



REACHING HIGHER

Test and Evaluation Squadron (UX) 24

Mission

Formerly the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Directorate, UX-24 is the Navy's only dedicated UAS test unit. UX-24 currently provides RDTE&E services for Groups 1-4 UAS, including fielded platforms such as RQ-20B Puma, RQ-21 Blackjack and MQ-8 Fire Scout. Located at NAS Patuxent River's Webster Outlying Field in St. Inigoes, Maryland, the squadron takes advantage of unique capabilities that include two 5,000-foot runways, direct entry into restricted operating areas with no Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) coordination needed, exclusive-use areas available for small UASs, proximity to water for UAS maritime operations, and a dedicated UAS operations center.

UX-24's team is comprised of experts in the unmanned aircraft test community from engineers and air vehicle operators to United States Naval Test Pilot School graduates. In addition to supporting programs of record, the team also supports warfighter Urgent Needs Statements as well as test demands from sister services, other government agencies and research institutions. To streamline UAS operations and test, UX-24 maintains a "Blanket" Category 3 Interim Flight Clearance for both land- and ship-based operations, a close working relationship with Atlantic Test Range Safety for rapid assessment and mitigation of potential UAS hazards, airspace scheduling expertise, and frequency spectrum management and oversight.

Aircraft

- MQ-8B/C Fire Scout
- RQ-20 Puma
- RQ-21 Blackjack
- RQ-26 Aerostar
- Commercial off-the-shelf UASs

Vital Statistics

- Operates 16 unmanned aircraft systems in six type/model/series, and is reporting custodian for 79 commercial off-the-shelf Group 1-2 UAS.
- Executed 573 flights totaling 1,043 flight hours and 261 ground events totaling 718 hours in 2019
- 24 military (Navy and Marine Corps) personnel, 19 civilians and 8 contractor aviators, 41 contractor maintenance, and 21 civilian engineers

"GHOST WOLVES"



UX-24

Recent Accomplishments

- Conducted the first shipboard detachment to Expeditionary Sea Base Class Ships and the first combined MQ-8B and MQ-8C shipboard detachment to Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ships.
- The Small Tactical UAS (STUAS) team conducted regression testing on a major software update for the RQ-21A Blackjack program of record that was fielded within three months of test completion, coordinated the integration and testing of the Battle Management System weapons delivery payload and Stellar Beam Beyond-Line-Of-Sight command and control datalink, used the RQ-26A Aerostar to support a high-visibility event for the E11 laser program via a detachment to Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, and used the RQ-20B Puma to determine the impact accelerations imparted to an i45 payload during operationally representative landings.
- Established a STUAS Counter-UAS (CUAS) test team to support the program office tasked with handling acquisition and sustainment of CUAS systems for the Navy, which will execute ground and flight test against CUAS equipment across the U.S. and abroad.



Naval Test Wing Atlantic provides developmental flight and ground testing for the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, the Navy's largest warfare center.

