

Tuberville confident U.S. Space Command coming to Huntsville despite Colorado's latest rebuke

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U.S. Sen. Tommy Tuberville's office said Wednesday that he remains "confident that Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal will remain the preferred site for Space Command's permanent headquarters" despite the latest attack on the site selection process by Colorado leaders.

Colorado's two senators and two congressmen were briefed on one of two government reviews of Huntsville's selection and said Tuesday "we are even more concerned about the questionable decision..." They promised to continue to lobby the Biden administration to stop the headquarters move saying the command "must remain" in Colorado.

"Our office understands the report is not yet finalized," Tuberville Communications Director Ryann DuRant said late Wednesday. "We are confident that Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal will remain the preferred site for Space Command's permanent headquarters based on objective facts and an analytical process."

The Colorado lawmakers said "Putin's war on Ukraine and China's space expansion" underscore the need to get the command to "full operational capacity" as soon as possible. "We cannot afford any operational disruptions or delays to the mission currently being conducted at Peterson Space Force Base, which is why U.S. Space Command must remain in Colorado," they said.

DuRant said that idea was "debunked" when Space Command commander Gen. James Dickinson testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee March 8. Asked if moving from Colorado would disrupt or delay the command's mission, Dickinson replied, "I would say we are a couple or three years away from full operational capability." He was asked, "Wherever you're located?" Dickinson replied, "Wherever I'm located."

Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal was chosen by the Air Force's base selection process as the best site for the command's permanent homes. There have been two official reviews of the Air Force decision to move the command from startup headquarters in Colorado. One was by the Government Accountability Office, and the other is by the Defense Department's inspector general.

Press reports say Colorado lawmakers were briefed on the GAO report before their statement, which apparently confirmed the Redstone selection. “We are even more concerned about the questionable decision,” the Colorado delegation said after the briefing.

Air Force documents obtained by AL.com showed Alabama ranked higher than Colorado in 11 of 21 comparisons including available and qualified workforce, room for the giant 464,000 Space Command headquarters building and one-time infrastructure and construction costs.

Former President Donald Trump added to the base local controversy in 2021 when he told an Alabama radio show that he “single-handedly” made the decision to move the base to Huntsville.