



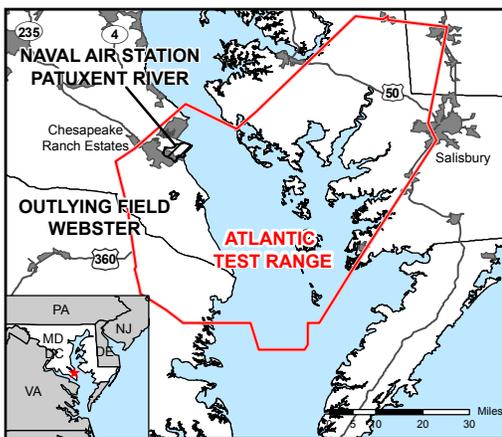
U.S. NAVY :

# ATLANTIC TEST RANGE : MARYLAND

WITH NAS PATUXENT RIVER



**A**tlantic Test Range (ATR), consisting of land, air, and sea ranges in the Chesapeake Bay area, is the Navy’s principal location for the research, development, test, and evaluation of Naval aircraft. The range’s restricted airspace is a critical national asset that allows for training missions and the concurrent testing of multiple new aircraft, including unmanned aerial systems. This restricted airspace, as well as Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River (ATR’s host installation) and Outlying Field (OLF) Webster, encompasses a vast ecologically



sensitive area, including Maryland’s Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake.

With the inherent risk in test flights, as well as the noise from aircraft (including supersonic operations), the Navy is working to limit incompatible development underneath the test range airspace and installation flight routes.

Another benefit to the mission is preventing increased conflicts in the use of frequency spectrum, allowing for testing of communications equipment and other electronics.

Acquiring easements under the restricted airspace and around NAS Patuxent River and OLF Webster limits development of waterfront parcels and protects the health of the Chesapeake and its tributaries. These projects also help sustain local agriculture and commercial and recreational fishing economies. Meanwhile, ATR and NAS Patuxent River can continue providing the test and evaluation capabilities that ensure safe and effective high-performance aircraft and weapons systems.

## BENEFIT SUMMARY

### COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands and local character
- Supports existing regional planning, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Provides habitat and connects to an existing wildlife corridor

### MILITARY

- Preserves night flying and helicopter capacity that generates significant amounts of noise
- Reduces lost test and training days and the need for less-realistic workarounds
- Reduces electromagnetic interference
- Provides for future mission growth and multi-Service missions



NAS Patuxent River and the Atlantic Test Range serve as an important flight testing site (top). Testing an F/A-18 Hornet that runs on 50% biofuel (bottom).

## KEY PARTNERS

- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Dorchester County
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- The Lower Shore Land Trust
- Chesapeake Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land

## FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 13

- » Acres preserved: **1,311**
- » Transactions conducted: **7**
- » Partner cost share: **50%**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

## CONTACT

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