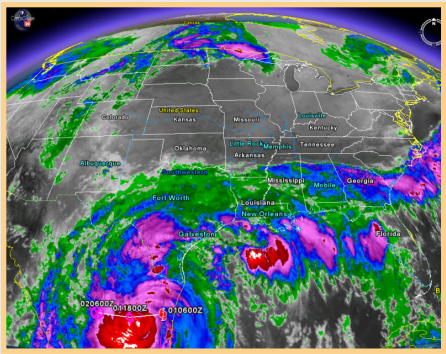
ATR Weather Office

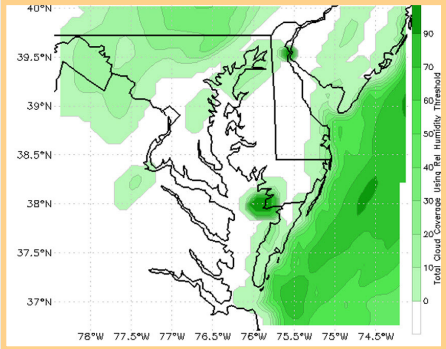
The Atlantic Test Ranges Weather Office is a component of the ATR Test Management Branch and serves as the liaison between the Naval Aviation Forecast Center (NAFC), located in Norfolk, Va., and the fleet/warfighter for forecasting support and long-range weather planning to enhance mission effectiveness and test scheduling.

ATR provides the open-air test environment for the research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) of naval aviation acquisition programs. In order to accomplish the ATR mission, forecasters conduct a thorough assessment of the weather at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., and in the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic ranges used by aviators to provide products tailored to individual mission requirements.

Providing accurate weather data to aviators and test and evaluation engineers is essential to mission accomplishment. Cloud heights, wind, temperature and pressure data, along with in-flight hazards have a direct impact on the timing and execution of flight and ground testing processes. The mission of the forecasters is to provide accurate and timely weather information to support and enhance the ATR mission.



Weather data



Weather data

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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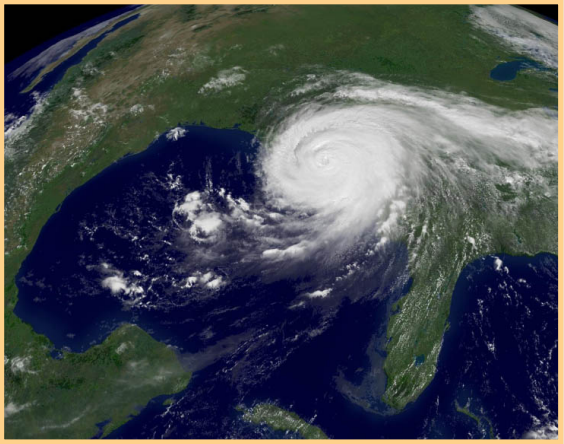
ATR Weather Office

Typical services provided by the ATR Weather Office include:

- Forecasts for test and evaluation (engineers, test managers and flight crews)
- Daily Mission Execution Forecasts (MEF)
- Three-day Military Operating Area Forecast (MOAF)
- 175-1 and verbal weather briefings
- Specialized mission briefings
- Command support briefings
- Instrument Ground School (IGS) briefings
- Collaboration with NAFC on watches, warnings and advisories issued for the Naval Air Station
- Climatological data requests
- Extended weather outlooks

The Weather Office is located in Building 103 at NAS Patuxent River and offers weather forecasting and briefing support during core flying hours. Weather Observers are available during airfield operating hours. Forecast team personnel are available for on-the-spot briefs, 175-1 briefs and specialized weather requests coordinated with the site lead.



Satellite view of weather data

A good weather forecast ensures safe flight operations.