Space Force vs. SPACECOM

Space Force is a branch of military service – just like the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. The Space Force is a part of the Air Force in the same way that the Marines are a part of the Navy.

Space Command is a unified Combatant Command, that brings all of the space capabilities of all of the services to bear in the Space Theater. Space Force supports the Space Command but doesn't control it.

Types of Combatant Commands

Geographic Commands cover specific regions

- Africa (AFRICOM)
- Europe (EUCOM)
- Indo-Pacific (INDOPACOM)
- Middle East (CENTCOM)
- North America (NORTHCOM)
- South and Central America (SOUTHCOM)

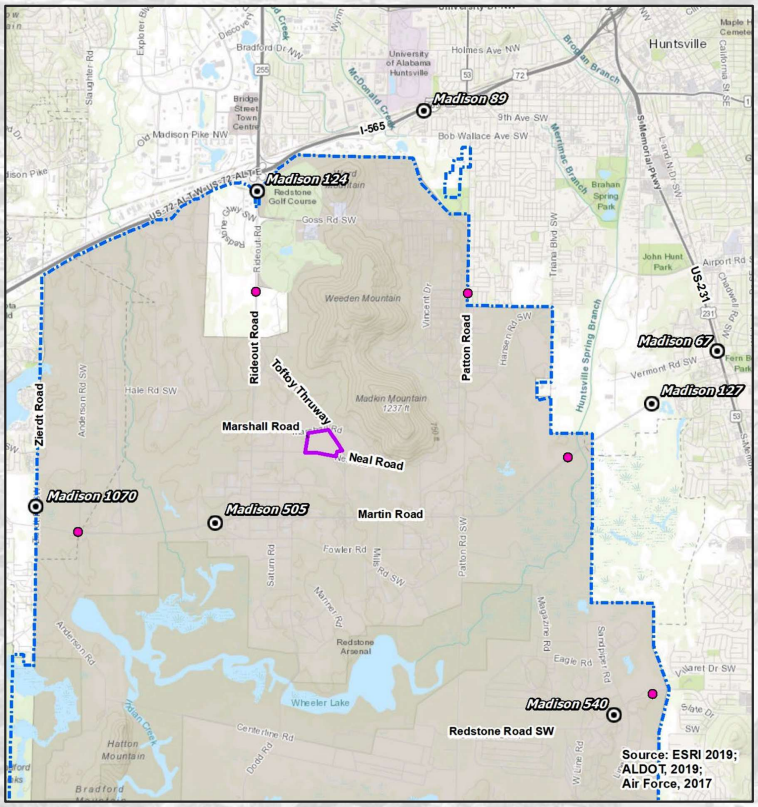
Functional Commands handle specific operations worldwide:

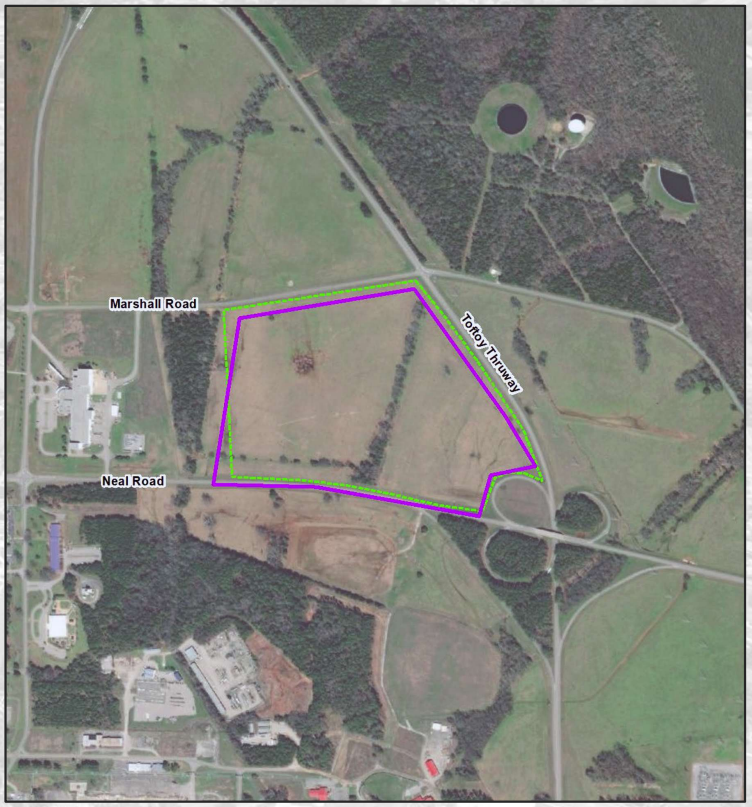
- Special Operations (SOCOM)
- Strategic Forces (STRATCOM)
- Transportation (TRANSCOM)
- Cyber (CYBERCOM)
- Space (SPACECOM)

Timeline

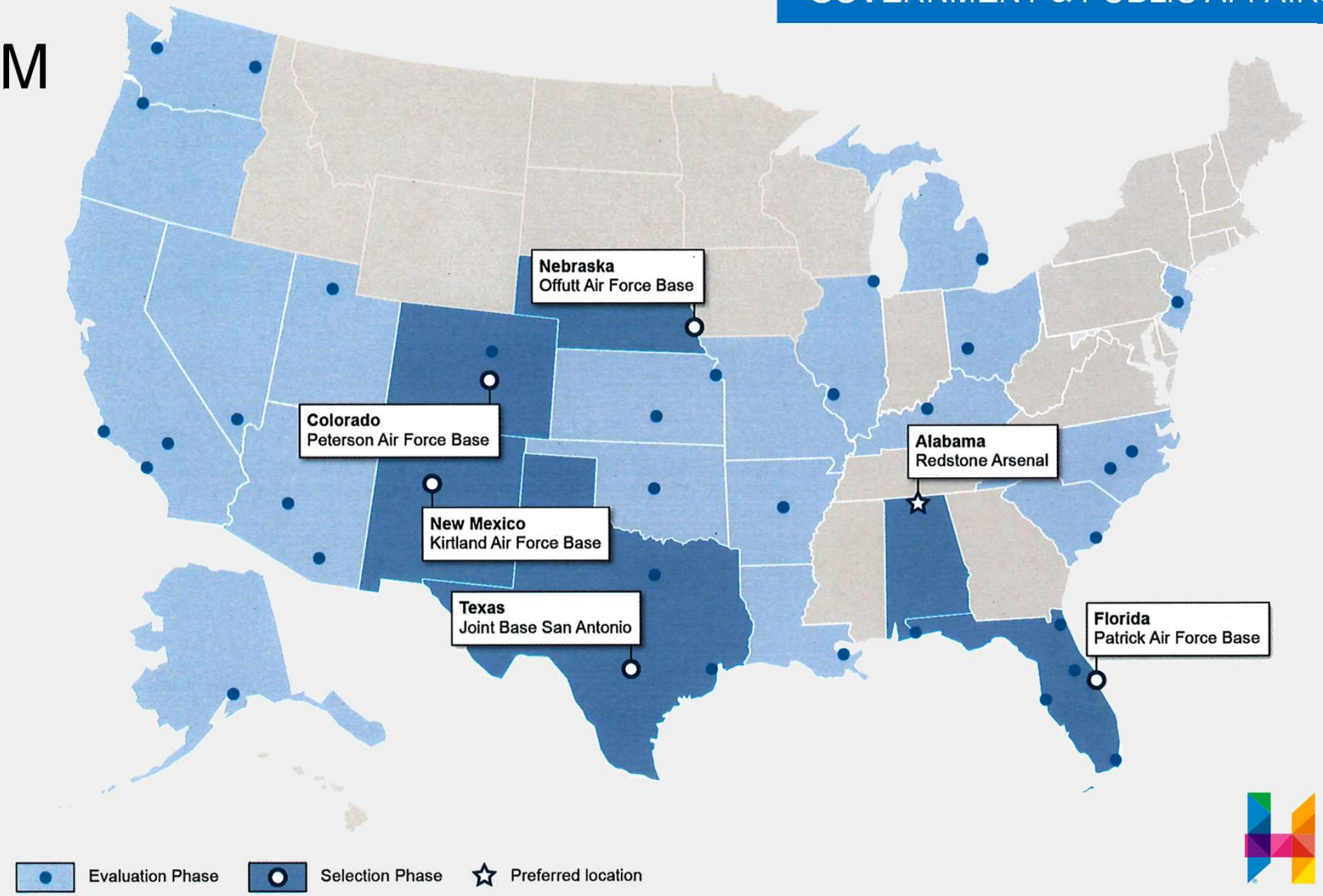
DEC 2018	President Trump announces the creation of Space Command, and a site selection process for the Command HQ is initiated.
JUN 2019	Redstone is one of six sites considered for SPACECOM HQ
OCT 2019	SPACECOM HQ selection process suspended
DEC 2019	President Trump announces the creation of the Space Force
MAR 2020	A new site selection process for SPACECOM was initiated – 24 states nominated 66 potential sites, of which 50 advanced.
NOV 2020	Redstone was selected as one of six finalist sites (Peterson, Kirtland, San Antonio, Offutt, Patrick AFB)

Proposed SPACECOM Redstone site





SPACECOM Finalist Locations



Selection Phase

Factors and their Criteria

Mission

- Available qualified workforce
- Proximity to mutually supporting space entities
- Emergency & incident response
- Enable mobility

Capacity

- Facility and parking space
- Communications bandwidth & redundancy
- Anti-terrorism/force protection & security requirements
- Energy resilience
- Medical support
- Childcare
- Military housing
- Transportation

Support

- Quality of schools
- Professional licensure portability
- Cost of living
- Housing affordability
- Access to military & veteran support

Costs to the Department of Defense

- One-time infrastructure costs
- Area construction factors
- Basic allowance for housing rate
- Area locality pay

Timeline, continued

DEC 2020	Site visit to Redstone
DEC 2020	Community briefing to AF site basing office
JAN 2021	The Secretary of the AF announced that Redstone was the preferred site for the SPACECOM HQ and an NEPA Environmental Assessment was initiated. The timeline to relocate the command was set at six years.
MAY 2022	The DOD IG determined that the process that the AF used was sound and that it complied with federal law
JUN 2022	The GAO released their review, which likewise confirmed the selection process that led to Redstone's designated as the preferred site was sound.

Timeline, continued

JULY 2022	The AF released the Environmental Impact Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) at Redstone and the other contender sites. There was a 30-day comment period that followed the release of those documents. The final EA and FONSI was released on September 30, 2022.
JULY 2023	President Biden announced that the Command will remain in Colorado.
AUG 2023	Alabama Congressional Delegation calls for GAO and DOD IG review of Biden decision to reverse recommendation of Secretary of the AF.
APR 2025	DoD IG and GAO issue reports confirming Redstone's selection was objectively sound and that the Command's posture in COS is not sustainable
SEP 2025	President Trump announces that the permanent Space Command Headquarters will be Redstone Arsenal.