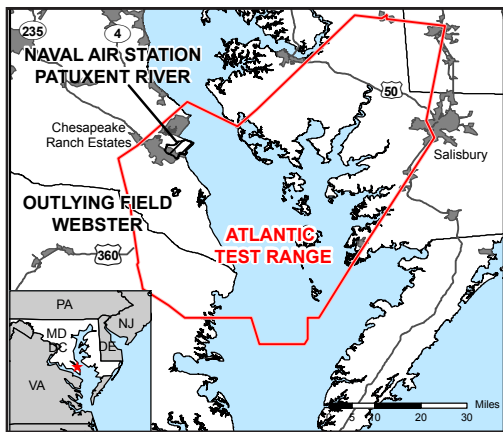




ATLANTIC TEST RANGES WITH NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER

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 development pressures 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.



NAS Patuxent River and the Atlantic Test Ranges serve as an important flight testing site.

KEY PARTNERS

- Calvert County, MD
- Calvert Nature Society
- Delaware Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
- 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
- Maryland Environmental Trust
- Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy
- 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
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Chesapeake Conservancy
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation

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

CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS AND LIAISON OFFICE:
 (301) 757-4799

FAST FACTS FROM FY 2011 THROUGH FY 2023 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	107	14,888	\$61.7 million
Other (e.g., Sikes Act, IGSA)	–	–	\$0.1 million
TOTAL	107	14,888	\$61.8 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding