SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT

2020–2021

To protect and enhance naval aviation and the military economic base in Southern Maryland

Southern Maryland Navy Alliance Board FY21

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THIS ANNUAL REPORT IS ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS REQUIRED BY THE BY-LAWS OF THE CORPORATION.

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance solicits financial contributions from its sponsors each year. Your participation is vital to our organization; our sponsor list is an indicator to the Congressional Delegation, the State of Maryland, the County Commissioners and other government officials of the level of community support for our military installations. Membership contributions range from $1000 to $7500.

Please mail membership application and check to:

SMNA, P.O. Box 748, Hollywood, MD 20636 or

Contact admin@navyalliance.org for Credit Card or ACH payment information

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Southern Maryland Navy Alliance is a private organization whose mission is to support, promote, and enhance the intellectual capital and infrastructure at Patuxent River and St. Inigoes as an economic asset and resource to the Southern Maryland region.

Objectives:

Support the expansion of technical and engineering jobs in Research, Development, Acquisition, Test & Evaluation, fleet life cycle support, defense-related opportunities as well as the overall growth and diversity of the economy in the Southern Maryland region. This includes vigorous support and assistance for the policies and budgets of Naval Aviation, Federal, and Department of Defense (DoD) joint activities and support for applicable commercial opportunities that will enhance Southern Maryland's brand as a Technical Center of Excellence.

Educate and ***inform*** the businesses, citizens, and governments of Southern Maryland about the economic and cultural benefits of a strong military presence in the region and the importance of supporting regional infrastructure.

Provide leadership to facilitate coordination and build consensus on key projects with various organizations, groups, clubs, governments and individuals who have similar interests in maintaining a healthy and stable community, economy, and DoD installations in our area.

Serve as a catalyst to assist other government and private organizations with marketing the science and technology assets at Patuxent River and St. Inigoes and in the larger Southern Maryland community.

A TRV-150 Tactical Resupply UAS flies over Webster Field Outlying Field on Oct. 27, 2021 as part of a demonstration.
(U.S. Navy photo)

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have made it through another interesting year of life under the Covid-19 pandemic, and we are optimistic that things will continue to improve moving forward. We continue to be inspired and are very grateful for our first responders, health care workers, teachers and many volunteers that continue to serve the citizens of Southern Maryland during these challenging times.

Even during these challenging times, the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) continues its' mission to support, promote and enhance the intellectual capital, economic assets and resources of Patuxent River, St. Inigoes, and other military installations in the Southern Maryland region. We continue to actively communicate with elected and appointed local, county, state and national individuals, and U. S. Naval leadership to ensure all sides are heard and understood.

We have accomplished a number of key initiatives over the past year and are really excited about the future in Southern Maryland with the support of all of our stakeholders. Our SoMD2030 Workforce of the Future initiative is a key focus area of the Alliance to ensure that we attract and retain the skills and talent today and in the future for the Southern Maryland region. The House Appropriations Committee mark-up included our request for $1M for this initiative and we are optimistic that this will be successfully funded in the FY22 budget. We hosted workshops in May and August with key stakeholders in the Community and the Navy to begin laying the foundation for this initiative. Thanks to Dottie Simeona for leading this effort for the Alliance.

We also recently learned that our FY21 Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) grant proposal was selected by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation for funding. This $564,454 project will support a pedestrian walkway at Gate 2 and Great Mills Road. Thanks to Sabrina Hecht (NAS Patuxent River), Matt Herrmann (The Roosevelt Group), John Deatrick (St. Mary's County Public Works), and Destiny Allen (St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development) for all of the work in making this a reality.

We continued to work with our Maryland Delegation staff members on our other legislative priorities for the FY22 budget, as well as, continuing to track progress as the budget process continues. We have seen progress in potential funding for APF3 and recognition of the need for infrastructure investments in Research Development Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) facilities like Patuxent River. Thanks to The Roosevelt Group for continuing to stay engaged on these on behalf of the Southern Maryland regions.

We are also very excited in the progress with our Innovation District at the St Mary's County Airport under the leadership of Chris Kaselemis, Matt Scassero, Eileen Abell, Rick Tarr, and many others. The vision of many past and current members and key stakeholders is coming together with improvements to the airport infrastructure, the 3rd building--Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology (SMART) at USMSM is coming on line, TechPort, UMD FAA Test Site, NavalX Tech Bridge, etc…

The recent rollout of the Innovation District Branding effort in August was outstanding….. "AeroPark Innovation District…..Where Ideas take flight." The future looks bright, and we have and continue to be very blessed with incredible support from our Country Commissioners, State and Congressional Delegations in enabling this vision to become a reality.

These are but a few of the highlights of our activities and accomplishments over the last year and we will continue to press forward in the interest of our community and the vital national needs that we work to fulfill. Even though we have been restricted from meeting in person, work continues to be done for our Alliance, and we are always looking for your ideas on what needs to be built, tweaked, modified, or cancelled – Tom and I, and the rest of the Alliance Board, are eager to hear what you think.

This is a wonderful place to live and work and play. With your help, commitment and support we will do our best to keep it that way, and to improve on what we have.

Thanks, and stay safe.

Respectfully,

Gary Kessler, SES (ret)
President, Southern Maryland Navy Alliance

AGENDA

The following agenda for the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) is intended to support the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) including St. Inigoes / Webster Field, Program Executive Offices (PEOs), NAS Patuxent River, tenant commands, and the surrounding Southern Maryland region and business community (all referred to as the Patuxent River Complex) as an indispensable national asset.

- Maintain the current courses of action with respect to ongoing SMNA strategic initiatives to ensure continuity and achievement of established goals and objectives.
- Engage in direct and open dialogues with the Navy on all matters pertaining to the health of, and vision for, the Patuxent River Complex. Refine our understanding and advocacy of the NAVAIR vision to be a source for supporting change.
- Promote a cross section of membership that brings representatives from the Southern Maryland community stakeholders in the development of the local economy.
- Continue to be inclusive of other community-based organizations that hold shared and complementary interests with the SMNA.
- Ensure transparency between public and private sectors as a means of promoting the intellectual capital for progressive and diversified development of the Southern Maryland economy.
- Educate stakeholders and decision makers on the capabilities of the Patuxent River Complex for acquisition, deployment and support of military power for the defense of the United States.
- Facilitate awareness for policy makers and senior Navy leadership of the unique world class infrastructure and intellectual capital in our region to support other Federal agencies and commercial based programs.
- Support Navy initiatives for special projects and facility improvements across the Patuxent River Complex.
- Endorse and provide support to the University System of Maryland, the Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS) Test Site, the Autonomous Research Initiative, the UAS Center of Excellence, Special Operations and Irregular Warfare / Rapid Response programs.
- Protect the Navy facilities from encroachment issues, referencing the NAS Patuxent River Encroachment Plan to ensure consistency with the Navy's strategy in concert with local community interests.

An MQ-4C Triton flew its first test flight in its new hardware and software configuration July 29, 2021 at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

(U.S. Navy photo)

POLICY GUIDELINES

Ensure the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance adheres to its mission of supporting the Navy and business development in the region, with no special advantage to or for any particular company.

- Support the US Navy and US Marine Corps Naval Aviation in our area.
- Understand the limitations of the Navy in its ability to present its position and how the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance can be a strong ally before Congress and the Department of Defense as well as in the private sector.
- Construct political alliances with elected officials at the Federal, State, and local levels and other groups across the country.
- Maintain situational awareness of the budget and political processes and those who have influence within each. Special focus should be on budget activities that have both positive and negative impacts to Naval Aviation, activities within the Patuxent River Complex and the supporting industry.
- Allocate resources to support a systematic effort targeted to secure appropriation of funds for special projects/programs at Patuxent River and Webster Outlying Field (WOLF) and in the community at large.
- Integrate Southern Maryland Navy Alliance strategy with trends in national defense and US foreign and world trade policies.
- Employ a professional support system of Washington consultants to monitor events, develop strategies, and brief key decision-makers.

SIX KEY OBJECTIVES

1 / Cost of Operations

Reduce cost of NAVAIR operations by optimizing how and where non-mission essential contractors work.

2 / Technical Center

Promote Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division as Naval Aviation's premier Technical Center of Excellence.

3 / New Missions

Encourage the growth and diversification of new missions in Southern Maryland while ensuring all core work is retained.

4 / Autonomous Systems

Help establish NAS Patuxent River as the Navy's focal point for all UAS test and evaluation.

5 / Support Naval and Regional Economy

Encourage collaborative efforts between the Navy, Marine Corps and community to eliminate all encroachment risks while promoting the growth and diversification of the regional economy.

6 / Partnerships and Shared Services

Be a leader among Naval installations in shared services - think big and be bold.

People are the magic, now more than ever

By Matt Scassero, Director,
University of Maryland Unmanned
Aircraft Systems Test Site

Intern Paola Herbas prepares a sand test area for thermal detection of a practice plastic landmine.

(UMD UAS Test Site)

Don't you love it when a plan comes together? In this space a year ago it was stated, *"While there are still months of pandemic to get through with the COVID-19 threat, we are convinced more than ever that this community will thrive through it and beyond."* While the timeline may still be a bit in jello, the thriving part is coming true in spades. Through numerous leadership and organizational changes at a variety of organizations in our region, effort pivots, new start-ups and introductions, and just plain growth, this community has shown its resilience in the face of challenges. We don't survive…we ***thrive***.

What is the most important ingredient in all of that? ***People***. As much as we focus on place and technology and plans, what drives it all is the people involved, and their specific and intentional efforts. Focusing on our people and the ones we want to develop and attract is what drives us forward. If we have learned ***nothing*** else through the last year and a half it is how much we value our people, whether their presence, their intellect, or just their being part of us. Valuing our people at all levels needs to be foremost in our minds as we move forward.

Evaluating how we reach our audience and expand that audience has resulted in the UAS Test Site taking on some new tasking. Every two years or so we also re-evaluate our direction and mission, make sure we are still leading our targets, and the confluence of these two is driving us to take on a larger role in the education side of our mission, beyond "just" research. The team will be creating academic courses in coordination with the Clark School of Engineering and specifically the Aerospace Engineering Department. Besides increasing UAS- specific knowledge and awareness, this will contribute to a larger, more specific workforce-oriented offering at UMD. At the same time, we are evaluating a role in providing professional drone training going forward. Stay tuned for more developments in this space.

One task we were ***more*** than happy to get back to was our summer intern program. With the original intent of providing a downsized and hybrid opportunity, we ended up having our full five interns and they were physically present in our hangar with our team a majority of the summer, especially after our team returned to our hangar full time in July 2021. They brought exuberance and intellect to their work and our environs, and we all learned lessons that will benefit us going forward. Our five interns and their projects all flew, were successful in their learning

Chief Pilot Darren Robey with a solar winged RQ-20 Puma aircraft as part of an STTR performed with Microlink, Inc. under NAWCAD/PMA-263 auspices. (UMD UAS Test Site)

objectives, and many are continuing on in various incarnations. The list of these professionals and their projects includes:

- Ethan Aus, UMD rising senior: plug-and-play autopilot system for testing drones
- Paola Herbas, UMD rising senior: finding plastic landmines using UAS-mounted thermal imaging in a desert environment
- John McDonald, UMD rising sophomore: self-tracking directional RF antenna for C2/datalink communications
- Eoin Schneider, CSM to UMD rising junior: finding metallic landmines using a low-cost self-created ground penetrating radar using software defined radio components
- Qingwen Wei, UMD rising senior: deployable autonomous micro-drones from a mothership, then swarming

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(l to r) Chief Pilot Darren Robey, supported by Project Engineer Grant Williams and UAS Engineer Josh Gaus spark the imaginations of middle and high school students at the Century 21 outreach event at Great Mills High School on July 9, 2021. (UMD UAS Test Site)

Continued from previous page

Following his first year of interning with the UAS Test Site Ethan was also selected as the UMD Clark School of Engineering Intern of the Year! Previous interns continue to do well in their selected professions. Two notable grads are Charles D'Onofrio, a design engineer at NAWCAD, and Nil Patel, who was recently hired by Elon Musk's The Boring Company in Texas as an integration engineer.

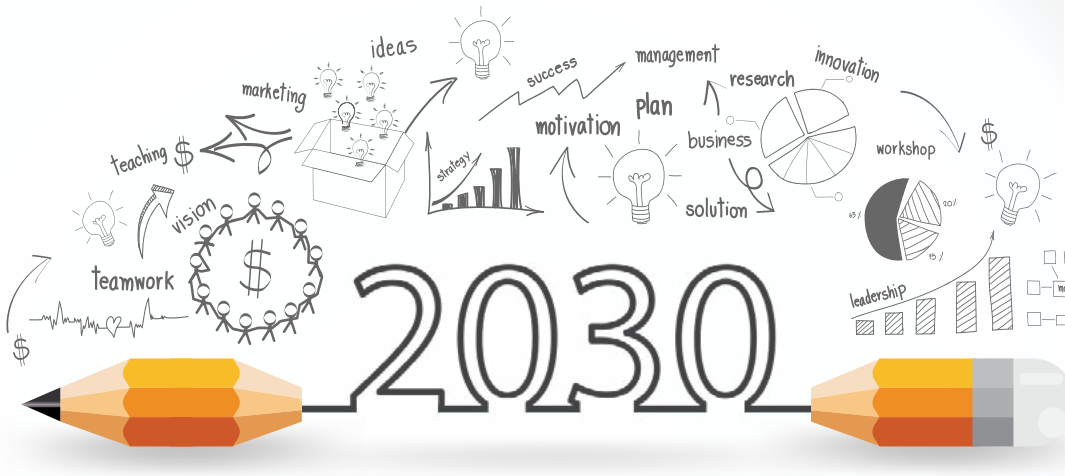
Thinking outside the box is one of the things we value in our interns, and in fact in all of our interactions with partners, customers and just encounters with the public. Through the recent virtual months, the UAS Test Site conducted several virtual tours of our spaces and the work we do, a few of which supported the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Professional Development Council. These young employees had wonderful questions and insights. One of their questions generated an idea and then an effort that is turning into reality. "Why can't we do a rotation off-base at the UAS Test Site?" Boom! Starting in 2022 NAWCAD will be sending young professionals our way and possibly to the new MATRIX Lab at USMSM to engender exactly the cross-cutting collaboration and knowledge sharing we all know is so valuable. NAWCAD's Strategic Engagement Office, with Kee Abell and Dr. Theresa Shafer leading the charge, makes this kind of innovation a reality.

Seeing the other news in this annual report, it has been a whirlwind being in the middle of the hive of activity at AeroPark, the Innovation District around Saint Mary's County Regional Airport (2W6). Tripling the workforce here, seeing the development of USMSM and the new SMART Building coming into its own after being just an idea a few short years ago, membership in the Association of University Research Parks, all under the new AeroPark banner and the bold future that portends – dynamic is too static of a word for what we have going on and the potential for future growth. The UAS Test Site intends to stay squarely in the middle of it all, with ground-breaking research and an inquisitive, professional team. That team is growing with the addition of a UAS Research Scientist PhD position and a project manager to lead the new Chesapeake UAS Route Network effort.

Though we work in unmanned and autonomous systems, people continue to be the linchpin to our success.

Just another day at the beach! Interns (l to r) Eoin Schneider, Qingwen Wei and Ethan Aus are supported by UAS Engineer and intern coordinator Josh Gaus (at table) as they prepare their projects for flight testing. (UMD UAS Test Site)

Thinking About the *Future*



By Dottie Simeona

The SMNA is working with our partners from industry, academia, State and Local government, and the Navy to develop our workforce for the future. Southern Maryland (SoMD) 2030, formerly PAX2030, was drafted as a strategy focused on engaging early with our future workforce. The strategy has taken the form of a grant request for $1M that has passed the House Armed Services Committee and on it's way to the Senate Armed Services Committee. We highlighted the initial program in prior articles but want to keep this in the forefront for generating thoughts and inputs.

We must address our workforce challenges and there is no better way than assembling divergent thinkers and bright minds to work through the problem. SoMD2030 provides three tiers for ensuring a workforce for the future. Harnessing each individual's talents and unique skillsets, we engage them now for a better future. Once approved, the program will have a three tiered approach for engaging those new or soon to enter the workforce.

GRADS (College Grads; 1-2 years Post Grad): SoMD2030 would provide a "fellowship program" in our innovation environment. All technical disciplines would be considered; with a list of desired positions from Software Programmer – Coding to Aerospace Engineering to Data Science and so on.

COOP Cooperative for HS Jr/Sr planning to attend College and during College: SoMD2030 will offer internships to Juniors and Seniors in high school and college students with a variety of academia disciplines and backgrounds. Our goal would be to provide a dynamic environment where our interns can gather the working skills necessary to set them on the path to success for their future careers. This includes routing positions with Government and Industry to provide a full picture of the Southern Maryland community. Upon successful completion, full time positions will be offered to COOPs deemed successful by the administering program.

Tech Jobs (High School): Tech Jobs focused on trade skills development and fostering. Engaging local industry to mentor these students and expose them to career opportunities in hi-tech fields. Leveraging current curriculum offered in Tech programs and supporting a robust certification program.

The SMNA is hosting quarterly Workforce Development Sessions with our community and industry partners, SoMD2030 is just one initiative. Together we will chart the future!

Government Relations Committee Update

By Matt Herrmann and Tom Garrison, Government Relations Committee Chair

The Government Relations Committee reflects on yet another active and successful year with the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance. The Committee has been actively tracking the nomination and confirmation of Biden Administration political appointees to key Department of Defense and Department of Navy positions. To date, Carlos del Toro has been nominated and confirmed to be the 78th Secretary of the Navy. His confirmation occurred just prior to the Senate recessing for the August work period. Additionally, Ms. Meredith Berger was confirmed as the Assistant Secretary of Energy, Installations & Environment on August 5th. Secretary Berger will play a critical role in Navy's engagement with communities that host a Navy presence.

Further, the Biden Administration's budget and comments from current leadership continues to highlight a general continuation of policies that emanante from the National Defense Strategy released by the previous Administration. The leadership in the Department of Defense is currently undergoing a review of the National Defense Strategy and will provide an updated strategy early next year. While parts of the National Defense Strategy will ultimately change to align with broader Administration goals the main thrust is a focus on the pacing challenge posed by China and Russia as well as a focus on disruptive technologies. This general continuation of policy is positive for NAS Patuxent River as they have been leaders in supporting and furthering innovation in Navy air for decades. The role that Navy aviation plays in addressing strategic competition will remain as important as ever.

The Government Relations Committee has also been actively engaged, with the Roosevelt Group, in advancing the goals and priorities of SMNA with the Maryland Delegation. While many of the relevant defense legislation has not been marked-up or publicly available yet, the group has achieved a number of early successes. Chief among those successes is securing $1 million in funding to jump start the SoMD2030 workforce development plan. The House Defense Appropriations bill included this funding with the help and support of Congressman Steny Hoyer and other members of the Maryland Congressional delegation. This funding is critical to advancing the alliance and broader region's goal of improving workforce development to meet the future needs of our Navy partners at NAS Patuxent River.

We also received great news that St. Mary's County was eligible to receive funding from the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP).

DCIP was a program authorized and funded by Congress to address infrastructure needs outside the gate but help support the military mission of the respective installation. Recent changes to the DCIP program made it an attractive program to seek federal grant money to complete a crosswalk project that will improve access to NAS Patuxent River. Specifically, the Office of Local Defense and Community Cooperation announced that over $395,000 in DoD federal funding would be made available to St. Mary's County for this project. Securing funding for the project underscores the importance of the relationship between the installation and the local community. The alliance was proud to help support efforts to develop the grant proposal. The Alliance also acknowledges the continued support of the DCIP program from the entire Maryland Congressional delegation.

Due to the late delivery of the President's Fiscal Year 2022 budget, the Congress has not completed action on all relevant defense legislation. Further, the COVID-19 crisis and desire to focus on infrastructure funding has further delayed action on defense legislation. The Congress should complete action on relevant defense legislation in the early fall and hopes to complete these bills by the end of the calendar year. Of note, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out its version of the FY22 military construction appropriations bill. The bill contained a provision and funding to specifically set aside planning and design funds for DoD labs and major range and test facility installations. Its important that the subcommittee clearly recognized and addressed the challenges of securing military construction funding for these installations. Although not a panacea, it's a provision that is worth noting and following for its potential assistance to address the infrastructure needs at NAS Patuxent River.

This provision is all the more important because as Congress continues its consideration of infrastructure funding there is no indication that Congress will include specific funding to address the serious backlog in defense infrastructure. Congressman Anthony Brown and Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger joined several of their colleagues, including Congressman Cheri Bustos, in writing to House leadership urging them to include DoD infrastructure funding in any final bill. Despite efforts to include such funding in the Senate they were not ultimately successful. However, passage of the infrastructure bill in the Senate means it will be taken up by the House and there is a high likelihood of increased infrastructure funding for St. Mary's County and all of Maryland in the coming years. There are a wide range of infrastructure needs in the region of which our alliance is supportive that will help to benefit the community inside and outside the gate.

The Government Relations Committee remains active and engaged during these busy times on Capitol Hill. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our Congressional delegation to address our needs and goals.

More about the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) Grant Award

Excerpts from St. Mary's County Government Press Release (Sept. 2021)

LEONARDTOWN, Md. -

St. Mary's County's Departments of Economic Development and Public Works and Transportation collaborated with the Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS PAX) to submit the application to build a signalized crosswalk across Three Notch Road at Gate 2. The $395,118 grant award will fund most of the $564,454 project.

The County crosswalk project will also include a sidewalk extension linking Gate 2 to the existing sidewalk and crosswalk at Gate 1. This infrastructure improvement will allow pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross the six lane Three Notch Road and travel the one-mile distance between Gate 1 and Gate 2. Currently, Three Notch Road's design and heavy traffic volumes do not allow for bike lanes and force bicyclists to use the sidewalks. These interlinked improvements will allow safe bike and pedestrian access to the base and for base personnel to reach the Lexington Park commercial district to access local restaurants, services, and other businesses.

Additionally, the construction of this project will allow a direct link to the fully funded and under design Three Notch Trail, which when completed will stretch 28 miles from Gate 1 to Charles County through the County's most heavily residential and commercial districts. The sidewalk link to Gate 2 and the Frank Knox Educational Center will complete that connection to the two primary NAS Patuxent River gates and a major group of destinations for NAS Patuxent River personnel.

Welcome to AeroPark Innovation District –

Where ideas take flight!

st mary's county take flight

By Chris Kaselemis, Director, St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development

The St. Mary's County Airport is the heart of what is now called the "AeroPark Innovation District." After an engaging brand identity effort led by the County's consultant Arnett Muldrow, AeroPark was revealed as the new name for the Innovation District. AeroPark is an emerging ecosystem where new ideas are fueled and opportunities arise in a culture of engagement. AeroPark serves as a place for resource sharing and idea exchange through a planned growth effort that includes increased connectivity to existing industry, education, research facilities, adjoining neighborhoods, and retail space.

A centrally located and active regional airport is at the core of AeroPark. In addition, existing research and education facilities exploring unmanned systems development along with innovation-focused commercial aviation industry partners provide the foundation elements of the district.

Current stakeholders such as the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) (https://usmsm8.umd.edu), the University of Maryland Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Test Site (https://uas-test.umd.edu), the TechPort business accelerator, various specialized aviation and aeronautic companies and others make AeroPark a collaborative space supporting and encouraging innovation and idea exchange.

As progress continues within the district, the completion of the newly constructed Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology (SMART) Building at USMSM serves as a beacon of inspiration to the entire district. This $86 million, 84,000-square foot academic and research facility will be transformative. The innovation portion of the SMART Building features an autonomous technologies research

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Artist's rendering of the Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology (SMART) Building, the newest building at USMSM, set to open October 2021. <Cooper Carry, Architects>

AEROPARK
INNOVATION DISTRICT
Where ideas take flight
Saint Johns Rd
235
Three Notch Rd
Lawrence Hayden Rd
Manufacturing and Fabrication Zone
Three Notch Rd Streetscape, Branding, and Wayfinding
Relocated
North Side Taxiway and Large-format Hangars
235
West Hangar Expansion
Airport Rd
Innovation Square
Airport Rd
Three Notch Road Airport Gateway
West Innovation Village
Innovation Village
Cottonwood Pkwy
Wildewood Shopping Center Potential Redevelopment
Smoke Hill Rd
Three Notch Rd
Wildewood Pkwy
FDR Blvd
Hickory Nut Dr
Wildewood Pkwy
Saint Andrews Church Rd

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facility, which will include underwater, air, and land testing capabilities. The facility will make the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland the USM's only regional higher education center with a research component. The academic portion of the new SMART Building will hold state-of-the-art classrooms, allowing students from across the Southern Maryland region enhanced access to in-demand educational programs.

Additionally, the St. Mary's County Regional Airport is the fastest growing General Aviation airport in Maryland. Located approximately seven miles north of NAS Patuxent River, the Airport facilitates 38,000 to 56,000 takes-offs and landings annually. Nearly 200 aircraft live at the airport, surpassing projections that anticipated less than 120 by 2020. Due to this growth, the Airport itself is undergoing a multi-million-dollar expansion project through collaborative efforts of private industry, St. Mary's County Government, the State of Maryland and the FAA. The current runway is 4,150 ft. and is extending to 5,350 ft. to accommodate larger aircraft and corporate jets. The airport serves as the base of operations for many general aviation service providers and organizations.

St. Mary's County is committed to growing the AeroPark Innovation District centered around the airport and existing assets. This district will support the emerging innovation economy in St. Mary's, growing jobs, diversifying the economy, and attracting and keeping talented workers in the County.

With so many existing assets and anchors close by, the AeroPark Innovation District is already taking shape. Understanding this, St. Mary's County is ready to continue moving forward with the implementation of the Innovation District Master Plan. This plan provides a framework for policies and programs to fill the gaps and the physical design needed to form the place.

Read the Master Plan here:

https://www.yesstmarysmd.com/docs/Innovation%20District%20Master%20Plan%20Final%20Report.pdf

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take flight

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Email: ded@stmarysmd.com

Aerospace company, PaxAero Solutions delivering modifications at AeroPark

University System of Maryland *at Southern Maryland*

By Eileen Abel, PhD, Executive Director

In March of 2019, the former Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (SMHEC) officially came under the auspices of the University System of Maryland as the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM). With an expanded and committed Board of Advisors, new leadership, and still focused on providing educated workers to meet the needs of regional employers, USMSM now has an expanded mission: to support the nascent autonomous technologies industry by connecting University of Maryland and DoD researchers in a state-of-the-art facility, and to grow undergraduate programs to meet workforce needs—with a lens of equity—in high demand occupations in Southern Maryland.

To meet the first part of the mission, the 86,000 sq ft Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology (SMART) Building is officially slated for completion of construction in late September 2021. This building houses 14 classrooms, a 4,400 sq ft conference center, multiple conference rooms, and a 44,000 sq ft research facility to be operated by University of Maryland Clark School of Engineering. Known as the MATRIX Lab (Maryland Autonomous Technologies Research and Innovation eXploration Lab), this unique space features a hydrology lab, an RF-shielded high-dome testing room, A/R- and V/R-capable spaces, a wind tunnel, project assembly area, an antennae farm, and an outdoor testing area. In other words—play and testing space for autonomous systems in all domains.

The capabilities of SMART, its proximity to the airport, and its close alignment with the UMD UAS Test Site situates USMSM squarely as the education hub in St Mary's County's envisioned AeroPark, where researchers, innovators and academics will gather to build and develop the regional economy around, but not exclusive to, autonomous systems technologies, providing the community a place to live, work and play.

But there are other educational needs in Southern Maryland than just those supporting autonomous research. USMSM in its current and former iteration as SMHEC has long provided higher education opportunities for Southern Maryland residents. In its expanded mission, USMSM will work with regional school districts and the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) to grow the bachelor's degree completion pipeline of students into high demand, high wage opportunities, and to shrink the gap between those who have bachelor's degrees and those jobs that require them as an entry-level credential. These programs will include work-based learning opportunities for two reasons: to create a skilled and experienced workforce ready to succeed in employment on day one, and to offset the cost of completing a degree, an important consideration for families for whom the expense of a college education is a barrier. In alliance with the public school systems, CSM, and St Mary's College of Maryland, we will effect an educational ecosystem in Southern Maryland that will meet the needs of the 21st-century workforce.

USMSM's university partners will offer new or expanded programs in both STEM-centered disciplines like engineering, cyber, data analytics, and computer science, but also in human-centered areas like education, mental and behavioral health, business management/finance and criminal justice.

To support its mission and goals, USMSM has expanded its Board of Advisors (BoA), chaired in 2021-22 by Joe Anderson, who previously chaired the SMHEC Board of Governors, and who helped shepherd the transition from SMHEC to USMSM. The BoA is comprised of members from Calvert, Charles and St Mary's Counties, representing education, government and a variety of industries. These dedicated individuals meet quarterly as a body, and more frequently in subcommittees.

The state and local investment in SMART and USMSM to carry out its mission in providing research and educational opportunities in Southern Maryland mean economic growth, robust employment opportunities, a stronger community, and the opportunity to serve the region, the state and the national interests.

Grants and Contributions

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance is open for participation by any person or organization that supports our goals and objectives. Contributions to the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance are not deductible as charitable contributions but may be deductible as a business expense. A membership application can be found on the last page of this report. Contribution categories are as follows:

Executive Member $7,500 or more

Senior Member $5,000

Associate Member $2,500

Contributor $1,000

Members

Executive and Senior Members | (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

BAE Systems

Booz Allen Hamilton

KBR

Lockheed Martin

ManTech International

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

Parraid, LLC

S. Hunt Aero, LLC

SMECO

Associate Members | (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

General Dynamics

Heron Systems

MIL Corporation

PAE

WESBANCO

Contributor Members | (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

ACE Consulting Group, LLC

AIRtec, Inc.

American Electronics, Inc.

AVIAN

Aviation Systems Engineering Company (ASEC)

Bank of America

BB&T Bank

Calvert County Department of Economic Development

Cedar Point Federal Credit Union

College of Southern Maryland

Compass Systems

CORAS

Tom Daugherty

Envistacom, LLC

GI Enterprises

HIlb Group

HTii

Kessler Integrated Systems Solutions, LLC

Millison Management Co.

Naval Systems, Inc.

Odyssey Systems

Platform Aerospace

Resource Management Concepts, Inc.

Sabre Systems, Inc.

SAIC

Southern Maryland Loves You

Spalding Consulting

Specialty Systems, Inc.

Systems Application and Technologies, Inc.

Taylor Gas Company

Technologies, Inc.

Technology Systems & Business Solutions, LLC

The Alber Group

Tri-County Council for So. MD

University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland

Zenetex

Financials

Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021

INCOME	FY2020	FY2021
Private Sector	$71,150.00	$70,276.00
Public Sector	$73,580.00	$97,029.00
Interest Income	$1,554.00	$376.00
Total Income:	**$161,034.00**	**$167,681.00**
EXPENSES		
Program Services	$162,983.00	$156,000.00
Management & General	$24,695.00	$14,053.00
Total Expenses	$187,679.00	$170,053.00
Net Income	-$26,645.00	-$2,503.00

Submitted by Bob Russell, Treasurer, Financial Report

Southern Maryland Navy Alliance Granting Agencies

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance benefits from the support of several government entities. The SMNA could not do its work without their support. The following have supported the Alliance's efforts in many ways, including extensive personnel assistance in addition to significant financial grants:

- State of Maryland Board of Public Works
- Department of Commerce
- St. Mary's County Government
- Calvert County Government

Acknowledgements

Special appreciation also goes to the following persons/organizations for their support and assistance to the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance:

Senator Ben Cardin
Senator Chris Van Hollen
Congressman Steny Hoyer
Congressman Anthony Brown
Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Jerry Clark
Delegate Matt Morgan
Delegate Brian Crosby
Delegate Rachel Jones
Scott Travers
Terrance Taylor
Gretchen Hardman
St. Mary's County Commissioners
Leslie Taylor
CAPT John Brabazon
Sheriff Tim Cameron
Thomas O. Evans
Lisa Swoboda
Chris Kaselemis
Keith Fairfax
Matt Scassero
The Patuxent Partnership
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
Ruby Hawks
Bonnie Abell
Nicki Strickland

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

Working to protect the current and future economy of Southern Maryland

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) is comprised of more than 61 leaders representing companies and organizations of all sizes across the region. SMNA member assist the Navy and Maryland, at both the state and county level, to protect and enhance Maryland's naval aviation tradition and the broader economic base in Southern Maryland.

St. Mary's County Airport Expansion

Safeguarding and supporting diversity in the region's economy and strategic positioning are SMNA's primary objectives. As the UMD Unmanned Test Site at the St. Mary's County Airport continues to grow and thrive, SMNA has been working with our County and State elected officials to secure funding for infrastructure on County property to serve the runway expansion planned by the county and support the growing businesses at the airport complex.

University Systems of Maryland Academic and Research Facility

Thought leadership requires a well educated workforce, capable of building tomorrow's technologies. SMNA worked to secure funding for a third building at the USMSM. We will continue to advocate for expanded funding to ensure the region's intellectual capital is strong.

Become a SMNA Member Today!

How Will Your Company Benefit?

Build a legacy by ensuring the continued success and growth of Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River and its proud naval aviation tradition.

Shape the future through SMNA priority initiatives in areas including mission priorities, economic diversification, workforce development, higher education, and infrastructure improvements.

Influence the agenda as thought leaders during collaborative events with NAVAIR leadership, NAS Patuxent River installation command, federal, state, local and community leaders.

Work together in partnership with government, industry and military leaders to accelerate the economic and community development of Southern Maryland.

Learn early and often via access to key regional stakeholders, decision makers, influencers and SMNA's consultants, including direct briefings on the activities both inside and outside the NAS Patuxent River gates.

Succeed for themselves and others as influential members supporting high priority initiatives with impacts for local, state, regional and national communities of interest.

Network at SMNA sponsored events, including our Annual Dinner bringing over 200 leaders together.

Represent SMNA at local, regional and national meetings impacting the region's shared agenda.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

Benefits of Membership

Members are recognized in our newsletters and Annual Report. SMNA publications are distributed to local, state, and regional officials; federal officials across the Department of Defense (DoD); as well as leaders in our Southern Maryland Navy and business communities.

Members are invited to monthly membership meetings as well as occasional events sponsored by SMNA to network, gain timely knowledge of issues and programs important to your organization and the community as a whole. Through the work of SMNA Officers and Committees, information pertinent to the businesses and organizations of Southern Maryland is compiled from local, state, and federal government as well as U.S. Navy officials and shared with members.

SMNA consultants track law-makers and DoD decisions to provide members a timely update of issues relevant to our work, economy, and community.

SMNA maintains membership with the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) and shares their daily newsletter with members.

Contributors have 2 seats at the Annual Dinner.

Associate Members have 4 seats at the Annual Dinner.

Senior Members have 8 seats at the Annual Dinner and are acknowledged at the Annual Dinner and in all publications as Senior Members.

Executive Members have 10 seats at the Annual Dinner, are acknowledged at the Annual Dinner and in all publications as Executive Members.

Thank you for your continued support!

Membership Application

❑ **Renewing** ❑ **New Member** (Please check only one)

Name (Company or Individual):

Company Contact and Title:

Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Annual Membership Fees

Please check one of the following membership categories. Membership fee must accompany application.

- ❑ Contributor $1,000
- ❑ Associate Member $2,500
- ❑ Senior Member $5,000
- ❑ Executive Member ..... $7,500 or more

Date:

Please mail membership application and check to:
SMNA, P.O. Box 748, Hollywood, MD 20636 or
Contact admin@navyalliance.org for Credit Card or ACH payment information

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) is a nonprofit organization. Membership fees are not deductible as a charitable contribution.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

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Hollywood, Maryland 20636

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