

Sustaining the Navy Mission at the Atlantic Test Ranges



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History

Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River was commissioned in 1943 to centralize aircraft flight testing previously accomplished at NAS Anacostia, Norfolk, Dahlgren, Naval Aircraft Factory (Philadelphia, PA), and the Washington Navy Yard. Base Realignment and Closures in the 1990s further consolidated Naval Aviation activities at Patuxent River by transferring the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Headquarters along with personnel and equipment from Trenton, NJ, and Warminster, PA, to Patuxent River. These realignments transformed Patuxent River into the Navy's principal Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E), engineering, and fleet support activity for naval aircraft and systems. The Atlantic Test Ranges (ATR), a tenant at Patuxent River, provides the open air range facilities and infrastructure in support of this expanded mission. It is important to protect this world-class capability through a proactive sustainment program.



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Our Mission Today

The NAVAIR team partners with industry and Naval Aviation stakeholders to develop, test, deliver, and sustain Navy and Marine Corps aircraft and weapons systems used by Sailors and Marines to achieve mission success.

Encroachment

Encroachment pressures, such as urban growth, airspace congestion, and competition for frequency spectrum, threaten the ability to support national defense.

Sustainable Ranges

The NAVAIR Ranges Sustainability Office manages a proactive range sustainability program. The focus is to:

- Address encroachment to protect the mission
- Interact with communities
- Improve the quality of life by protecting the environment



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Airspace & Range Instrumentation

The airspace of the Inner and Outer Ranges and associated flight test infrastructure enable the ATR to support test and training events. Approximately 80 percent of ATR operations are conducted in the Inner Range, which provides a safe and controlled area to test and train. The Outer Range, which lies over the Atlantic Ocean, provides additional sea and air space for ATR operations.



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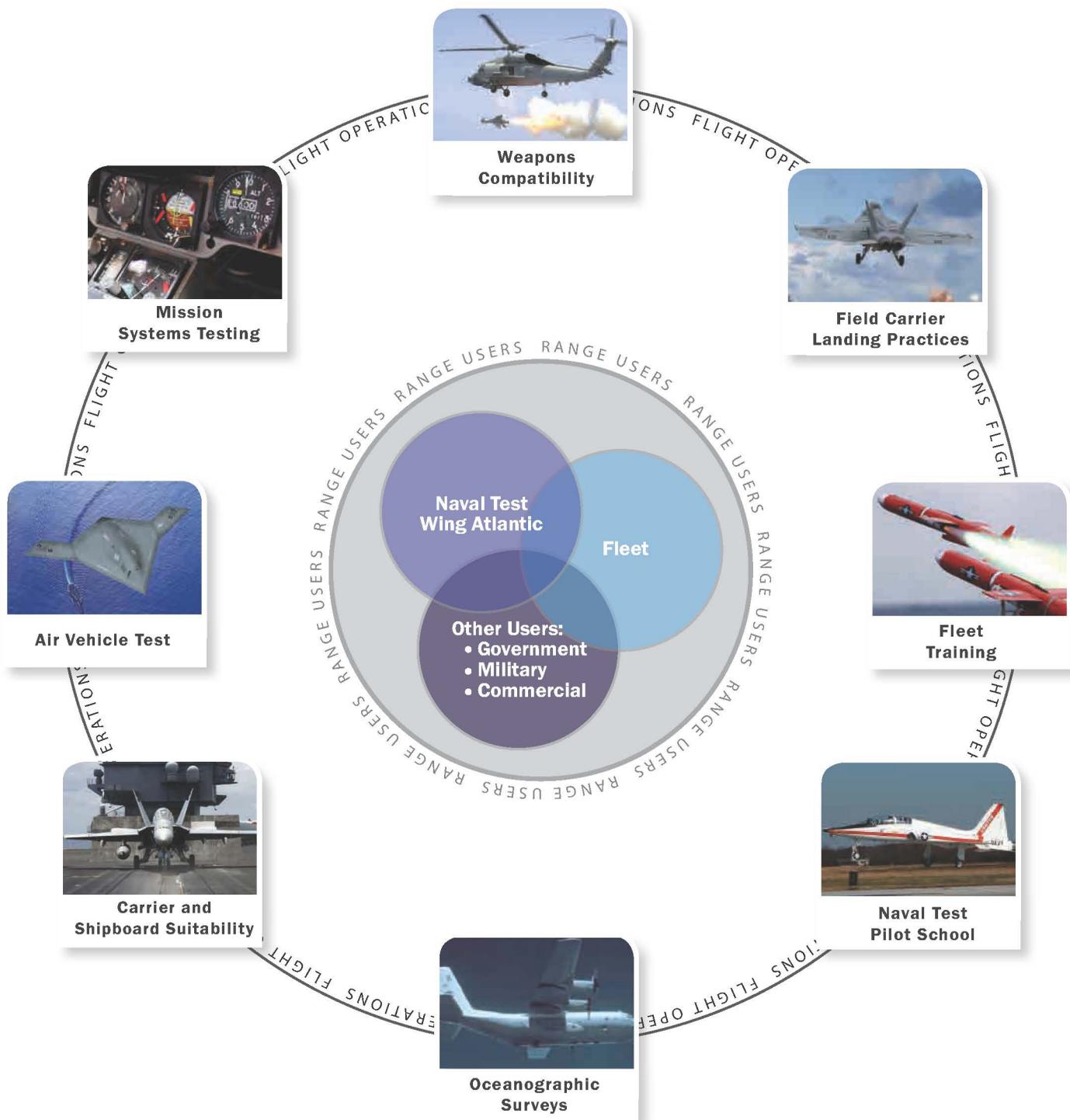
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Flight Operations

The ATR supports a broad spectrum of test and training operations. Most flight operations occur during the normal work week between 7 a.m. and dusk. However, some flight operations occur outside of these times to support unique requirements.



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Outreach Programs

The Navy maintains positive community relationships by:

- **Working with government organizations**
 - Southern Maryland
 - Eastern Shore of Maryland
 - Northern Neck of Virginia
- **Sharing information**
 - Public information exchanges
 - Press releases on test operations and programs
 - Strategic alliances with other military installations
- **Community involvement**
 - Environmental education
 - Mentoring and training programs in local schools
 - Air shows and other special events



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Noise Abatement Programs

Flight operations in the ATR have the potential to create noise that may affect people living in the region.

Programs to minimize noise impacts include:

- Establishing a Real Estate Disclosure clause to notify prospective buyers of potential impacts from nearby military installations
- Working with planning and zoning commissions throughout the region to address development in areas that are likely to be impacted by operations
- Maintaining a toll-free Noise Disturbance Hotline to report noise disturbances



Toll-free Noise Disturbance Hotline:
8 6 6 . 8 1 9 . 9 0 2 8



Land Preservation

The Navy partners with organizations to preserve land beneath restricted airspace from urban development and to ensure operations continue with minimal impacts. Land preservation initiatives are underway in Southern Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and the Northern Neck of Virginia. These initiatives and partnerships will expand as opportunities arise.

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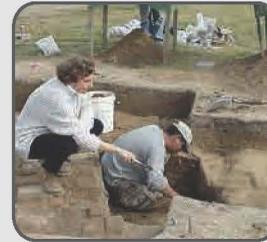
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Environmental Stewardship

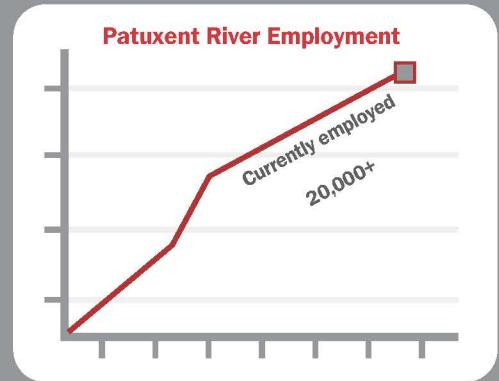
The Navy is committed to protecting the environment and human health and safety while performing test and training operations. Preserving the natural and cultural resources at Patuxent River through conservation, restoration, innovative technologies, and preservation programs is an essential part of environmental stewardship. Initiatives include:

- Environmental Impact Statement implementation
- Energy efficient technologies
- Natural and cultural resource management
- Environmentally friendly aircraft maintenance practices
- Waste-stream reduction



Economics

Patuxent River is an important economic engine. Annually, the base provides billions of dollars to the Maryland economy through employment opportunities and infrastructure growth. It is among the top five contributors to the Maryland economy on par with the National Security Agency, Verizon, Wal-Mart, and the Food and Drug Administration.



Contact Us:

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**Toll-free Noise Disturbance Hotline:
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NAVAIR Public Release 10-730

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