United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) Academic Engagement Enterprise (AEE) Charter

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Section 1.   Purpose

Space is for everybody. It's not just for a few people in science or math, or for a select group of astronauts. That's our new frontier out there and it's everybody's business to know about space. – Christa McAuliffe [US Teacher & Astronaut]

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this charter is to delineate the authority and responsibilities of the AEE and outlines its relationship between USSPACECOM and AEE members to form a community of interest to address space workforce development, research and development and academic partnerships.

This charter defines the mission and scope of the AEE and establishes its organization, membership, responsibilities, administrative protocols and procedures. This charter is intended to guide AEE in the accomplishment of its assigned tasks. This charter also highlights the intended benefits for academia members.

1.2 Mission Statement

The Academic Engagement Enterprise will contribute to current and future United States Space Command domain superiority by collaborating with academic institutions for workforce professional development, increased space relevant research, expanded space focused partnerships and strengthened space dialogue.

1.3 Authority

The USSPACECOM AEE operations and guiding authorities for leadership are consistent with and governed by:

- Title 10, United States Code

- U.S. Space Command Strategic Vision, Never A Day Without Space, 28 Sep 2021

- USSPACECOM Human Capital Strategy, 2023

1.4 Background

The AEE was established on 06 September 2022 by order of CDRUSSPACECOM to enrich strategic space dialogue and develop space-focused academic partnerships. The AEE was created to bridge a recognized seam between a more traditional DoD presence in the academic environment focused on recruitment and DoD funded research. The AEE augments this traditional model in favor of outreach to academia on USSPACECOM providing senior leader and subject matter expert perspective to spark interest in academia in tackling space domain challenges. Academia benefits from this relationship by receiving direct feedback on the education needs of a warfighting, professional space force. This dialogue helps focus degree, certificate and technical courses of study to support the professional space warfighter and corporate industry partners in the future. Through the AEE, USSPACECOM believes both near term domain challenges and a long-term return on investment based on expansion and tailoring of space focused learning will be a force multiplier. Academia is an important mechanism for strengthening operational warfighter readiness providing unique perspectives on challenges and technological innovation. The AEE has accepted 23 academic institutions as of 1 June 2023.

1.5 Goals and Priorities

- Grow the capabilities of the future space workforce.

- Increase space relevant research that enhances the collective understanding of the space environment to spur innovation that refines space operations.

- Partner with academic organizations to improve access to space studies and extend an understanding of space to a much larger audience.

- Facilitate a globally multifaceted dialogue about space to better represent the shared interests of all nations committed to the responsible uses of space.

- Facilitate the academic outreach across the command, coordinate collaborative speaker engagements, space-based technology exchanges and student internships.

Section 2. Organization

2.1 Membership Criteria

Institutions seeking membership with USSPACECOM must meet the following criteria:

- A two-year, four-year, or post-graduate degree institution with programs (certificate, associates, undergraduate, graduate), STEM focused primary education institutions, or non-profit centers of research aligning with the study and work in space in the following broad categories:

    - Space-related arts and sciences (aerospace, aerospace physiology, avionics, cosmology, astronomy, astrophysics, human space exploration, spaceflight operations, solar energetics particles and physics, applied meteorology, remote-sensing, geophysics, etc.).

    - Space-related engineering (aeronautical and aerospace engineering, robotics engineering, avionics and instrumentation engineering, engineering physics, space communications, etc.).

    - Space-related law, policy, theory (law, international relations/political sciences related to space, etc.)

    - Intelligence-related arts and sciences (intelligence collection, space platforms, space analysis, etc.)

    - Applied analytics-related sciences (big data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, etc.)

    - Information-environment related arts and sciences.

    - Process-related arts and sciences (Project Management Professional, Lean Six Sigma, systems engineer, IT requirements, process assessment, etc.)

- Accredited by a U.S. recognized accrediting organization as defined in 32 C.F.R. Part 602 - Updated Based on 2009 Negotiated Rulemaking (PDF)

- Foreign universities and programs will be considered for acceptance on a case-by-case basis with USSPACECOM J5 concurrence.

- The Membership application can be found at on the AEE website at: https://www.spacecom.mil/Partnerships-and-Outreach/Academic-Engagement-Enterprise/

2.2 Academic Engagement Enterprise Working Group (AEE-WG)

The AEE-WG supports, informs and enhances the efforts of the AEE. The goal of the AEE-WG is to facilitate workforce educational opportunities and awareness of undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate programs and certifications available from AEE members to the USSPACECOM workforce. The AEE-WG also facilitates the command-wide academic process, coordinate collaborative speaker engagements, space-based technology exchanges, student internships and potential academic sabbaticals with the USSPACECOM staff for all eligible and accepted members. Finally, the AEE-WG serves as the command's cross-functional focal point to capture and document organizational requirements from USSPACECOM directorates and components as operational, command-driven and priority points of interest for academic outreach initiatives with AEE members. The AEE-WG conducts monthly meetings led by the AEE and consists of representatives from the USSPACECOM directorates, strategic innovation group and components.

Section 3. Benefits, Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Benefits to Members:

- Receive defense-level space learning outcomes, competencies and behaviors that could enhance students, programs and collaborative research.

- Receive invitations to exclusive events hosted by USSPACECOM including webinars, AEE Symposiums, Space Symposium key senior leader level leadership discussions.

- Access to guest speakers from USSPACECOM on various space subjects to enhance faculty and student professionalization.

- Engage in collaborative research, technology integration, student internships, faculty sabbaticals and Tier 1 Exercise integration.

3.2 USSPACECOM will:

- Emphasize the importance of academic partnerships for strengthening operational warfighter readiness.

- Invest in preparing warfighters who will have the ability shape deterrence.

- Create positive, mutually beneficial and collaborative relationships and opportunities with all academic organizations.

- Provide appropriate representation from across the command to the AEE-WG.

3.3 USSPACECOM J735 (AEE) will:

- Implement and lead the AEE-WG.

- Lead the command's outreach with academia under the AEE umbrella.

- Provide proactive and responsive support to AEE member requests.

- Lead coordination across USSAPCECOM for academic outreach.

Section 4. Concept of Operations

4.1 Strategy

US Space Command's mission is to work with Allies and Partners to plan, execute and integrate military space power into mulita-domain global operations in order to deter aggression, defend national level interests and when necessary, defeat threats.

USSPACECOM's AEE builds capabilities and advances persistent engagement in space education by facilitating educational workforce development and academic partnerships. The AEE, through comprehensive and sustained command-wide involvement, creates mechanisms for lifelong learning, structures for space-related residency programs and online learning.

4.2 Professional Development

The AEE will maintain a master listing of space-focused courses and programs to enhance the professional development of the USSPACECOM workforce. With the assistance of the AEE-WG, the AEE will also provide feedback to members of academia as requested on course development that would benefit the greater space workforce. This requires robust communication between the AEE and members.

4.3 Research

The AEE with the assistance of the AEE-WG will maintain a current, vetted list of proposed research projects to provide to members. This list will be maintained on the AEE website at: https://www.spacecom.mil/Partnerships-and-Outreach/Academic-Engagement-Enterprise/

4.4 Outreach Opportunities

In addition to direct outreach with academia, the AEE will identify additional venues and events that enhance the goals of the AEE. These include, but are not limited, to industry sponsored events, non-profit events and community sponsored events focused on space and STEM education goals.

Section 5.   Revision History

Version	Date	Name	Description
2.0	6 March 2025	MULLINS, AMANDA J CIV USAF USSPACECOM USSPACECOM/J7	Updated 1.5, 3rd bullet to comply with EO 14185 requirements.