



UNITED STATES  
**SPACE COMMAND**

**J73 Training and Education Division**

**Academic Engagement Enterprise  
2025**



# U.S. Space Command Mission

Our unwavering commitment to the citizens of the United States and our Allies remains, **“there will never be a day without space.”** Our warfighting Command will fulfill our Title 10 obligations and be **the joint experts** for our five **Unified Command Plan** responsibilities:



- Space Operations
  - Global Sensor Manager
  - Global SATCOM Manager
  - Transregional Missile Defense
  - Space Joint Force Provider
- 
- Title 10 Responsibilities:
    - Plan for employment of forces
    - Take actions to deter conflict
    - Command armed forces



OUR WAY OF LIFE AND  
NATIONAL DEFENSE ARE  
RELIANT ON SPACE



Joint Forces are Shaped  
Assuming Access to Space





U.S. Army Space  
& Missile Defense  
Command



U.S. Marine Forces  
Space



U.S. Navy Space  
Command



U.S. Air Forces  
Space



U.S. Space  
Forces Space

*\*Combined Joint Force  
Space Component  
Commander*



Joint Functional  
Component  
Command for  
Integrated Missile  
Defense



16th Air Force



Combined Space  
Operations Center



National Space  
Defense Center



Missile Warning  
Center



Joint Overhead  
Persistent IR Center



Joint Navigation  
Warfare Center

J0

Chief of Staff  
& Support

J1

Human  
Capital

J2

Intelligence

J3

Global Operations

J4

Logistics

J5

Strategy,  
Plans, & Policy

J6

Digital  
Superiority

J7

Development &  
Training

J8

Capabilities  
& Resources

**Mission:** USSPACECOM, working with Allies and Partners, plans, executes, and integrates military spacepower into multi-domain global operations in order to deter aggression, defend national interests, and when necessary, defeat threats.



# U.S. Space Command Overview

## Brief History

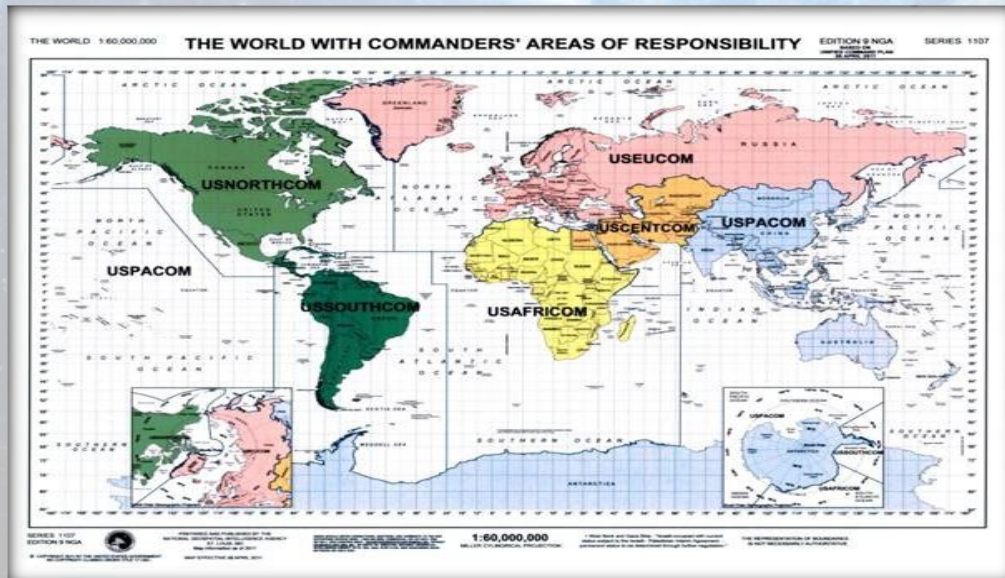
-Provisional HQs stood up in August 2019. Achieved full operational capability in December 2023.

## Difference between U.S. Space Command and the U.S. Space Force?

- U.S. Space Command is a Combatant Command = All United States military branches.
- U.S. Space Force is the space service branch of the United States Armed Forces = Guardians.

## What is U.S. Space Command's Area of Responsibility?

-62 miles or 100 kilometers above the earth's service. Geographic/Astrographic area of responsibility.







# Leveraging the Collective Strength

“To remain on the cutting edge of capability development, application, and shared understanding of space as they relate to national security interests, **USSPACECOM partners with a growing team of commercial, interagency, and academic partners.** And while we have accomplished much with these partnerships, we see untapped opportunities to continue developing and delivering with these partners more robust and varied options to national leadership to deter aggression and ensure stability. **Leveraging the collective strength of commercial, interagency, and academic enterprises has been critical to USSPACECOM since its establishment four and a half years ago.** It will remain foundational to our success moving forward and its continued growth and development remains a key focus area for our command.”

**-General Stephen Whiting, Senate Armed Services Committee Testimony - Feb 2024**





# Leveraging the Collective Strength

“Our competitive advantage is the multi-Service experience, space and terrestrial expertise, and professionalism of our people, magnified through the power of mutually supporting teams. We will achieve unified action by rallying around four priority objectives: Preparing and Posturing, Countering Threats, **Strengthening Relationships**, and **Expanding our Warfighting Advantage**.”

-General Stephen Whiting, U.S. Space Command Strategic Vision - Feb 2024

“Amid the evolving landscape of the space domain, **it becomes imperative for the academic community to help us determine what the future looks like**. With the convergence of civil, military, and commercial space sectors, there's a pressing need for visionary thinking to strengthen our national space capacity and technologies. Whether serving in one of the military services, pursuing a professional civilian career at the federal or state level, academia, or industry, **there is a place for everyone to shape the future of the space domain**.”

-General Stephen Whiting, U.S. Space Command AEE Fall Symposium - Nov 2024





# Leveraging the Collective Strength

“We also need your help with research. We look to the academic community to help us in research areas we believe will be increasingly relevant in the future of the space domain. There are three areas I would like to call out in particular...”

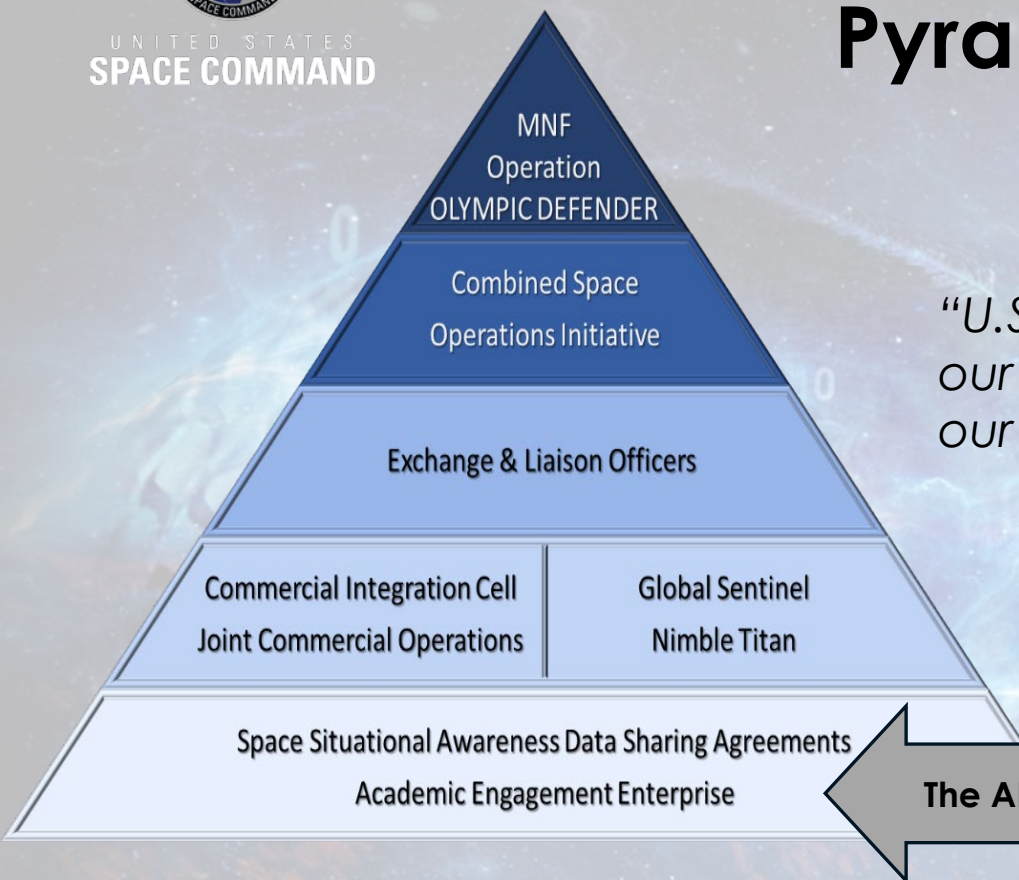
**-General Stephen Whiting, U.S. Space Command AEE Fall Symposium - Nov 2024**

- ❑ **Dynamic Space Operations.** Space systems which can maneuver at will, without regret, across multiple orbital regimes. Areas of interest could include *on-orbit refueling, on-orbit maintenance, responsive launch, and in-domain logistics on orbit.*
- ❑ **Cyber.** Defending against the targeting of cyber linkages that enable our critical terrestrial and orbital capabilities to communicate with one another. Areas of interest could include *reducing vulnerability to cyber-attack, increasing network security (both military and commercial), and the development of a taxonomy and a language to look at cyber risk in a standardized and commonly understood manner.*
- ❑ **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.** Opportunities to optimize and synchronize our operations within the [space] domain.





# AEE 2025 and the U.S. Space Command Pyramid of Partnerships



*"U.S. Space Command operates as a team of teams. This is why our Strategic Vision identifies **Strengthening Relationships** as one of our four focus areas."*

**-General Stephen Whiting, Commander, U.S. Space Command**

**The AEE 2025 Goals are Setting the Foundation in direct support of this Pyramid of Partnerships**

The Pyramid of Partnerships illustrates how U.S. Space Command pursues graduated levels of partnership with Allies, partners, industry, and **academic institutions** based on their missions, policy, and demonstrated responsible norms of behavior.

- Connect Academia research efforts with U.S. Space Command
- Senior Leader Speaking Engagements and Panels with Academia
- Deep Space Talks with Quarterly AEE Webinars
- AEE Spring (Space Symposium) and Fall Symposiums
- Training and Exercise Integration
- Student Internships





# Academic Engagement Enterprise 2025 Goals



## **Goal 1: Shape the Space Workforce (USSPACECOM Human Capital Strategy)**

- Shape Space workforce strategies to inspire diverse groups of students to pursue Space education and careers.
- Strengthening relationships through direct academic engagements at colleges and universities will compliment and expand our collective command outreach and recruitment efforts.

## **Goal 2: Accelerate Space Applied Research and Innovation**

- Connect academic research efforts to U.S. Space Command key stakeholders and senior leaders to meet the needs of the command to achieve and maintain space superiority.
- Encourage and when appropriate facilitate independent research and internship opportunities in support of U.S. Space Command's requirements and challenges.

## **Goal 3: Explore, Expand, Connect Space-Focused Academic and Analytic Partnerships**

- Collaboration opportunities with academia through exchanges, directed research, and engagement.
- Increase academic partnerships that provide insight into unique space strategies and exquisite capabilities.

## **Goal 4: Continue to Grow a Space Coalition**

- Expand dialogue with universities and academic institutions on Space strategic concepts to enable and inform current and future operations.
- Continue strategic dialogue with our partners and the alignment of senior leader engagements when appropriate with our colleges and universities (to include International Partnerships ICW J55).
- Identify possible international academic engagements to expand Allied and Partner nation relationships.





# AIR FORCE CIVILIAN SERVICE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

## **Premier College Internship Program (PCIP):**

- Available to current students beginning their Junior year of college
- 10–12-week paid summer internship program
- Great opportunity to gain hands on experience
- Following graduation from the PCIP program, students may qualify to be converted to a full-time paid position in the Palace Acquire (PAQ) program.

## **Palace Acquire (PAQ) Program:**

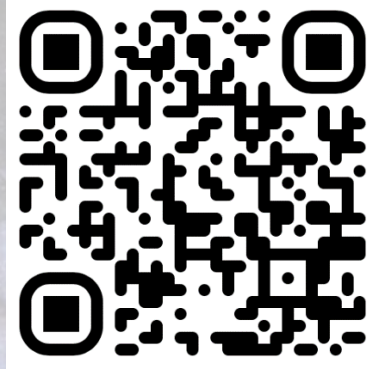
- Graduates with a bachelor's or master's within the last two years may be eligible to enroll in Air Force Civilian Service's developmental PAQ Program. Those with a degree and real-world experience may qualify for higher-level opportunities.
- PAQ program is a paid, full-time, two - three-year training program for graduates interested in Science & Engineering, Financial Management, Cyber/IT, Engineering, Intel, Human Resources, and more...
- Training includes promotions and annual salary increases based on performance and supervisor approval.
- Upon successful completion of the training plan, participants will be offered a permanent position with the agency, making it the perfect opportunity to launch a career with the federal government!





# U.S. SPACE COMMAND HIRING PLATFORMS

- **USAJobs:** <https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?k=AFELM%20US%20Space%20Command>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/usspacecom/jobs/>
- **Indeed:** <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/United-States-Space-Command>
- **Air Force Civilian Service:** <https://afciviliancareers.com/>
- **Handshake:** <https://app.joinhandshake.com/emp/employers/762019/>
- **USSPACECOM “Careers”:** <https://www.spacecom.mil/Partnerships-and-Outreach/Careers/>







# Academic Engagement Enterprise (AEE) Key Events 2025

- U.S. Space Command AEE Monthly Working Groups
- Deep Space Thoughts Quarterly Webinars - Membership Proposed Topics
- U.S. Space Command Key Leader Engagement w/ AEE Members during the 40<sup>th</sup> Space Symposium (April 7-10, 2025) <https://www.spacesymposium.org/>
- U.S. Space Command Spring 2025 Academic Engagement Enterprise Symposium (April 2025 in Colorado Springs, CO)
- U.S. Space Command Senior Leaders, AEE Staff and Joint Directorate Subject Matter Experts Visits throughout 2025

**Note: To review all previous AEE events and activities, please visit the U.S. Space Command Academic Engagement Enterprise website:**

<https://www.spacecom.mil/Partnerships-and-Outreach/Academic-Engagement-Enterprise/AEE-Multimedia/>





# AEE Website Content

<https://www.spacecom.mil/Partnerships-and-Outreach/Academic-Engagement-Enterprise/>

- U.S. Space Command Leadership Training & Education Guidance
- Academic Engagement Enterprise Concept Brief
- Academic Engagement Enterprise Strategy
- Academic Membership Application / Criteria / Member Logo's
- Upcoming Events of Interest
- Interesting Space Science Articles / Programs and Courses
- AEE Points of Contact / Form to Connect
- U.S. Space Command Guest Speaker Request





# AEE Membership - Institutional Benefits

- Grow Your Network - Relationship Building
- U.S. Space Command Senior Leader Guest Speakers and Panel Members
- Collaborative Research & Technology Integration
- Workforce Engagement Opportunities
- Tier 1 Space-Focused Exercise Integration
- Emerging Strategic Studies and Academic “Think Tank” Initiatives
- Institutional Advocacy and Synergy - U.S. Space Command AEE Visits
- Annual Space Symposium GO/FO Leadership Panels & Discussions
- Defense-level Space Learning Outcomes, Competencies, & Behaviors
- Student Internships (coming in 2026)





# Program Management



Chief of Education Branch, J73, Dr. Michael Madsen  
[michael.madsen.6@usspacecom.mil](mailto:michael.madsen.6@usspacecom.mil) / 719-552-3624

Joint Training Program Manager, J73, Ms. Amanda Mullins  
[amanda.mullins.9@usspacecom.mil](mailto:amanda.mullins.9@usspacecom.mil) / 719-552-3734

Joint Training Program Manager, J73, Mr. Richard “Rich” Fierro  
[richard.fierro.1@usspacecom.mil](mailto:richard.fierro.1@usspacecom.mil) / 719-552-7775

Joint Training Program Manager, J73, Mr. Anthony “Tony” Wilson  
[anthony.wilson.55.ctr@usspacecom.mil](mailto:anthony.wilson.55.ctr@usspacecom.mil) / 719-552-7777