

Hi, I'm Tom Garrison, president of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance.

Since 1992, the Alliance has supported its regional DoD community., originally established to help survive BRAC proceedings. Today, we work in partnership with the **US Naval Air Systems Command**, and the **Naval Air Warfare Center- Aircraft Division**, aboard Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

When you visit Southern Maryland and NAS Pax River, you arrive at the busiest flight test center ***in the world***, with 33,000 employees, and a \$6.3B dollar annual impact to our state. Leveraging the most sophisticated simulation environment anywhere, we are supporting the manned & autonomous aviation industries, at the highest technical standard. Our diversified aerospace sector supports your Navy, as well as providing solutions for NASA, SpaceX, Space Force, and others.

You'll also see the **AeroPark** Innovation District, home of the University of Maryland's UAS Research & Ops Center (UROC). AeroPark is also home to the Southern Maryland Autonomous Research & Technology facility (SMART), an \$86 million, 84,000-square foot academic research site, and most recently, the MATRIX Lab, an unmatched autonomous systems research site.

Considering these resources, Southern Maryland must be part of conversations to update a strategic plan for the promotion of space, aeronautics, and aviation economic development in the State of Maryland.

We respectfully request that representation from Southern Maryland be **included on the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission. We nominate for Commission service, the **President of the Southern MD Navy Alliance and the CO, Patuxent River.****

If excluded from Maryland's Aerospace & Technology Zone, Southern MD's public and private sector entities will face competitive disadvantages, just when *premier cooperation* is the preferred and critical outcome.

Please give a favorable report **on SB516**, recommending **amendments to include two Southern MD representatives on the new commission**, to represent, support, and promote **ALL** of Maryland's aerospace stakeholders.