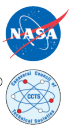




# SPACECOM®

In collaboration with:  
**51<sup>ST</sup> SPACE CONGRESS®**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **WOMEN IN DEFENSE SPACE COAST HOSTS TRI-CHAPTER NETWORKING RECEPTION AT SPACECOM 2025**

Orlando, FL – January 29, 2025 – Women In Defense (WID) Space Coast, in collaboration with the Central Florida and Greater Tampa Bay chapters, successfully hosted a Tri-Chapter Networking Reception on January 28 during SpaceCom 2025 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. This event was part of **SpaceCom 2025**, a premier conference focused on advancing the commercial space industry by bringing together professionals from the defense and space industries to foster connections and discuss the evolving landscape of space defense.

### **Keynote Address:**

The reception was honored to feature a keynote address by **Dr. Christyl C. Johnson**, Deputy Director for Technology and Research Investments at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Dr. Johnson delivered a forward-looking vision on the next frontier of space exploration, emphasizing NASA's strategic initiatives to establish a sustainable human presence on the Moon by 2040 and lay the groundwork for future Mars colonization. She highlighted the technological advancements and global partnerships required to achieve these ambitious goals, inspiring attendees to think boldly about the future of space defense and exploration.

### **Awards & Recognition:**

The evening celebrated outstanding achievements within the defense and aerospace community. **Canaveral Council of Technical Societies (CCTS) Scholarship Awards** were presented to recognize promising individuals pursuing careers in national security and space innovation. A special tribute was given to **Carol Ann Logue**, Director, Central Florida Tech Grove, UCF Research Foundation in recognition of her retirement.

### **Panel Discussion:**

The event featured an engaging fireside chat and leadership-focused panel discussion, moderated by **Jennifer Kennedy-Ness**. The discussion underscored the essential qualities of leadership in space innovation and the importance of mentorship. **Panelists included:**  
**COL Mandi Fuller**, Headquarters Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM)  
**Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Kim Crider**, Founding Partner, Elara Nova  
**Kelle Wendling**, Former President, Space Systems, L3Harris Technologies  
**Carol Craig**, CEO, Sidus Space Inc.



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## Networking Session:

Attendees had the opportunity to connect with peers, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations in a lively networking environment. The Tri-Chapter Networking Reception demonstrated the continued commitment of WID chapters to facilitating impactful interactions within the defense and space sectors, reinforcing WID's mission to foster professional development and meaningful industry connections.

## About SpaceCom 2025:

SpaceCom 2025, held from January 28-30, 2025, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL, is a transformative conference and expo dedicated to advancing the commercial space industry. The event features conference programs, an expo, and co-located conferences such as the Space Mobility Conference and the GSA Spaceport Summit.

For more information, visit [SPACECOMEXPO.COM](https://SPACECOMEXPO.COM).

## About Women In Defense Space Coast Chapter

The Women In Defense Space Coast Chapter (WIDSC) was founded January 21, 2013, and is a 501c3 affiliate of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). WIDSC provides networking and professional development opportunities to promote the role of women in national defense and security, to support military service members, and to encourage partnerships within the local contractor community, defense industry and military personnel. See more at <http://widsc.org/>.

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