

The NAVAIR Range Department Sustainability offices at Patuxent River, Md.; China Lake, Calif.; and Point Mugu, Calif., ensure environmental compliance and manage (minimize) encroachment on operations conducted at NAVAIR Ranges at these three sites. The Sustainability Office (SO) at the Atlantic Test Ranges (ATR) supports fleet readiness by ensuring access to ranges, facilities and resources as well as public support for the test, training, evaluation and experimentation mission, through proactive involvement in the core areas of range management planning support, encroachment management, public outreach, comprehensive noise management, operational environmental planning and information technology support.

## RANGE MANAGEMENT PLANNING SUPPORT

The SO leads and supports the development of management documents and programs associated with range sustainability. Examples include:

- Range Complex Management Plans
- Range Condition Assessments
- Water Range Assessments
- Encroachment Assessment Reports and Action Plans
- Air Installations Compatible Use Zones and Range Air Installations Compatible Use Zones Studies
- Environmental Assessments and other National Environmental Policy Act documentation



Flight testing at the Patuxent River Complex

## COMPREHENSIVE NOISE MANAGEMENT

The SO maintains a comprehensive noise management program to identify and mitigate noise impacts to the community by responding to noise disturbances reported to the Noise Hotline; analyzing flight and sonic boom data associated with noise disturbances; conducting airfield noise studies on operations; and providing feedback to installation commands and squadrons on how to minimize impacts to surrounding communities.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# NAVAIR Sustainability Office

## ENCROACHMENT MANAGEMENT

The SO coordinates actions to address encroachment issues that may threaten the mission. The primary encroachment challenges at ATR include competition for air, land and sea space; availability of the frequency spectrum; and urban development. The SO addresses these issues by:

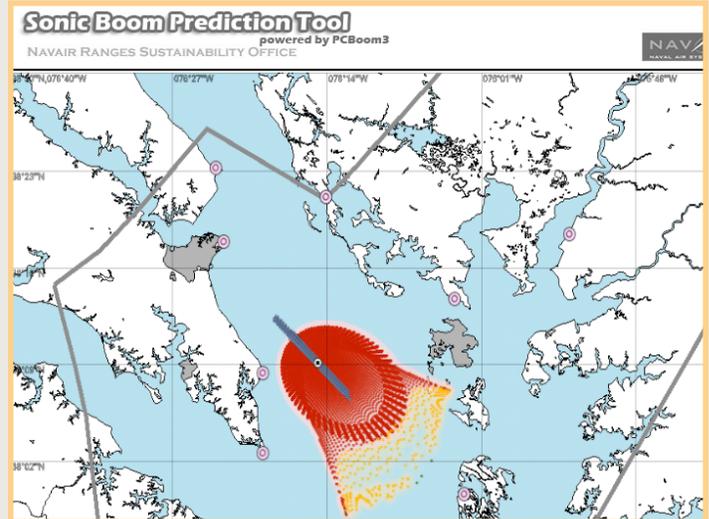
- Coordinating with Navy stakeholders through specialized local and regional teams and partnerships
- Establishing encroachment partnerships to create land preservation areas that are compatible with military operations
- Raising awareness of the Maryland Real Estate Military Noise Disclosure Clause
- Tracking local and regional project proposals that may have an impact on ATR operations and identifying mitigation strategies

## OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

The SO implements environmental planning to ensure that ATR operations conducted in the PRC are compliant with environmental regulations and the PRC Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The SO works closely with NAVAIR engineers and program offices to satisfy test planning requirements, educates aircrew on operational measures required to protect the environment and public, and prepares quarterly and annual reports to compare current operational tempo and trends to those previously analyzed.



Flight testing at the Patuxent River Complex



Sonic Boom Prediction Tool

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

The SO conducts outreach to minimize and prevent encroachment and enhance support for the ATR mission. Using brochures, information exchanges, fact sheets and briefings, the SO focuses its outreach efforts on communities, local governments and non-governmental organizations in the areas surrounding the Patuxent River Complex (PRC). Primary outreach strategies include:

- Building positive relationships with communities to understand local and regional opinions or concerns
- Communicating the ATR mission, operations and encroachment challenges
- Developing key stakeholders that can be advocates for ATR

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

The SO provides customized tools and geospatial information system services, including mapping and analysis, to various ATR components. In addition, the SO:

- Analyzes Sonic Boom Monitor (SBM) data and maintains SBM systems deployed throughout the range
- Develops and implements specialized noise management applications such as the Sonic Boom Prediction Tool
- Evaluates reported noise disturbances and maintains a database to document aircraft events and disturbances
- Manages the Environmental Review Checklist, a web-based application used to evaluate operations against the EIS