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Ohio nominates Wright-Patterson as Cyber Command home

By John Nolan

Staff Writer

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WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE — The state of Ohio has formally invited the Air Force to choose Wright-Patterson as the permanent home of its Cyber Command that would shape the service's ability to do battle in cyberspace.

Ohio is one of 18 states the Air Force has invited to apply for consideration as home to the Air Force Cyber Command, which is housed for now at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. The Air Force has said it plans to visit each prospective location, announce a preliminary decision in mid-November of its preferred site and make a final decision by September 2009.

The cyber headquarters location would attract support organizations and defense contractors.

A total of 541 positions are assigned to the Cyber Command's temporary location at Barksdale, but not all those jobs will necessarily be allocated to the command's permanent home, the Air Force has said. The service is considering a plan to have groups of specialists in different locations under the command's direction, to reduce the expenses of relocating personnel from their current locations.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base would be an ideal location because it is home to the Air Force Materiel Command headquarters which directs research, development, acquisition and testing of cyber systems for the Air Force, Ohio said in its submission to William C. Anderson, the Air Force's assistant secretary for installations, environment and logistics.

"The presence of an existing major command headquarters offers significant efficiencies that are vital to the USAF in such restrictive budgetary times," the state noted.

The presence of the Air Force Research Laboratory, a supercomputer center and the National Air & Space Intelligence Center, which analyzes and reports on foreign air and space military capabilities, also would support the Cyber Command, the state said.


The state's submission and Gov. Ted Strickland's cover letter were hand-delivered to the Air Force on June 30, a day before the Air Force's July 1 deadline, Strickland spokesman Keith Dailey said. The state officially announced the submission on Thursday, July 10.

The Air Force added cyberspace to its air and space defense mission in December 2005, with a goal of protecting the Air Force's cyber networks and exploiting those of the enemy.

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