



30 June 2021

Ms. Jennifer Miller  
 Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force  
 Energy, Installations, and Environment  
 1670 Air Force Pentagon  
 Washington, D.C., 20330-1670

**Subject: Letter of Support for United States Space Force Training Command Basing Nomination**

Dear Assistant Secretary Miller,

As a coalition of community organizations from business and education, we represent the interests of the community as well as the current and future workforce on the Central Coast of California, including both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

We write to indicate our enthusiastic and unqualified support for the selection of Vandenberg SFB CA as the permanent STARCOM Headquarters. Vandenberg SFB CA is the natural and intuitive fit for STARCOM. It has always been home to the training and education of space professionals, and as the third largest installation in the Department of the Air Force (100,000+ acres), it has the capacity to add and centralize US Space Force training activities (such as a possible future US Space Force Basic Military Training function). Vandenberg SFB, on a single installation, should be to US Space Force Training what the multiple Joint Base San Antonio installations are to US Air Force Training.

The Central Coast region, home to Vandenberg SFB, is also the ideal fit for STARCOM. The Central Coast is home to nearly 750,000 residents. The region is committed to its partnership with Vandenberg and its Guardians and Airmen and has been since 1941. It also boasts capacity for significant future expansion of mission and industry, making Vandenberg SFB and the Central Coast the premiere option. Home to two world class universities, UC Santa Barbara and Cal Poly State University, the Central Coast produces nearly 9,000 graduates in engineering and science each year. Cal Poly has a strong relationship with Vandenberg SFB and Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC). Additional information about these relationships is available upon request. The region is also supported by three community colleges, Allan Hancock, Cuesta College and Santa Barbara City College, that are equipped to support workforce training and education needs.

As a unique, rural region on the coast of California with amazing cities and top-notch schools within a 30-minute commute to the base, the Central Coast is ready to warmly welcome the STARCOM staff and their families into the community.

The Central Coast has a robust high tech, software and advanced manufacturing ecosystem with businesses that compete globally and already add to the mission at Vandenberg SFB. The region's strong nucleus of highly specialized manufacturing and tech firms has grown [37% over the last decade](#), with massive potential to continue on that trajectory. Over the last decade the region has secured \$660 million in defense contracts with a strong backbone of aerospace and defense companies. Additionally, a group of stakeholders—County of Santa Barbara, Space Launch Delta 30, California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), Cal Poly, REACH, and Deloitte—has come together to [create a plan](#) for the future growth of commercial space at VSNB and in the surrounding community.

We hope you will consider what Vandenberg SFB and the Central Coast represent, in terms of existing capacity, but also for the Nation's space mission training needs long into the future. We look forward to working together throughout the selection process, supported by our elected representatives Congressman Salud Carbajal and Senators Feinstein and Padilla, to showcase our readiness, capacity and desire to support the US Space Force STARCOM mission and its people.

Sincerely,



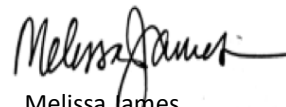
Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
President  
Cal Poly State University



Henry T. Yang  
Chancellor  
University of California, Santa Barbara



Utpal K. Goswami, Ph.D.  
Supt/President



Melissa James  
President/CEO  
REACH



Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.  
Superintendent/President  
Allan Hancock College



Jill Stearns, Ph.D.  
Superintendent/President  
Cuesta College  
San Luis Obispo County  
Community College District



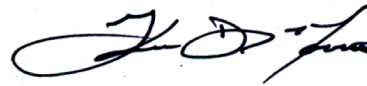
DeVika Stalling  
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Kristen Miller,  
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Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of  
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Kathy Vreeland  
Executive Director  
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Ray MacDonald  
Workforce Development Board Director  
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Joe Halsell  
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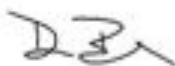
Executive Director  
Santa Ynez Chamber of Commerce



Jim Dantona  
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Dawn Boulanger  
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