



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR STATION
22268 CEDAR POINT ROAD
PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND 20670-1154

October 26, 2018

Calvert County Planning Commission
175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Dear Planning Members,

Thank you for providing NAS Patuxent River (NAS PAX) the opportunity to review and comment on the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. Since its establishment in 1943, NAS PAX has aided the economic growth and development across all of Southern Maryland while development in the surrounding counties has helped support the mission of the installation. NAS PAX hosts Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Acquisition and Sustainment activities for all Navy and Marine Corps aircraft. Some of these activities utilize the Atlantic Test Range's (ATR) Inner Test Range.

While the Calvert Comprehensive Plan lightly touches on NAS PAX's presence, we would prefer to see a more detailed accounting of the base's relationship in the final draft, especially regarding potential encroachment issues. Calvert County, via the Tri-County Council, was a participant in NAS PAX's 2015 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The JLUS attempted to develop a set of recommendations that would prevent or mitigate encroachment in the areas surrounding NAS PAX, Webster Outlying Field, Naval Recreation Center Solomons and the ATR. NAS PAX's ATR and Helicopter Operating Area overlie portions of Southern Calvert County, including the towns of Lusby and Solomons, which are identified as Major Town Centers in your plan.

Land Use compatibility is a key tool to prevent or mitigate encroachment from incompatible development that can disrupt the NAS PAX's ability to perform its mission, such as solar or wind farms and dense urban development. Densely developed areas near known noise contours tend to report more noise complaints. Solar farms or wind turbines can cause the malfunction of some aviation systems. Both examples are encroachment issues that can complicate NAS PAX's ability to effectively perform its missions.

The Navy has a Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program that supports preservation of land through cost sharing and has proven very successful in Southern Maryland over the years. Portions of Priority Preservation Areas within the Rural Legacy Area in Calvert County lie under the boundaries of the ATR. Assistance to preserve these areas is available through the REPI program.

There are many programs and opportunities to pursue our common interests while preserving the ability of NAS PAX to effectively perform its mission. Working to adopt JLUS recommendations into comprehensive zoning policies and maximizing the benefit of the REPI program can assist achieving county objectives and the NAS PAX mission. Together, we can both work to develop and update our long term development plans. In support of these shared goals, my Community Planning Liaison Officer, Ms. Sabrina Hecht, AICP, is willing and able to assist your staff. She can be reached at Sabrina.j.Hecht@navy.mil or 301-757-4799.

J. G. HAMMOND
Captain, U.S. Navy

Enclosure 1. NAS Pax Mission Footprint Map