunities to reduce long-term operational costs, and an overall infrastructure that is made for space.

Florida has top tier K-12 education choices for families (as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress ranking us third in the nation in Grade 4 reading and fourth in Grade 4 mathematics) and has led the nation in spousal license reciprocity. Florida boasts an excellent quality of life and a favorable economic environment, along with some of the world's most abundant natural resources. Florida's military and commercial space resources and its dynamic workforce serve as the perfect launch pad to produce generations of well-trained Guardians. Furthermore, our educational institutions already actively engage in military training program support. Our commitment to space is rooted in our rich history, mindful of our present endeavors, and excited for our future.

As Chair of the Space Florida Board of Directors, we are poised to be an extraordinary and unmatched partner to the USSF. Specifically, Space Florida's structure allows USSF to access resources that no other state can provide. That includes:

- Leveraging unique financing structures to eliminate military construction (MILCON) investment and reduce long-term operating costs.
- Utilizing existing (and planned) infrastructure, Space Florida's funding capacity, the Central Florida regional support network, and the most responsive space-focused infrastructure support industry on the planet.



JEANETTE NUÑEZ
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Basing STARCOM and Space Delta 13 in Florida means accessing our world-class college and university system that is well suited to facilitate a new and cost-effective way to educate USSF Guardians. Within 45 minutes of the Space Coast sits University of Central Florida (UCF), which provides an excellent opportunity to leverage an existing military and space-centric programs that can be the backbone to launch a future Space University. It's significant to note that 91% of UCF's student population are Florida residents and likely graduated from one of Florida's excellent K-12 institutions. UCF is the No. 1 supplier of graduates to the aerospace and defense industries, and the No. 2 preferred supplier of that talent as ranked by Aviation Week Network. In fact, nearly 30% of Kennedy Space Center employees graduated from UCF.

It all began in 1950 with a rocket launch in Cape Canaveral. The brightest minds, the biggest ideas, and the most dedicated public servants who pushed the boundaries of what was considered possible. Since then, Florida has been the place where most of the nation's space innovation ideas are generated, fostered, and brought to fruition. While it may have started on the Space Coast, now the entirety of the State of Florida is breaking boundaries to claim many firsts in aerospace, all while supporting and fulfilling the mission laid out by presidents, governors, and our military leaders.

Patrick SFB and Cape Canaveral SFS offer the best possible location, training environment, and resources nationwide to support the USSF STARCOM headquarters and Space Delta 13. History was made here, and we are confident that together with the USSF we'll continue making history together. STARCOM in Florida, quite simply, makes sense. Thank you in advance for your consideration. I stand ready to assist with any further inquiries or questions you may have.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanette M. Nuñez".

Jeanette Nuñez
Lieutenant Governor