

# PAXCON 2023 NAVY TEST AIRCRAFT



**SOUTHERN MARYLAND SCALE MODELERS**

DECALS PRINTED BY 

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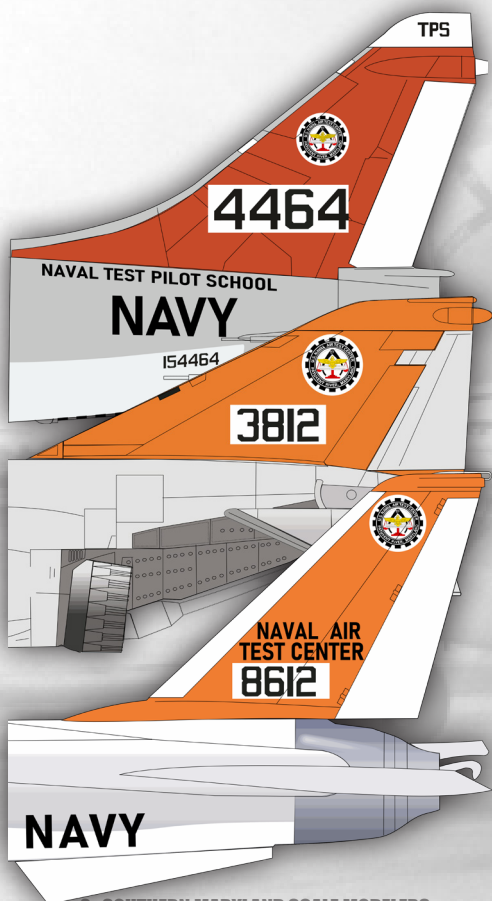
## NAS Patuxent River

Naval Air Station Patuxent River, or “NAS Pax River”, located in St. Mary’s County, Maryland is home to Headquarters, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS), the Atlantic Test Range, and serves as a center for test and evaluation and systems development relating to U.S. Naval Aviation.

Commissioned on April 1, 1943, the air station grew rapidly in response to World War II and continued to evolve through the Cold War to the present.

## Squadron Logos and Tail Markings

*The following pages contain a few examples of aircraft that bore markings contained in this set of decals. These are a rough guide only, and you will need to complete your own research on full colours and other markings*



In 1945 the Test Pilot School was established, and on June 16, 1945, the Naval Air Test Center (NATC) was established as a separate entity, incorporating flight test and other test groups, at the Naval Air Station.

The base became a center for testing throughout the 1950s and 1960s with the establishment of several test divisions: Flight Test, the Weapons Systems Test Division, and the Service Test Division.

## U.S. Naval Air Test Centre

Established on June 16, 1945, the Naval Air Test Center was tasked with the evaluation of aircraft and aircraft systems for Navy operational applications. within six divisions: the Test Pilot School, Flight Test, Service Test, Weapons System Test, Computer Services, and Technical Support. NATC’s increased responsibility for development as well as pure testing was acknowledged as early as 1951. Rapidly advancing technology forced changes in test techniques and in the organizational structure.

A sweeping reorganization took place in 1975, preparing NATC for its role as the Naval Air Systems Command’s principal site for development testing. Under the plan, Flight Test, Service Test and Weapons Systems Test divisions were disestablished and new directorates were formed to evaluate aircraft by type and mission.

The “new” NATC was comprised of Strike Aircraft, Antisubmarine Aircraft, Rotary Wing Aircraft and Systems Engineering Test directorates.



## Flight Test

Flight Test Division is assigned the responsibility of evaluating experimental and new-production Navy aircraft, as well as modified versions of older aircraft, through an exhaustive technical investigation of ground, flight, and shipboard characteristics.

Another important task of Flight Test is to ascertain the new or modified airplanes' compatibility with flight support equipment such as catapults and arresting gear.

## Weapon Systems Test

The Weapons Systems Test Division was established in 1960 through the merger of two former divisions; Armament Test and Electronics Test. Concerned with the accuracy and effectiveness of aircraft fire power, the division tests every aviation ordnance item except guided missiles.

In large planes (P-2 Neptune, P-3 Orion, YEC-121K Warning Star), equipped as flying laboratories, electronic equipment is further tested. The division also tests and develops components for ground and ship navigational aids.

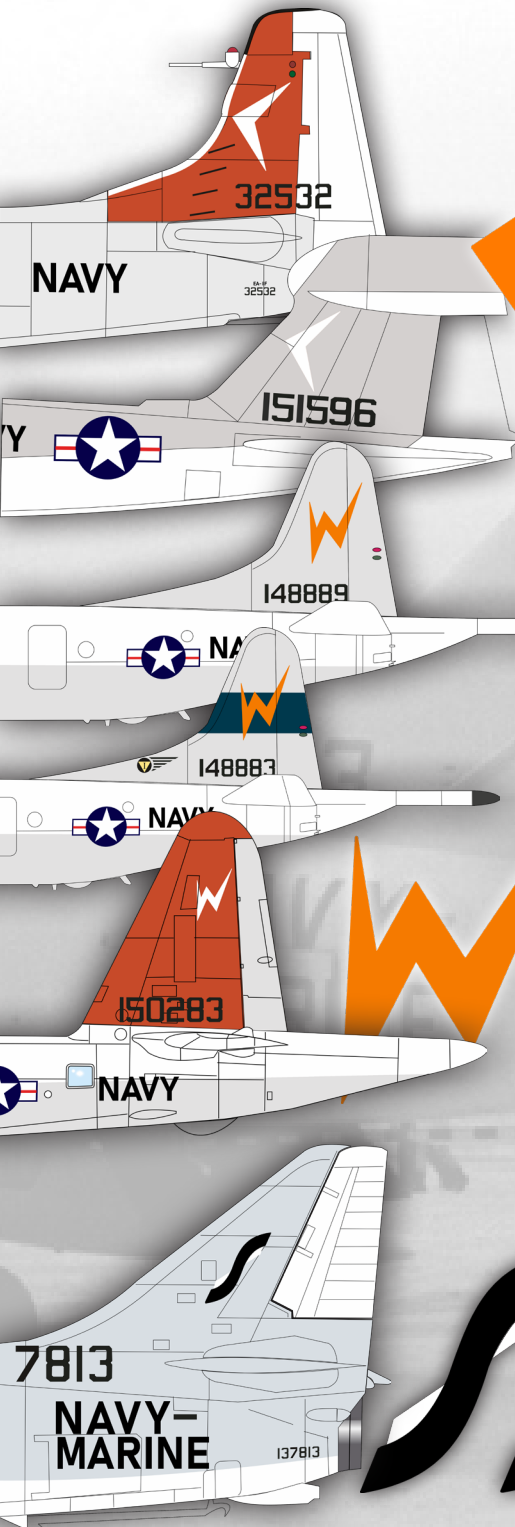
## Service Test

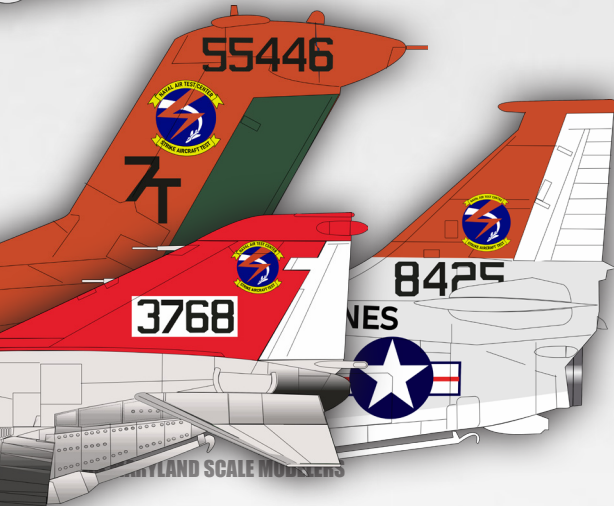
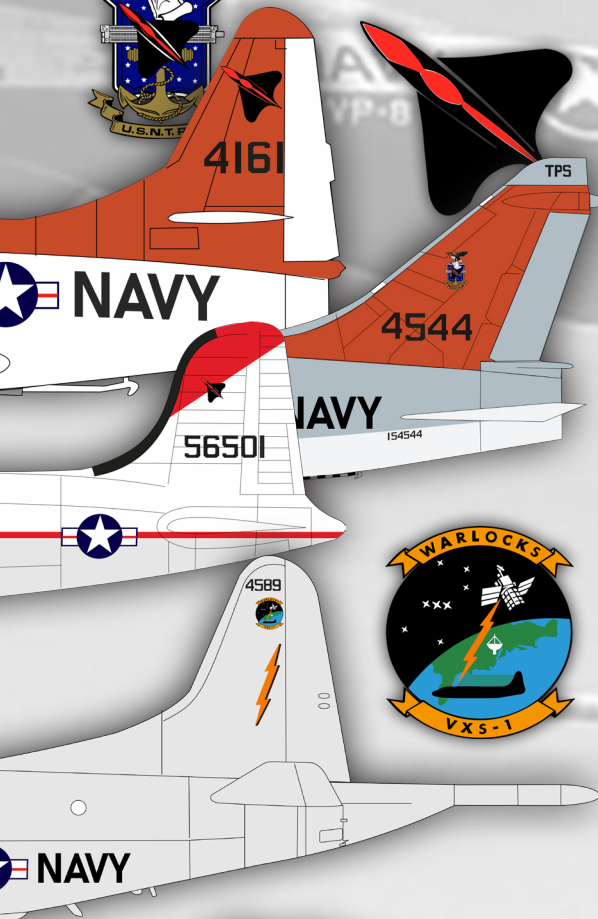
Service Test Divisions mission is to determine if a new or modified aircraft can be adequately serviced and maintained by Navy personnel.

Service Test Division does this by trying to wear an aircraft out, obtaining in the process vital information pertaining to the man-hour maintenance requirements and spare parts usage data.

Meticulous records are logged during each phase of aircraft testing, enabling the division to accomplish as much in a six-month period as in a normal (approximately two-year) service tour of flying.

An additional function of Service Test is a program especially designed to familiarize pilots and maintenance personnel with new types of Navy aircraft before the planes are delivered to the Fleet.





## United States Naval Test Pilot School

The school was established in 1945, when the Navy's Flight Test Group transferred from Naval Air Station Anacostia, Washington, DC to Naval Air Station Patuxent River and Test Pilot Training Division or TPT was established.

USNTPS is the primary test pilot school for U.S. Army aviators, as it is the only U.S. military test pilot school to offer instruction on rotary-wing aircraft.

They also operate an exchange program with the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School located at Edwards Air Force Base. Class 1 graduated on December 21, 1948. In 1957 the school's name was officially changed to the United States Naval Test Pilot School.

## Scientific Development Squadron One, (VXS-1 Warlocks)

Formerly known as Flight Support Detachment of the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), VXS-1 was established 13 December 2004

VXS-1 is a support squadron that conducts numerous single-aircraft deployments around the world in support of a wide range of airborne research projects for the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, United States Navy, U.S. Government, and its contracting agencies.

The squadron operates three uniquely configured NP-3C Orion turboprop research aircraft, a Beechcraft RC-12M Guardrail aircraft, and a De Havilland UV-18 (DHC-6) Twin Otter

## Naval Strike Aircraft Test Squadron

Established on 22 July 1995 and redesignated VX-23 on 1 May 2002. Naval Strike Aircraft Test has tested and evaluated fixed-wing fighter and attack aircraft including F-4, A-4, A-6, EA-6B, F-14, F/A-18 and T-45.

