Range Operations

ATR
Atlantic Test Ranges

The ATR Range Operations Division is made up of Test Management, Air Space Management, Range Safety, Test Communications and the Mid-Atlantic Area Frequency Coordination Office. These functional areas serve as the primary customer interface for planning, coordination and conduct of RDT&E, readiness training and experimentation using ATR and associated facilities at the Patuxent River Complex. This includes use of range facilities, sites, equipment, personnel, Special Use Airspace (SUA), assigned and approved frequency spectrum, as well as other non-Navy range resources and assets necessary for the safe conduct of operational missions.

MISSION PLANNING

Test Management serves as the direct customer interface responsible for the planning, coordination, cost estimation and scheduling of projects and provides mission control during conduct of operations. Pre-mission planning, coordination and scheduling needs should begin as far in advance as possible depending on the nature and complexity of the operation. Test Managers work closely with other branches and divisions within ATR and NAVAIR, as well as other external organizations, to prepare associated documentation and ensure that customer requirements are met over the duration of programs and projects.

Test and evaluation mission

An expanded version of the SureTrak Integrated Air Display module supports ATR's Military Radar Unit, BayWatch, and is used to monitor air traffic in Patuxent River's restricted and offshore warning areas.

ATR Range Control Center

TEST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

TRMS is an integrated scheduling system that offers customers a streamlined process that incorporates planning for testing and training events, activity reporting and financial accounting. A daily range schedule is distributed by 1400 for the following day's support. Real-time changes are made throughout the day, continuously adjusting the schedule to support as many customers and missions as possible.

BayWatch traffic management

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Test Managers
(301) 342-1197 / 1170 / 3682 / 8640 / 3607 / 1181

Range Safety
(301) 342-1184

Test Communications
(301) 342-9551

Mid-Atlantic Area Frequency Coordinator
(301) 342-1532

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Range Operations

TEST COMMUNICATIONS

The Test Communications Branch is responsible for managing ATR's microwave, fiber, network and radio frequency (RF) systems. Test Communications provides requirements analysis, design, installation and maintenance services, enabling ATR to fulfill its secure and non-secure video, voice and data communication needs. The Test Communications Branch supports assets at NAS Patuxent River, at various down range facilities along the Chesapeake Bay shoreline and on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Test Communications telecommunications hardware

RANGE SAFETY

Range Safety ensures that flight test and training events are conducted in a safe manner. The Range Safety Team analyzes, identifies and mitigates potential hazards associated with stores separation and launch and release testing, and ensures that test events progress within predetermined acceptable limits.

Final authority and accountability for all aspects of safety at the Patuxent River Complex rest with the Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division. In order to ensure that appropriate attention is focused on all aspects of range safety, certain responsibilities are delegated to the ATR Range Safety Officer. Policy guidance is provided in NAVAIR Instruction 3700.3 and procedures are provided in the Range Safety Manual. Additional procedures for fleet training are provided in a series of Standard Operating Procedures.

Range Safety and the SureTrak surveillance system track participants

MID-ATLANTIC AREA FREQUENCY COORDINATOR

The MID-LANT AFC provides support and coordinates authorization for all use of the electromagnetic spectrum at Patuxent River and ensures interference-free operations through the location and identification of conflicting sources. The office monitors and reports the operational characteristics of transmitters and investigates and compares the effects on AM, SSB, CW and FM radio signals at various frequencies for the efficient use of the electromagnetic spectrum and to mitigate interference with test operations. Monitoring is performed from the ATR Cedar Point facility as well as from a mobile SCANVAN.

MID-LANT AFC mobile SCANVAN