



AGENDA REPORT
February 26, 2019

Letter of support for the permanent basing of the newly constituted United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) at Patrick Air Force Base

SUBJECT:

Letter of support for the permanent basing of the newly constituted United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) at Patrick Air Force Base.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

DEPT/OFFICE:

District 5

REQUESTED ACTION:

Request for the BOCC to approve the letter of support for the permanent basing of the newly constituted United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) at Patrick Air Force Base.

CLERK TO THE BOARD INSTRUCTIONS:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- Letter of support for the permanent basing of the newly constituted United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) at Patrick Air Force Base.



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February 27, 2019

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioner Kristine Isnardi, District 5

RE: Item F.22., Letter of Support for the Permanent Basing of the Newly Constituted United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) at Patrick Air Force Base

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 26, 2019, authorized you and Commissioner Lober, Vice Chair, to sign a Letter of Support for the permanent basing of the newly constituted United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) at Patrick Air Force Base. Enclosed is a fully-executed copy of the Letter.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

Encl. (1)

cc: Commissioner Lober
County Manager



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 26, 2019

The Honorable Patrick M. Shanahan
Acting Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Shanahan,

On behalf of the Brevard County Commission, we are writing to inform you of our support for the permanent basing of the newly constituted United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) at Patrick Air Force Base.

Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (Cape) are home to over 13,000 military, DOD civilian and defense contractor personnel responsible for the processing and launching of U.S. government and commercial satellites from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The accomplishment of this mission is critical to not only the military security of the United States and to our warfighters, but also to the economic security of the nation. Cape Canaveral is also home to Kennedy Space Center, the nation's primary launch center of human spaceflight and the home of a multi-user spaceport, which manages the launch of robotic and commercial crew missions. This dual military-civil occupancy on the Cape is unique to government installations in the United States and further reinforces the Cape as a critical national asset.

In December 2018, President Trump issued a memorandum directing the Secretary of Defense to establish the United States Space Command as a functional Unified Combatant Command, assigning all space-related responsibilities previously assigned to the United States Strategic Command and the responsibilities of a Joint Force Provider and Joint Force Trainer for Space Operations Forces. We recognize that this new organization will fulfil the need for the military's unified command for space and warfighting missions, which differs from the mission of the existing Air Force Space Command, which provides the resources necessary to organize, train and equip, and provide forces to that combatant command.

We understand that upon its initial stand up, U.S. Space Command will be a lean organization spread across four locations: Shriever Air Force Base, Colorado; Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado; Vandenberg Air Force Base, California; Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. We further understand that no decision has yet been made on a permanent location for the new Command. While Patrick serves a unique role to the Air Force and enhances space operations capability for the United States, the base has the capacity and capability to serve as the long-term home for the U.S. Space Command, and our existing missions will only serve to complement and enhance the Space Command's responsibilities. Also, the Air Force currently retains the "ownership" to the former Malabar Transmitter Annex, which is approximately 640 acres of unimproved real property located in the city of Palm Bay, Florida. Palm Bay is approximately 30 minutes south of Patrick Air Force Base and the 640 acres is situated to allow for the maximum amount of security necessary for a Combatant Command Headquarters.

We understand the importance education plays in Department of Defense criteria for the determination of basing decisions and are proud of our competitive advantages:

- Brevard Public schools ranked 1st in best school quality of all large public-school districts in the U.S., according to the Brookings Institution;
- we possess a peerless high-tech and aerospace workforce; according to the TechAmerica Foundation, Brevard county has the 5th most concentrated high-tech workforce in the U.S.;
- Florida's Space Coast boasts 48 engineers per 1,000 workers, more than any other Florida metro, or any of the 25 most populated metros in the country;
- Florida ranks 4th in the nation in terms of high-tech employment; and
- 3rd for its number of high-tech business locations.

The citizens of the Space Coast take great pride in the men and women in uniform, and we go to great lengths to welcome our service-members and their families as they become a part of our community. The communities on the Space Coast are ready, willing, and able to support the military, civilian, and defense contractors who will oversee and organize space operations, accelerate technical advances, and find more effective ways to defend U.S. assets in space. Furthermore, our community is prepared to facilitate transitional needs to accommodate the new U.S. Space Command through public-public and public-private partnerships where possible.

Thank you for considering Patrick Air Force Base as the future home of the newest Unified Combatant Command, the U.S. Space Command. Please let us know if we can be helpful in any way as you look to the permanent beddown of this essential Command.

Sincerely,



Kristine Isnardi, Chair



Bryan Lober, Vice Chair

Cc: Heather Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force
John W. Henderson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
Lynda Weatherman, President and CEO, Economic Development Commission