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**AFSPC-11**

Launching on an Atlas Centaur Rocket

2018-04-14, 6:00 pmEDT

In 1982, the Air Force established Air Force Space Command, with space operations as its primary mission. During the Cold War, space operations focused on missile warning, launch operations, satellite control, space surveillance and command and control for national leadership. In 1991, Operation Desert Storm validated the command's continuing focus on support to the warfighter. The Space Warfare Center, now named the Space Innovation and Development Center, was created to ensure space capabilities reached the warfighters who needed it. ICBM forces joined AFSPC in July 1993.

In 2001, upon the recommendation of the Space Commission, the Space and Missile Systems Center joined the command. It previously belonged to Air Force Materiel Command. AFSPC is currently the only Air Force command to have its acquisition arm within the command. In 2002, also on a recommendation from the Space Commission, AFSPC was assigned its own four-star commander after previously sharing a commander with U.S. Space Command and NORAD.

A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket will launch the Air Force Space Command 11 mission for the U.S. Air Force, utilizing the heavy-lift Atlas V booster rocket in the 551 configuration with a five foot diameter fairing, five Solid Rocket Boosters on the vehicle's first stage, and a single engine Centaur upper stage to propel the spacecraft into its assigned orbit.

The AFSPC 11 mission will fly an as-of-yet undisclosed primary payload and a number of secondary payloads hosted on the ESPA Augmented Geostationary Laboratory Experiment (EAGLE), led by the Air Force Research Lab with Orbital ATK as prime contractor. EAGLE uses an ESPA Adapter with deployable solar arrays, Moog propulsion module and five slots for Space Test Program-sponsored payloads that will conduct a series of technology demonstrations.

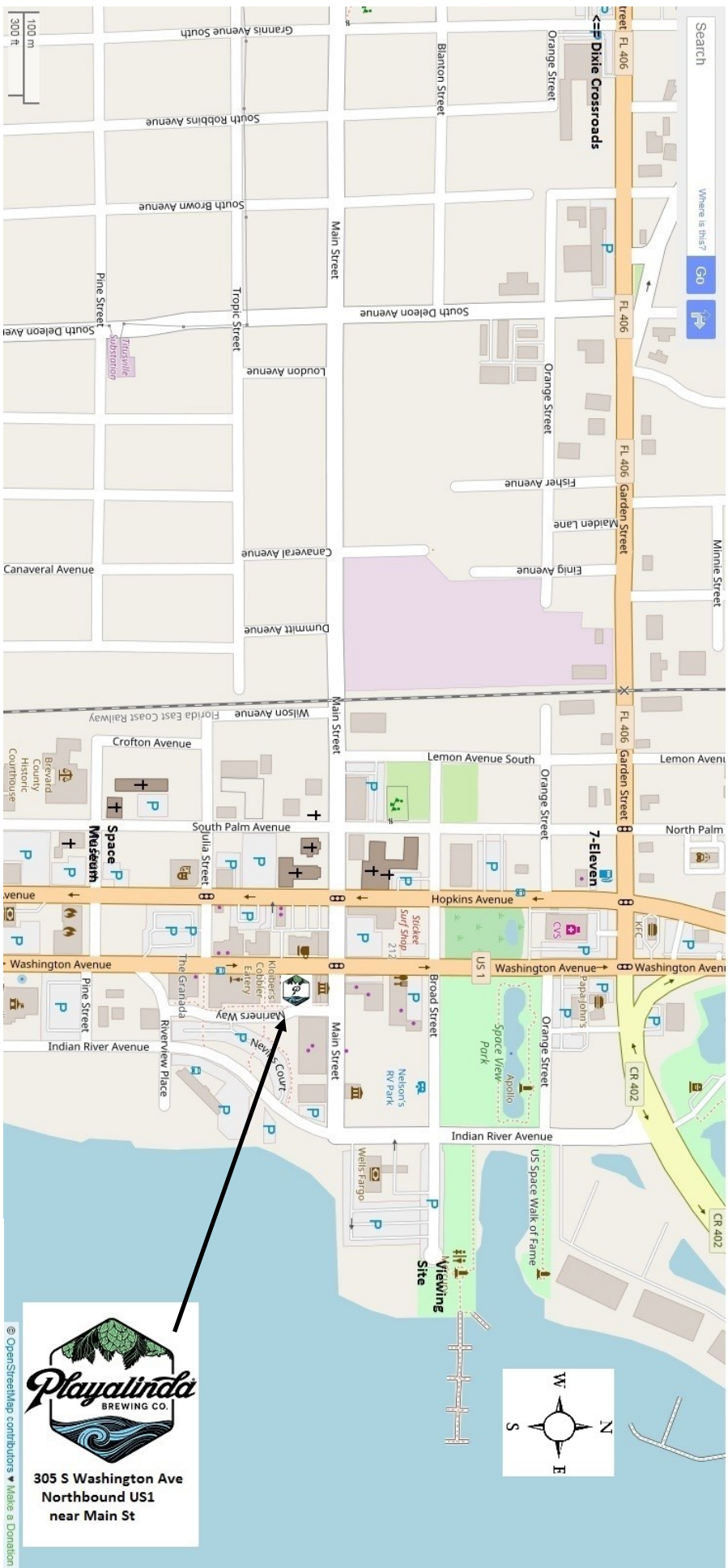
You can read more at <https://spaceflight101.com/events/atlas-v-atfspc-11p>




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