SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

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

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SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance is a nonprofit private organization dedicated to increasing awareness, fostering collaborations, and building partnerships with other Department of Defense affiliates, industry partners, nonprofits, and academic institutions that advance U.S. Naval Aviation at the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland.

The Alliance focuses on advocating for policy, programs, and fiscal resources that enhance the strategic importance and long-term viability for the installation components and surrounding community. This will help meet the Department of Defense and joint warfare mission capabilities and readiness requirements globally while sustaining and growing the economic viability of the region.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance is to support, promote, enhance, and sustain the capabilities at Naval Air Station Patuxent River and Webster Outlying Field in St. Inigoes, MD, as well as across the Southern Maryland region, as an economic asset and critical resource for the U.S. Department of Defense and the State of Maryland.

- 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.

FY26 Board Members (from left): Lance Alsheimer, Mike Morgan, Heidi Fleming, Matt Scassero, James Bolin, Dr. Dale Moore, Pete Williams, Tim Heely, George Franz, Karla Matthews, Raymond Wernecke, and Emil Kaunitz

Not pictured: Glen Ives, Brian Norris, Tom Dennison, Dan Nega, Gary Kessler, Mimi Novello, MD, and Thomas P. Garrison III

FY25 BOARD MEMBERS

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Executive Committee

Dr. Dale L. Moore, President
James Bolin, Executive Vice President
Mimi Novello, MD, Secretary
Robert Russell, Treasurer
Thomas P. Garrison, III, Immediate Past President

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Dottie Simeona
Glen Ives
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Tom Dennison
Emil Kaunitz
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Tim Heely
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US Congressman Glen Ivey

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US Senator Angela Alsobrooks

US Senator Chris Van Hollen

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

Julie Oberg, Calvert County Department of Economic Development

Jamison Watson, A. James Clark School of Engineering, USMSM

John Hartline, Tri-County Council

Message from the President

Dr. Dale Moore, President
Southern Maryland Navy Alliance

Dear Members and Partners,

I am honored to serve as President of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) and to share this annual report with our community. I am extraordinarily proud of who we are, what we do, and the impact that we are having across our region, our state, and our nation. This year has been a testament to the resilience, innovation, collaboration, and leadership that define our Alliance and the entire Southern Maryland region.

Our core mission—to support and advocate for the United States Navy presence in Southern Maryland—remains steadfast. Through our engagement with Patuxent River military and civilian leadership, local and state government, the Maryland Congressional Delegation, academic and industry partners, SMNA is working to address issues with significant implications for our community. Together, we can navigate turbulent waters and continue to shape and support our national security and economic prosperity.

We take this time each year to reflect on our past accomplishments and set our sights to the future. Over the past year, we have engaged in a broad range of efforts on behalf of our members and the Southern Maryland Region. SMNA has been closely tracking the impacts and implications of emerging policies, guidance, and direction, including the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) deliberations and hearings. This has included the House Armed Services 'SPEED' Act and the Senate Armed Services Committee 'FoRGED' Act, and the Department of War warfighting requirements and systems acquisition transformations. We've placed a priority on the Navy's 6th Generation F/A-XX Program and Rapid Capabilities Office, both with significant implications for naval aviation, the Patuxent River Complex, and Southern Maryland. In addition, we've engaged on the Federal Research and Development Tax Amortization Schedules, the Laboratory Revitalization Project Thresholds, priority Military Construction Projects, and Patuxent River Energy Resilience initiatives.

SMNA has worked to minimize the potential adverse impacts of proposed Maryland Business-to-Business transaction taxes, helped secure funding for essential base upgrades, and advanced STEM education programs. Over the past year, SMNA coordinated the SoMD 2030 Workforce Advisory Board, bringing together our academic, industry, and government partners to collaborate on workforce development and to create a talent pipeline that best meets our needs today and well into the future. We could not be prouder of the success of the SoMD 2030 Workforce initiative over the past three years, exemplifying the power of building relationships and partnerships with clear purpose and intent.

This past summer, we organized and hosted a visit to Southern Maryland with members of the Maryland Delegation: Congressman Steny Hoyer, Congresswoman Sarah Elfreth, and Senators Christopher Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks. We have also engaged with our St. Mary's County Commissioners and Economic Development Commission, as well as with the Maryland Department of Commerce. At the state level, SMNA gained a seat on the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission (MATC), and we were able to deliver to the State the first MATC Strategic Plan on 1 October 2025.

In support of Southern Maryland's continued technological leadership, SMNA members have taken part in monthly discussion forums with key leaders and technologists, including the Joint Simulation Environment, quantum technologies, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and autonomy. In addition, our member meetings have covered critical business-related topics such as workforce development, contracts, and organic lead systems integration, all of which contribute to our success.

SMNA has also provided representation at the Maryland Military Installations Council (MMIC), the Maryland Aerospace Day, and the Maryland Defense Forum. We participated in a local business-focused visit by our Maryland Secretary of Commerce, Harry Coker Jr., and we hosted briefings from the Department of Commerce, providing an opportunity for exchange and linking Southern Maryland with State-level initiatives and programs.

By fostering strong ties between and across the Navy and our community, we have contributed to both naval aviation mission readiness and Southern Maryland regional prosperity. In this way, we're building our Southern Maryland brand and persona for excellence. We understand that it takes all the various elements of our community working together to ensure that we meet the needs of our Navy, and that includes all the important technical, business, legal, medical, social, and educational components. It is the health and vibrancy of these vital assets that enable Southern Maryland to grow and thrive. To that end, we've expanded our membership and our Board of Directors to include a broader range of voices and participation throughout

Message from the President continued...

our community to make sure that we all move forward together.

Today, we are working to better understand the challenges ahead, ranging from policy decisions and budget constraints to workforce development and accelerating technological change, to ever-evolving defense and community priorities. The Alliance remains committed to providing a forum for collaboration and meaningful discussion. We will continue to champion policies, projects and programs that ensure our long-term viability and prosperity, the success of our Navy partners and the continued growth of the Southern Maryland Region. This year's SMNA Annual Dinner, which hosted over 200 of our community leaders, provided a chance to reflect on our extraordinary past, take stock in the game changing contributions of the present, and set our vision and vectors for the future.

Thank you for your support to the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our members, sponsors, volunteers, and community leaders for your ongoing commitment and dedication to our mission. Your support enables us to learn, share and effectively advocate to build a stronger future for our region and our nation's defense. Together, we will successfully meet the many challenges and extraordinary opportunities of the coming year with clear purpose, unwavering determination, and the pride of knowing that our efforts are making a unique and highly valued impact on our world.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dale L. Moore, President
Southern Maryland Navy Alliance

THIS ANNUAL REPORT IS ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS REQUIRED BY THE BYLAWS OF THE CORPORATION

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance receives 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.

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 across SoMD including the Patuxent River Complex, the University System of Maryland, the University of Maryland MATRIX Lab and the Autonomous Research Program, the Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS) Research and Operations Center (UROC), the AeroPark Innovation District, the K-20 Workforce Education and Development Programs and Institutions, Special Operations, and Irregular Warfare/Rapid Response programs.

Highlight naval facilities and unique capabilities, referencing the NAS Patuxent River Resilience and Encroachment Plan, and to ensure consistency with the Navy's strategy in concert with local community interests.

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 advocate and 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, policies, 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 consultants to monitor events, develop strategies, and brief key decision-makers.

SIX KEY OBJECTIVES

1 *Cost and Schedule of Operations*

Reduce the cost and schedule of NAVAIR operations by enabling DoD contractors to deliver the most innovative and best value solutions.

2 *Technical Center*

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

3 *New Missions and Advancements*

Encourage the growth and diversification of new missions and advanced capabilities in Southern Maryland while ensuring all core work infrastructure are retained.

4 *Autonomous Systems*

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

5 *Support Naval and Regional Economy*

Encourage collaborative efforts between the Navy, Marine Corps, other services, and the community promoting workforce development and growth in support of the regional economy.

6 *Partnerships and Shared Services*

Be a leader among Naval installations in building partnerships, collaborative forums, and shared services - think big, anticipate the future and be bold.

Building Momentum Through Collaboration

A Message from James Bolin,
Executive Vice President, Southern Maryland Navy Alliance

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) stands at a pivotal moment in its history. As we continue to champion the Navy's mission and strengthen the economic vitality of our region, we've taken bold steps to ensure our organization remains agile, focused, and impactful. This year, we introduced a revitalized committee structure—a strategic move designed to sharpen our priorities, empower leadership, and deliver measurable results.

Driving Impact Through Our Committees

Our committees are the engines of SMNA's success. They provide the framework for collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. The revitalized structure includes five core committees, each aligned with our mission and future goals:

Operations Committee – Chaired by Jim Bolin (KBR), oversees SMNA's initiatives, ensuring alignment with strategic priorities and operational excellence.

Government Relations Committee – Chaired by George Franz (Avian), builds strong partnerships with elected officials and military leadership to advance policies that protect and enhance the Navy mission.

Workforce Development Committee – Chaired by Mike Morgan (BAH), leads efforts like SoMD2030 to create a robust talent pipeline through internships, apprenticeships, and educational partnerships.

Economic Development Committee – Led by Cynthia Greb, Executive Director, St. Mary's County Economic Development, champions infrastructure and innovation to sustain Southern Maryland's economic growth.

Membership Committee – Chaired by Glen Ives (Castellum), focuses on member engagement, board development, and succession planning to strengthen our alliance for the long term.

From Structure to Impact

Our revitalized committee structure is more than an organizational change—it's a catalyst for action. Through these committees, SMNA has delivered tangible results that matter to both the Navy and Southern Maryland. Over the years, we've championed policies and secured funding that protect and enhance the Navy's mission at NAS Patuxent River. From advocating for critical naval aviation capabilities like the F/A-XX and expanding the Aircraft Prototype Facility, to increasing capacity for electromagnetic testing at NAWCAD, SMNA has been at the forefront of ensuring readiness and innovation for U.S. Naval Aviation.

Beyond the base, our efforts have strengthened the region's economy. We successfully pushed for R&D tax relief and reductions in business-to-business taxes, making Southern Maryland more competitive for defense and technology investment. Through initiatives like SoMD2030, we've built a robust talent pipeline, connecting students to paid internships and apprenticeships that prepare the next generation of engineers and innovators. These achievements underscore the power of collaboration—and they happen because of engaged members who share our vision.

Why Membership Matters

Membership in SMNA is more than affiliation—it's an opportunity to shape the future. By joining, you:

- Gain a voice in critical policy and infrastructure decisions.
- Network with leaders from DoD, industry, and academia.
- Contribute to initiatives that strengthen our workforce and regional economy.

Your involvement amplifies our collective impact. Together, we can advocate for the Navy mission, drive innovation, and secure a prosperous future for Southern Maryland.

JOIN US

We invite you to become part of this dynamic alliance. Your expertise and commitment can help us achieve our shared vision. Visit page 32 or contact us directly to learn more about how you can make a difference.

FY25 Membership Meeting Speakers

Tom Rudowsky, Deputy Commander, NAVAIR

Stephen E. Cricchi, Executive Director, NAWCAD

Ricardo Benn – Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce

Stephen Rice, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce

Debra Salamon, Executive Director, Digital Analytics, Infrastructure & Technology Advancement Group (DaiTA) & Mission Systems Group (MSG), NAWCAD

Capt. Matt Farr, USN, Military Director NAWCAD WOLF

Christa Rodewald-Franz, Director, NAWCAD AIRWorks

Derek Greer, Head, NAWCAD Integrated Battlespace Simulation and Test Department

Jeff Guarno, NAWCAD Contracts, Deputy Director, PEO(T) Tactical Aircraft NAVAIR Procurement Group

Dr. Josh Grossman, NAWCAD SME for Quantum Technologies

Matt Scassero, Director, Operations and Outreach, A. James Clark School of Engineering at University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland

David Ross, President, Atlantic Realty Companies

Government Relations Committee Report

By George Franz, Government Relations Committee Chair

Overview

The Government Relations Committee, in partnership with The Roosevelt Group, had a busy year advancing the Alliance's mission to protect and enhance naval aviation while strengthening Southern Maryland's defense driven economic base. The Committee engaged extensively with naval aviation leaders and stakeholders to identify and champion issues critical to NAS Patuxent River, NAVAIR, NAWCAD, and the broader Patuxent River Complex. It also supported regional workforce development initiatives and deepened engagement with state and local government leaders to reinforce Southern Maryland's position as a premier technical center of excellence for naval aviation and national defense innovation.

Legislative and Policy Engagement

The Committee prepared a targeted slate of priorities for inclusion in FY26 defense legislation to sustain and grow core missions across the Patuxent River Complex. These priorities encompassed key naval aviation capabilities alongside critical infrastructure, modernization, and workforce development requirements needed to maintain the installation's operational relevance and regional economic impact.

Although FY26 appropriations and defense authorization measures are not yet finalized, the Committee worked to secure favorable provisions, including House passed NDAA language that raises the Laboratory Revitalization Program authority to $20 million and establishes a mechanism for future increases. This enhanced authority directly supports modernization of laboratory infrastructure critical to NAVAIR and NAWCAD missions.

The Committee also kept Alliance members informed about the new administration's acquisition and government reform proposals, the historic federal government shutdown, and the year long continuing resolution funding the Department of Defense. It emphasized the risks and impacts that such instability and prolonged funding uncertainty pose to naval aviation missions and to Southern Maryland's federally dependent regional economy.

Congressional and Stakeholder Outreach

In March 2025, the Committee organized the annual congressional fly in for Committee members and Alliance leadership with the Maryland Congressional Delegation. Participants met with Senator Chris Van Hollen and staff from the offices of Representative Steny Hoyer, Representative Sarah Elfreth, and Senator Angela Alsobrooks to present the Alliance's FY26 legislative requests and reinforce the value of Southern Maryland and Patuxent River as an indispensable national asset.

These engagements advanced the Committee's charter by sustaining regular, transparent communication with federal partners and cultivating durable political relationships while supporting business development in the region.

Support for Core Naval Aviation Programs

A central focus for the future of NAS Patuxent River, NAVAIR, and NAWCAD was advocacy for the Navy's sixth generation F/A XX fighter program as a cornerstone of next generation naval aviation capability and a key driver of long term workforce stability and facility modernization at NAS Patuxent River.

Working closely with the Maryland Congressional Delegation—particularly Representative Sarah Elfreth on the House Armed Services Committee—and in partnership with Representative Jen Kiggans, the Alliance helped underscore the importance of fully funding F/A XX and retaining key program activities at NAS Patuxent River, successfully strengthening the resolve of Congress to resist efforts to cut or redirect funding. Maintaining robust support for F/A XX will remain a top Committee priority going forward.

Business Climate and R&D Expense

Following two years of engagement with congressional staff to build support for a legislative fix, the Committee

helped secure a significant policy win for Alliance members through Section 174A of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which permanently restores immediate expensing of domestic research and experimental expenditures beginning in tax year 2025 and beyond. This change strengthens the business environment for firms conducting research and development in support of Department of Defense innovation priorities and reinforces the Alliance's objective to grow high end technical and engineering jobs in Southern Maryland.

Advancing SMNA Objectives and Next Steps

The dynamics of 2025—both political and related to acquisition reform—are expected to persist into 2026, making sustained engagement essential for the Alliance and its members. Looking ahead, the Committee will continue proactive collaboration with senior defense leaders, the Maryland Congressional Delegation, and state and local officials to advocate for issues critical to naval aviation and the region's Navy installations, while promoting Southern Maryland as a premier technical center of excellence.

The Committee will also endeavor to keep Alliance members informed of key governmental issues affecting their organizations, including legislation, regulatory changes, and budget actions that influence defense programs, contracting, and workforce stability in the region. The Government Relations Committee remains as active and busy as ever in support of the Alliance and naval aviation.

Dr. Dale Moore and Jim Bolin met with US Senator Chris Van Hollen during the annual fly in where Alliance members meet with the Maryland Congressional Delegation

Economic and Workforce Development

Southern Maryland Has All the Pieces

A robust talent pipeline is the backbone of sustainable, prosperous economic development and is a vitally important focus area for all three counties across Southern Maryland. The Economic Development Offices across the region play an integral role in ensuring that businesses have the support and resources that they need to meet their ever-changing workforce needs.

Workforce development is a focus area in each jurisdiction's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Calvert and St. Mary's County identify talent pipeline enhancement as an opportunity for collaboration, strategic planning, and targeted department efforts and Charles County will have workforce and talent pipeline development as part of its new Economic Development Strategic Plan set for release in 2026.

To help support the execution of these strategies, the three counties have come together with support from the Navy to execute a Regional Comprehensive Workforce Study. The results of this study will identify:

- High-demand skill areas,
- Current and future labor gaps (5–10 years), and
- Strategies to recruit, train, and retain talent for critical employers, including the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) and Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division (NSWC IHD).

The workforce study will be done in partnership with Towson University's Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI) and will help to build on the existing foundation for collaborative efforts in support of businesses across the region.

When businesses across similar industries share consistent challenges, that is the signal for Economic Development offices to mobilize and begin coordination with partners to proactively address the challenges head-on. As a result of ongoing business retention and expansion activities, St. Mary's County Economic Development identified consistent challenges from businesses and led a regional effort to address immediate barriers impacting the

Manufacturing Day at Platform AeroSpace with students from Forrest Technology Center

Manufacturing Day at the College of Southern Maryland Velocity Center, located in Indian Head, just outside of the Naval Surface Warfare Center

manufacturing industry, along with the formation of a regional Manufacturing Consortium of businesses. The consortium includes businesses from across Southern Maryland, such as Platform Aerospace, Coherent Technical Services Inc. (CTSi), and MTech, among others. In partnership with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, the region was awarded an EARN Grant from the State of Maryland to provide funding of over $100,000 for manufacturing companies to upskill their existing workforce. This grant has already provided over 60 individuals in the workforce with training and certifications and will open the door for follow-on funding that can help train the next generation of the manufacturing workforce.

Spanning from local high school students to post-secondary education at the College of Southern Maryland, USMSM, and UMD to graduate degree opportunities – it is crucial to ensure that the education and training being provided by local and regional institutions is meeting the needs of industry. The Economic Development offices work hand-in-hand with all the educational entities in the region to ensure that programs are aligned with the evolving needs of businesses.

All three counties partner with their local public-school systems on workforce and career initiatives, including internships, apprenticeships, and tours through their Career & Technical Education programs. Engagement with high school students happens in a variety of ways – Calvert County's Economic Development team supports the High School Future Business Leaders of America Job Expo while St. Mary's County's Economic Development office coordinates tours for students from the Dr. James A. Forrest Career & Technology Center of local manufacturers each year in October on Manufacturing Day. In 2024,

Continued next page

SPARK Career Fair at USMSM

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students were given facility tours at J.F. Taylor, Platform Aerospace, TRITON Defense, and Parraid and there will be over 140 students from across five manufacturing programs that are provided hands-on facility tours of manufacturing facilities.

All three counties are engaged with the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) to identify areas of opportunity to advance CSM's support of industry. CSM is exploring the launch of an Aircraft Maintenance Technician (AMT) program, representatives from each Economic Development office have helped to coordinate industry participation and are engaged in ongoing discussions. Ensuring not only that the right industry voices are in the room but also for the ability to provide feedback and keep stakeholders and partners informed on the progress of the AMT training program.

Another vital piece of workforce development is strong talent retention; young professionals' groups across the region play an important role in doing just that. The St. Mary's Young Professionals networking group hosts 8-10 events each year to help young professionals explore locations that showcase the area's great quality of life, such as Xella Winery & Above Par Golf & Entertainment, while meeting other individuals across a variety of industries. There are over 600 young professionals in the group who work across 150 different businesses. The Young Professionals Network of Southern Maryland in Calvert County and the Young Professionals Group in Charles County coordinate similar events. Both groups partner with their respective Chamber of Commerce and local employers to provide networking and leadership development opportunities, helping companies across the region grow and retain their existing workforce.

There are many local, regional, and state-wide partners and initiatives that help support the Southern Maryland Ecosystem. Initiatives like Southern Maryland 2030 through collaborative efforts of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance & The Patuxent Partnership (TPP); SPARK! Career Fair & TechJobs Rule through TPP; St. Mary's College of Maryland; University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland; University of Maryland SMART MATRIX Lab; Workforce Center at CSM; the Velocity Center at Indian Head; the Western Charles County Technology Corridor; and so many others.

The Economic Development offices across the region are eager to help support and partner across all industries to help foster a robust and impactful workforce development pipeline to ensure that all companies have the opportunity to grow and expand right here in Southern Maryland.

Julie Oberg, Director | Calvert County Department of Economic Development

Jim Chandler, Director | Charles County Economic Development Department

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

CALVERT COUNTY Maryland Economic Development

Charles CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

st mary's county take flight

MATRIX Lab Director of Test and Evaluation of Autonomous Systems Dr. Donald "Bucket" Costello reviews autonomous aerial refueling project with his grad students

The University of Maryland MATRIX Lab

By Lauren Bacon, Communications Coordinator, A. James Clark School of Engineering, UMD

The University of Maryland (UMD) MATRIX Lab is diving deeper into its focus on autonomous technologies and uncrewed systems research through new programs, events, lab spaces, and staffing. "Our primary mission is to provide impactful and exciting research and educational opportunities for our students, researchers, and colleagues in the region and nation to work with us collaboratively on all aspects of Autonomy and Autonomous Systems," said Dr. Reza Ghodssi, Inaugural Executive Director of Research and Innovation of the MATRIX Lab and a UMD Distinguished University Professor.

The lab has just announced the winners of the UMD Clark School of Engineering's FY26 seed grant program, which was open to all UMD faculty. These projects will spark new collaborations and innovative projects at UMD and the MATRIX Lab. Dr. Cecilia Huertas Cerdeira (UMD) and Dr. Miao Yu (UMD) will be collaborating with Dr. Wei-Kuo Yen on an underwater sensor for detecting objects in murky waters, offering safer, cheaper alternatives to crewed ocean exploration. Dr. Pratap Tokekar (UMD) and Dr. Michael Otte (UMD) will be collaborating with Dr. Donald "Bucket" Costello (MATRIX) on enabling unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to land autonomously on moving ships. The research supports the Navy's UAS expansion and provides a more cost-effective and less risky alternative to crewed aviation.

Dr. Costello, who serves as the lab's Director of Test and Evaluation of Autonomous Systems, will also be focusing on efforts to expand and advance the Development, Test & Evaluation, Verification & Validation (DTEVV) of autonomous systems. He is organizing a DTEVV Workshop that will be held November 18-19, 2025. The event will bring together T&E and autonomous systems professionals from the United States government, academia, and industry to map priority research and workforce needs.

Other efforts to enhance autonomy education and research include the opening of the Advanced Manufacturing Lab (AML) in the USMSM SMART Building, led by Dr. Justin

Stine, the lab's Director of Remote Sensing and Microsystems. The space, located in the Project Assembly Area, allows for advanced microelectronics devices and systems fabrication using 'cleanroom-free' methodologies and is specially designed to integrate sensors and devices with autonomous systems. The space can be reserved for use and benefits students, researchers in academia, government, and industry, as well as any organization interested in prototyping.

College of Southern Maryland undergraduate student Skye Blado works in the MATRIX's Advanced Manufacturing Lab

Events

The MATRIX Lab hosted part of a Congressional visit to Southern Maryland by U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen and U.S. Representatives Steny Hoyer and Sarah Elfreth. On May 19, 2025, the members of Congress toured the SMART Building and MATRIX Lab to learn about the initiative to teach students in-demand skills to strengthen the region's workforce and its economy.

As part of its commitment to explore the most pressing issues surrounding autonomous systems and artificial intelligence, the MATRIX Lab brought together leaders, experts, and professionals at its inaugural Autonomy Summit on November 14, 2024. The event gathered leaders to discuss trust, workforce readiness, and accelerating autonomous technologies.

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Senator Van Hollen and Congresswoman Elfreth learn about the University of Maryland's ingestible capsule technology (foreground); Congressman Hoyer talks to MATRIX leadership (background)

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People

The MATRIX Lab is growing its leadership team. Dr. Jamison Watson now serves as the MATRIX Lab's inaugural Assistant Director for Research Development.

MATRIX Lab inaugural Assistant Director for Research Development Dr. Jamison Watson

Dr. Watson is a multi-domain researcher with a background in science policy and interagency collaboration. In his role at the MATRIX Lab, he'll be responsible for ensuring that the lab's work addresses real-world challenges like safely accelerating technology test and evaluation and closing the gap between classroom learning and real-world work.

The position was created so the lab could continue its focus on building impactful research, education, and economic development partnerships after former Director of Operations and Outreach, Matt Scassero, announced his retirement. To celebrate Matt's next chapter, the lab hosted a retirement celebration for Matt on June 11, 2025. The event featured thoughtful speeches and gifts from those who knew Matt at various points in his career. Matt also spoke for himself, giving shout-outs to those he's worked with and thanking his family for standing by him.

Standing ovation after Matt Scassero's retirement speech

A. James Clark School of Engineering

Follow us! Twitter: @MatrixUmd
LinkedIn: UMD MATRIX Lab

For more information about the MATRIX Lab, visit matrix.umd.edu

To solidify its connection with UMD's College Park campus, the MATRIX Lab has brought on 16 UMD professors as affiliate faculty members, the newest being Dr. Danilo Romero, a senior lecturer in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering. The group will collaborate with the MATRIX Lab team and take advantage of the SMART Building's facilities for research and experiments. They will also organize and lead events, including short courses and Evening@SMART presentations.

To strengthen its external connections, the lab has created an Industry Advisory Board (IAB). This diverse group, which covers several sectors, will help establish industry partnerships and guide research, as well as ensure that the MATRIX Lab's research and workforce meet the needs of industry. On July 31 and August 1, 2025, the IAB members visited both the College Park campus and the lab. They discussed the future of autonomous systems, toured select research laboratories and state-of-the-art facilities, met the graduate and undergraduate students working in the spaces, and learned about their research.

The MATRIX Lab will continue to advance research, provide educational opportunities, and connect with the Southern Maryland community. If you're interested in connecting with the team or reserving a lab space, email matrix@umd.edu.

University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland

By **Dale Nesbary, Ph.D., Interim Executive Director**

The University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) is a dynamic regional education partner that delivers comprehensive academic and professional development programs at the advanced undergraduate and graduate levels. USMSM prepares knowledge workers in fields such as technology, education, management, health, and related professions. Its robust portfolio of academic offerings is designed to meet regional workforce needs, serving not only the Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS Pax River)—including military personnel, civil servants, and defense contractors—but also professionals in business, technology, government, education, social services, nursing, and law enforcement.

USMSM offers an extensive range of research opportunities along with bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs across a wide variety of disciplines. Academic offerings include Autonomous Vehicle Technologies, Mechanical, Electrical, and Civil Engineering, Nursing, Technology, Business Administration, Management Studies, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Sports Management, Teacher Education, Management Information Systems, Public Administration, and more. The following institutions deliver academic programming on the USMSM campus:

- **The College of Southern Maryland (community college partner)**
- **Bowie State University**
- **Coppin State University**
- **Salisbury University**
- **Towson University**
- **University of Maryland College Park**
- **University of Maryland Global Campus**

USMSM was founded in 1996 as the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (SMHEC) to address the graduate-level workforce needs of Naval Air Station Patuxent River. As regional demand for bachelor's-prepared professionals increased, in 2019 the University System of Maryland merged with SMHEC and committed to expanding undergraduate degree-completion programs in partnership with the College of Southern Maryland and USMSM's university partners. Workforce needs have evolved significantly over time—for example, the current demand for educators with special education credentials and for professionals in cybersecurity and software development was not yet evident in 1996. USMSM's unique flexibility to launch high-demand programs and sunset those no longer needed ensures that education remains relevant and responsive to the Southern Maryland community.

Most engineering and technology programs are delivered on campus in the Maryland Autonomous Technologies Research, Innovation, and Exploration (MATRIX) Lab, the University of Maryland, College Park's hub for autonomous technologies and uncrewed systems research in Southern Maryland. MATRIX lab spaces are available for reservation by both students and working professionals and serve as a national asset accessible to partners and the broader public.

Another on-campus partner is the Southern Maryland Campus of the Kennedy Krieger School (KKS). Kennedy Krieger in Southern Maryland serves students in grades K–8 who are working toward a high school diploma, as well as students ages 5–21 pursuing a certificate of completion. KKS is a nonpublic special education day program and a unit of the internationally renowned Kennedy Krieger Institute.

Since opening in fall 1995, USMSM has delivered 5,125 courses with 50,100 total class enrollments through June 30, 2025 (FY 2025). This record reflects nearly three decades of productivity and underscores USMSM's significant contribution to Southern Maryland's development as a knowledge-based workforce region.

By the end of FY25, 3,610 residents of Southern Maryland earned degrees or certificates based on coursework completed through academic programs offered at USMSM. These credentials include:

- **2,560 master's degrees**
- **910 baccalaureate degrees**
- **160 graduate certificates**

We at USMSM say that as a learner, you may Stay Close and Go Far. We provide In-demand education at an affordable cost to help you get there. Please stop by campus, visit us online, or on social media for more information.

Impacting Maryland's Defense Ecosystem

By Amy O'Donnell
Program Director, Navy and USCG
Maryland Office of Military and
Federal Affairs (OMFA)

There is no question that the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) continues to be a powerhouse of advocacy for St. Mary's and the Southern Maryland defense community. But did you know that SMNA's impact is felt at the Maryland state level?

SMNA, one of the oldest of the seven Maryland Military Alliances (some say the oldest), has established itself over these years as the VOICE of SOUTHERN MARYLAND. While all SMNA members are volunteers, they donate countless hours and energies towards the Navy installation and its needs. SMNA is no stranger to our federal, state, and county officials. They press the Department of Defense and the Department of the Navy leadership on your priority topics. All of this is focused on benefitting our warfighters with Southern Maryland contributions.

James Bolin (left) representing Southern Maryland on the Aerospace/Maryland Military Alliances panel

My name is Amy O'Donnell, and I am your Navy Program Director in the Maryland Office of Military and Federal Affairs (OMFA). In this role, with the other OMFA members, we engage in and support all seven Military Alliances as well as the fourteen major DoD installations located in Maryland. I have the privilege of working closely with SMNA, as well as the Pax River installation and tenant commands. Take it from me, SMNA does not just impact locally but across the state. Your members can be found in many Maryland cross-cutting efforts, sharing their deep knowledge and advocacy on issues. They are focused on improving for all the state and DoD missions/technologies. For example, three current SMNA board members volunteered their time to participate in key roles at the Maryland Defense Forum held June 17-18 at the BWI Hilton Conference Facility. Another example is Dr. Dale Moore, not only your SMNA President, was appointed to Chair the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission to assure that the Southern Maryland capabilities are represented, integrated and shared with the Governor and his senior staff.

Dr. Dale Moore and Matt Scassero representing Southern Maryland on the Aerospace/Maryland Military Alliances panel PNT panel

There are many other examples I could share from this past year, but what I want you to understand is that your SMNA is not just a local entity but an asset for improvement for the entire state. They are assuring, with my office, that decision makers know the Southern Maryland mission, capabilities, and needs. They are working hard on your behalf and on behalf of the state. I encourage you to stand up with them, and support and aid them. SMNA is a continued treasure in Southern Maryland and in the state.

The Future is Now at UAS Research and Operations Center

By Robert A. Herschbach, PhD, Communications Manager, A. James Clark School of Engineering

Maryland is taking proactive steps to harness the economic potential of drone tech—and a UMD center based out of Southern Maryland is at the leading edge of those efforts.

Excited about cutting-edge drone tech? You'll find it being developed right here in Southern Maryland.

Working out of a hangar at St. Mary's County Regional Airport, the University of Maryland's (UMD) UAS Research and Operations Center is helping to pioneer transformative technologies that will improve quality of life and bring economic benefits. Its core mission is to advance UAS applications while ensuring innovation is done the right way—safely and reliably.

During 2025, the UROC team contributed to progress in airspace integration, piloted the use of drones to deliver medicines and supplies to remote areas, experimented with a highly autonomous robotic medical triage system, and continued to recruit and train the next generation of UAS operators through educational programs, including summer internships.

Integrating UAS Safely into Maryland Airspace

UROC continues to make progress in developing the Chesapeake UAS Route Network, which aims to ease the integration of drones of all sizes into the National Airspace System over Maryland, opening the door for economic development opportunities and new kinds of public services. Using funds allocated by a State of Maryland Department of Commerce grant, UROC is drawing up a roadmap for the endeavor, while acquiring, developing, and operating critical systems, including drones, radar, and other equipment. Along with supporting a strategy to introduce long-range drones into Maryland's skies for commercial and public purposes, CURN will create a unique, state-of-the-art St. Mary's County-based mobile laboratory for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) testing. A planned series of flight tests during the year, with Chesapeake Bay as the primary operating area, will employ these assets and teams with the Navy to let UROC conduct unprecedented civil BVLOS operations in Maryland's complex airspace.

UROC Director John Slaughter joined state leaders in January to launch the Maryland Advanced Air Mobility Council, chartered by Governor Wes Moore, to make recommendations for establishing a preeminent role for Maryland in advanced aviation and to chart a path to implementing these technologies for the state's economic benefit and the public good

Medical Deliveries to Remote Areas and a New Advanced Air Mobility Council

As advanced aviation technology picks up momentum, the State of Maryland has been taking proactive steps to maximize the benefits for Marylanders, including drone-based services for residents who lack mobility.

In October 2024, Maryland Governor Wes Moore announced a federally funded pilot program that explores the use of drones to conduct medical deliveries to communities hindered by transportation barriers, including Smith Island and parts of the Eastern Shore. UROC wrote the proposal and is managing the effort for Maryland's Department of Planning, the federal grant recipient. Team members include TidalHealth, a health care provider based in the lower Eastern Shore, the University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and a drone services provider DroneUp.

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Advanced aviation technologies from small UAS to passenger-carrying electric air taxis are around the corner. To chart a path to smoothly adopt them for economic development and the public good, Governor Moore established the Maryland Advanced Air Mobility Council (MAAMC) in January. UROC Director John Slaughter is a member of the council, which evolved from a recommendation in a white paper he drew up in 2023. An executive order tasked the body with delivering recommendations to guide the maximization of the positive economic and public service impact of the emerging aviation technologies while ensuring safety and an informed public.

Summer Internship Program

Each year, UROC runs a unique summer internship program intended for students with research ideas involving drones. Working out of the UROC hangar at St. Mary's County Regional Airport, the students spend ten weeks transforming novel ideas into reality with the help of experienced pilots and engineers at the center. During the summer of 2025, returning intern Ben Falco continued to perfect an interceptor drone that can be used to counter rogue or adversarial UAS. Intern Steven Kuo optimized a "tailsitter" drone that combines rotor-powered and fixed-wing flight, allowing for maximum efficiency.

The UROC team is participating in the DARPA Triage Challenge, which aims to advance new technologies to improve rapid medical response in mass casualty incidents

Kuo is part of UMD's Autonomous Micro Air Vehicle Team, which has previously used the tailsitter in an annual Design, Build, and Fly competition run by the Vertical Flight Society. With UROC project engineer Josh Gaus serving as the team's advisor, the team receives the benefit of UROC expertise throughout the competition season. Improvements made during this internship will result in an even more competitive UAS next year.

Mass-Casualty Triage Using Drones and Ground Robots

Lives could potentially be saved in mass casualty situations, such as plane crashes, terrorist attacks, or battlefield scenarios, if drones and ground robots are able to assist overtaxed human response teams. Helping to bring this approach to fruition, UROC personnel have been integral to a UMD team, RoboScout, during the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Triage Challenge, a competitive event in which teams develop autonomy-based triage systems and test them in simulated scenarios.

Under the guidance of Principal Investigator (PI) Derek Paley—the Willis H. Young professor of aerospace engineering education at UMD—and co-PI Josh Gaus, UROC project engineer, the UMD team developed a robotic system-of-systems including UROC custom UAS and Boston Dynamics SPOT ground robots. The ambitious effort involves highly autonomous robots working together to rapidly locate and assess the conditions of victims to prioritize response by human medics. RoboScout garnered a top ranking during the first year's Challenge event in 2024 and is in the final stages of preparing to compete in the year two Challenge event later this fall.

The UROC team is hard at work engineering, designing, and launching field tests for the CURN, featuring a state-of-the-art mobile operations center for controlling flights and maintaining airspace awareness to minimize the risk of air-to-air mishaps

Growing Roles for UROC

UROC continues to cement its reputation within the UAS community and to expand its role in the state. Its primary purpose remains the use of UAS and ancillary technologies supporting research and education; aiding public and private entities in accomplishing research-focused projects; and executing grant-funded projects benefiting the state, such as CURN and the SMART medical delivery project. As its capabilities expand, it is moving into new arenas, from precision agriculture to serving as a disaster relief resource. UROC will continue to advance the state of UAS technology while contributing to the public good and economic development locally and across Maryland at large.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
UAS TEST SITE

Learn more about the University of Maryland UAS and Research Operations Center at:

uroc.umd.edu

Strengthening Southern Maryland's Workforce Through Education and Innovation

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) offers high-quality, hands-on educational pathways for in-demand careers and works across the region to ensure training aligns with evolving workforce needs. Guided by its Built for Success strategic plan and its pillars of access, momentum, and mobility, CSM continues to advance initiatives that directly strengthen the talent pipeline supporting Southern Maryland's defense, aerospace, cyber, and technology sectors.

Ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of CSM's Cyber Range at the Leonardtown Campus, May 2025

In May 2025, CSM opened a cyber range within the Barbara Ives Cyber Lab on the Leonardtown Campus. Developed through Maryland's Cyber Workforce Accelerator program, the range simulates real-world cyber-attacks and allows students to respond to threats and demonstrate defense strategies in a live training environment. The cyber range supports both degree-seeking students and participants in Workforce Development programs pursuing industry-recognized credentials.

As part of Maryland's Workforce Development initiative, CSM also launched the SOC Operations Analyst I (SOCOA I) program in collaboration with BCR Cyber and 15 community colleges. Delivered fully online, the program provides a flexible entry point for working adults, career changers, and students statewide preparing for entry-level cybersecurity roles in Security Operations Centers. Early results show strong momentum, with 122 individuals expressing interest, 50 applications submitted, 26 students accepted, 17 completing coursework, and 14 earning the SOCOA I industry credential.

Significant progress was also made in aviation workforce development. CSM established a new associate degree program in Aviation Maintenance Technology, the first of its kind in Maryland, to create a pathway to high wage, high skill careers and meet regional workforce needs. The Maryland Higher Education Commission has approved the associate degree, which includes the full sequence of coursework required for the FAA Part 147 Airframe and Powerplant pathways. In addition to embedding these pathways within the degree, CSM has submitted separate proposals to offer the Airframe and Powerplant options as standalone certificate programs, with approval expected in spring 2026. Developed in collaboration with regional industry experts, the program will offer hands-on training in advanced technologies and aircraft systems and is expected to launch in Fall 2027 or 2028.

Engineering education and transfer pathways remain central to CSM's workforce mission. This year's Night of Engineering drew more than 130 Southern Maryland students exploring engineering pathways that begin with associate of science

More than 130 Southern Maryland students attend CSM's Night of Engineering at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland SMART Building in California, MD

Participants engage in hands-on activities during the Art of Innovation STEAM Festival at CSM's Velocity Center in Indian Head

degrees in mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering at CSM and continue through four-year programs at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland. Students also learn about internship and employment opportunities with the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, aligning academic preparation with regional workforce needs.

CSM also continues to cultivate early interest in STEM fields. The college hosted 35 middle and high school teams at the Southern Maryland VEX V5 Robotics Tournament, where students designed, built, and competed with advanced robotics systems. CSM students, faculty, and staff served as judges, referees, and competition hosts, reinforcing the college's commitment to STEM education from early exposure through advanced technical training.

In addition, events such as the Art of Innovation STEAM Festival at the Velocity Center invite families and learners of all ages to engage in hands-on demonstrations, interactive exhibits, and creative challenges. These programs strengthen community engagement, spark early interest in technical careers, and help sustain a workforce pipeline aligned with the region's long-term economic and defense priorities.

COLLEGE *of*
SOUTHERN
MARYLAND

To learn more about College of Southern Maryland, visit **csmd.edu.**

Annual Membership Dinner

This year's SMNA Annual Dinner was a resounding success with over 200 attendees coming together to share insights and perspectives as well as reflect on our many past accomplishments and set our sights on the future. Our theme this year was "Innovating Today – Defending Our Tomorrow" as we continue to drive the changes and transformations we need to lead and thrive. We acknowledged our sponsors and also expressed our sincere thanks to all our members who support our vital work every day. The event focused on how we can best enable our Southern Maryland Innovation Ecosystem with a vision toward being recognized as "the most collaborative technology, education, defense, economic and workforce development community in the nation!" Our presentation provided a synopsis of our strategic context, highlighting threats, challenges, and opportunities as well as key points made by our Navy leadership supporting naval aviation, including their strong support for the 6th Generation F/A-XX.

Special Thanks to Our 2025 Dinner Sponsors

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St. Mary's County Economic Development

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 (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025)

Executive Members

Senior Members

Associate Members

Contributor Members

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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

Maryland Department of Commerce

St. Mary's County Government

Calvert County Government

Acknowledgements

Special appreciation also goes to the following:

Senator Chris Van Hollen

Congressman Steny Hoyer

Congresswomen Sarah Elfreth

State Senator Jack Bailey

Delegate Todd B. Morgan

Delegate Matt Morgan

Delegate Brian Crosby

Roderick Lewis

Nichelle Schoultz

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Maryland Department of Commerce

Tri-County Council

St. Mary's County Commissioners

St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development

Calvert County Department of Economic Development

Naval Air Station Patuxent River

Naval Air Warfare Center – Aircraft Division

Naval Air Systems Command

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

The Patuxent Partnership

College of Southern Maryland

St. Mary's College of Maryland

University Systems of Maryland – Southern Maryland

University of Maryland

St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce

Leadership Southern Maryland

The Roosevelt Group

Precise Systems Inc.

Castellum

DCS Corporation

Booz Allen

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SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

Innovating Today — Defending Our Tomorrow

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 members 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 at our events and in our 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 lawmakers 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.

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

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

navyalliance.org