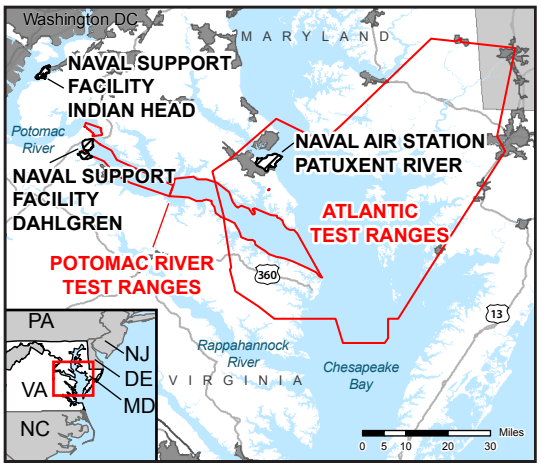
U.S. NAVY :

NSF INDIAN HEAD : MARYLAND

Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head supports the research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) activities of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division. Its mission is to provide RDT&E of energetics and energetics material for warheads, propulsion systems, and ordnance. NSF Indian Head is located on the Potomac River approximately 20 miles south of Washington, D.C. on the Maryland side of the river, allowing for outdoor explosives testing over water. Although such testing occurs away from the main D.C. population centers, the sound waves travel up and down the river and impacts residents of Maryland and Virginia alike.



To prevent incompatible development and protect NSF Indian Head's RDT&E mission, the Navy is working with a number of partners to preserve land on both banks of the Potomac River and up to several miles inland. In some cases the partner may acquire the land in fee, but in all cases the Navy will acquire restrictive easements. These easements will remove the development rights on agricultural and forested lands.

Much of the land targeted for protection is already adjacent to public lands that cannot be developed. Preventing development on these private lands would help secure the isolation of NSF Indian Head and its mission activities, reducing the potential for complaints related to noise and shock waves from explosives and demolitions. Additionally, increasing protected lands in this area supports stream protection initiatives and supports goals for preserving habitat and species throughout the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working farm lands
- Preserves habitat for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species
- Protects water quality and water supply

MILITARY

- Protects live-fire testing that produces significant amounts of noise and vibration
- Prevents workarounds that would reduce test and training capacity
- Improves operational safety

For more information about REPI, please see <http://www.repi.mil>.

A technician practices a rope rescue exercise (top). Some research, development, test, and evaluation activities include detonating an improvised explosive device to develop better ways of combating them in the field (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Charles County
- Conservancy for Charles County
- Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

» Acres preserved:
181

» Transactions conducted:
1

» Total funds expended:
$0.7 million

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

Community Plans & Liaison Officer
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