

NEWS RELEASE

NAVAL AIR STATION, PATUXENT RIVER
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NAS Pax River Answers Counter-Unmanned Aerial System Jamming Operations (CUJO) Tower Frequently Asked Questions

NAS PATUXENT RIVER, Maryland – Following a Section 106 public meeting regarding the potential visual negative impact on a vista at Chencellors Point Park due to the construction of towers associated with the ongoing Counter-Unmanned Aerial System Jamming Operations (CUJO) program at Webster Field, NAS Patuxent River compiled a list of answers to questions citizens had that were outside the scope of the meeting subject.

Q1. What are the FAA tower lighting specifications of the proposed CUJO Towers?

A1.

- Light Source: (2) LED Arrays
- Lens Material: Fresnel Acrylic
- Base Material: Cast A356 Aluminum (Red)
- Power Requirements: 120 - 240 VAC, 50 - 60 Hz. 12, 24 or 48 VDC Power Consumption
- Part Number: AC/DC OL2CLED2 120 - 240 VAC 16.2 Watts
- LED Current: 0.12 Amps
- Operating Temperature Range: -67°F to 130°F (-55°C to 55°C)
- Effective Intensity (Night): 32.5 CD Minimum, Vertical Beam 10° Minimum
- Horizontal Coverage: 360°
- Wind Load: CAAA 0.5 ft²
- Dimensions:
 - Height- 7.5 in (19.05 cm)
 - Length- 10.75 in (27.31 cm)
 - Width- 5.25 in (13.31 cm)
 - Weight 4.87 lbs (2.09 kg)
- Hub Sizes: 0.75 in (1- or 1.25-inches with enlarger)

Q2. Can the downward shine be limited by placing a plate below the light?

A2. FAA regulations do not allow for any light obstructions as the lights are deemed critical to safe aircraft navigation.

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Q3. The public would like an overhead view of all towers in relation to Webster Field and the surrounding areas.

A3.



Q4. Site 4 is of concern as it impacts the view from personal property; can site 4 be relocated?

A4. Relocation of site 4 would not allow the Navy the capability to execute maritime testing and evaluation of Counter-UAS systems. Also, moving one tower causes all other towers to be moved to maintain the required geometry. Webster is very limited in locations for tower placement due to numerous issues with archeology, environmental, wetlands, historical impact, etc.

Q5. 5. What frequency would the Counter-UAS system use?

A5. Frequency ranges for this system cannot be shared at the unclassified level due to operational security. However, these frequencies have been in use on the station for this project for the last 2 years and have been HERO, HERF, and HERP safe.

Q6. What is DoD requirement for this project?

A6. DOD has a need to tune and deploy Counter-UAS systems at various service installations in order to maintain an appropriate security posture against unwanted/threatening UAS. This threat is not only of concern to our land-based installations but also to our afloat systems as well.

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Q7. Who is sponsoring this project?

A7. The Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Q9. Why does this have to be done at Webster Field? (On this one, we were told that Webster Field was the only facility with a maritime environment that satisfies the need. This is hard to believe – the Navy has T&E facilities on the water at several places in the country).

A9. Webster Field is uniquely positioned among DoD research installations as one with maritime environmental qualities specific to the testing and evaluation of this system and home of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Two Four (UX-24), the DoD's Test and Evaluation UAS squadron. Webster Field is also the optimal facility for such testing as it offers the land-based and maritime solution in such close proximity.

Q10. What is the schedule for building the towers?

A10. The goal is to have all towers up and operational by September 2022.

Q11. Where can I go if I have questions or concerns regarding air operations at Webster Field or NAS Patuxent River?

A11. Citizens can contact the NAS Patuxent River Noise Hotline at 1-866-819-9028 or paxnoise@us.navy.mil. All calls received to the hotline are fully investigated to insure that operations are conducted according to FAA regulations and PAX air operations procedures. The Navy notifies callers of the results of these investigations when call-back information is provided. The Navy has modified some operations and flight paths to avoid impacts to the community based on public input. In many cases, this is not possible as flight patterns are established to keep safe separation distance between aircraft to avoid mishaps and protect the public. Additionally, most testing requires flying specific patterns and frequencies to collect aircraft performance data. The Navy provides press releases and posts messages to the NAS Patuxent River Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NASPaxRiver/) and local media to inform the public of operations expected to generate unusually high noise levels to help lessen the impact on the community.

Q12. I hear low-level aircraft hovering over my house; is the Navy planning to continue those operations?

A12. The Navy does extensive testing and training with helicopters that requires long periods of hovering and flight at lower altitudes. Without a specific location, date, and time, it is not possible to conduct a proper investigation of the operations described. If this were to happen again, the public is encouraged to contact the NAS Patuxent River (PAX) Noise Hotline at 1-866-819-9028 or paxnoise@us.navy.mil to report a noise disturbance. An analyst will ask for the caller's name (callers may choose to remain anonymous), location of the disturbance, the date and time the incident occurred, a brief description of the disturbance, and contact information if the caller wants a return call or e-mail to receive the results of the investigation. An answering system is available for after-hours calls. An investigation will be initiated to determine if the operations were conducted according to FAA regulations and PAX air operations procedures.

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