



Space Rapid Capabilities Office

*Delivering operationally dominant space capabilities
at the speed of warfighting relevance*

The Space Rapid Capabilities Office (Space RCO) was created in response to the National Defense Strategy calling for improvements to defense acquisition. Space RCO was established via the FY18 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), with subsequent authorities defined in the FY19 NDAA. In October 2020, Space RCO was designated as a direct reporting unit of the United States Space Force (USSF).

Consistent with current law mandating an independent command and reporting structure, the Space RCO reports to the Chief of Space Operations (CSO), through the Secretary of the Air Force via their Board of Directors. Space RCO is rapidly developing and fielding critical space capabilities for the space enterprise.

Mission

The Space RCO mission is to develop and deliver operationally dominant space capabilities at the speed of warfighting relevance. We expedite delivery and deployment of space capabilities in response to the Commander, US Space Command requirements.

Organization

We are a small, streamlined organization with dedicated, organic acquisition support functions: contracting, financial management, HR, security, program management and technical engineering support that are critical in enabling the rapid response required for unique missions.

Key Operating Principles

Space RCO employs four key operating principles for going faster in space acquisition:

- Short and narrow chain of command
- Early & consistent warfighter involvement
- Small Integrated and empowered program teams
- Embedded functional support: HR, Contracting, Finance, IT, Security

Board of Directors

Secretary of the Air Force, Chair

- Chief of Staff of the Air Force
- Chief of Space Operations
- Commander of US Space Command
- Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment
- Undersecretary of Defense for Research & Engineering
- Assistant SecAF for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics

Requirements

Space RCO requirements are driven by critical Combatant Commander and Enterprise space needs required to allow them to fulfill their joint, military operational needs for national defense.

Locations

Space RCO is headquartered at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, NM with additional staff located in Washington DC and Colorado Springs, CO.



“Risk has to be pushed down if you’re going to go fast...If you want to see a [Program Manager] go fast, all you have to do is give them the authority and responsibility.” -Gen John Hyten, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

