

United States Senate

June 13, 2019

The Honorable Patrick M. Shanahan
Acting Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Acting Secretary Shanahan:

I am writing to follow up on my discussions with you and General John W. Raymond regarding my strong belief that Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama is uniquely qualified to serve as the location for the new U.S. Space Command headquarters. This letter provides a summary of the reasons I believe Huntsville is the best location for this mission.

After his Senate Armed Services Committee nomination hearing on June 4, General Raymond responded to a written question regarding the criteria the Air Force is using to make this important basing decision. He wrote that USSPACECOM should reside on a DoD space installation where space is the primary mission; it should be co-located with current Joint Force or Service Space Component forces and operational capabilities; and the selected installation should receive favorable assessments of its facility capacity, communications connectivity, base operating support, environmental impacts, C-17 capable airfield, and costs (both one time and recurring).

It is clear that Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama far exceeds these criteria.

Redstone Arsenal is already home to a number of Defense Department and civilian space entities, including Army Space & Missile Defense Command; Army Strategic Command; Army Program Executive Office: Missiles & Space; Missile Defense Agency; Missile & Space Intelligence Center; NASA Marshall Space Flight Center; ULA – Decatur; Cummings Research Park – Huntsville; Space Camp – Huntsville; and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center – Huntsville.

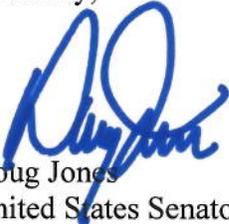
Proximity to these existing DoD and civilian facilities would be an incomparable advantage to Space Command. Additionally, Redstone Arsenal has ample space, capacity, connectivity, and support for SPACECOM, and the Redstone airfield, as well as Huntsville International Airport, can easily accommodate C-17 aircraft. Moreover, the Huntsville area provides unmatched quality of life and low cost of living in one of the most military-friendly regions of the country.

The Huntsville, Alabama area clearly fulfills – and surpasses – all of the criteria for Space Command Headquarters. The state of Alabama would welcome Space Command to join Redstone’s renowned and first-rate installation. I strongly recommend the selection of Huntsville as headquarters for Space Command.

Thank you again for taking the time to visit with me this week, and thank you for giving Redstone Arsenal serious and thorough consideration as the future home of Space Command.

If I or my staff can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Cissy Jackson at cissy_jackson@jones.senate.gov or 228-328-3758.

Sincerely,



Doug Jones
United States Senator

Cc: Hon. Matthew P. Donovan, Acting Secretary of the United States Air Force
General John W. Raymond, Commander, AFSPC