



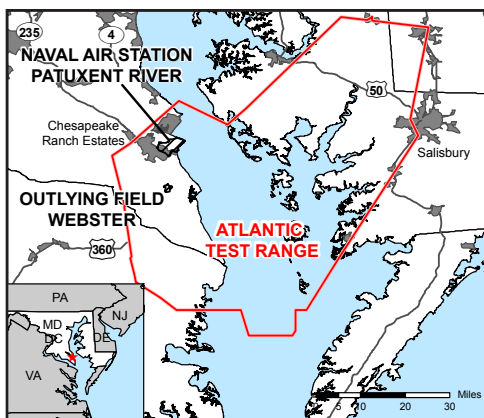
U.S. NAVY :

ATLANTIC TEST RANGES : MARYLAND

WITH NAS PATUXENT RIVER



The Atlantic Test Ranges (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 part of Maryland’s Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

Due to 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 to increase safety and quality of life.

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 also limits development of waterfront parcels and protects the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. In addition, 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 aviation systems.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

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

MILITARY

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



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

KEY PARTNERS

- Chesapeake Conservancy
- Delaware Department of Agriculture
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Dorchester County
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Northern Neck Land Conservancy
- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
- Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board
- St. Mary’s County
- State of Delaware
- The Conservation Fund
- The Lower Shore Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

- » Acres preserved: **10,638**
- » Transactions conducted: **70**
- » Total funds expended: **\$45.7 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

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