The NAVAIR-5.1.6 Air Vehicle Test & Evaluation mission is to plan, safely conduct, analyze, and report results of flight tests. “Three Pillars” guide all that we do: Critical Thinking & Professional Maturity, Technical Competence, and Mentoring / Teaching / Coaching. We work and play hard to support the warfighter!

WHAT DO WE DO?
We plan and execute Test & Evaluation (T&E) of manned and unmanned aircraft for the Navy and Marine Corps. We test all facets: flying qualities, performance, loads, flutter, store separation, ballistics, electric, hydraulic, mechanical, and aeromechanical systems (such as engine, flight controls, displays, armament systems, and shipboard launch and recovery equipment). Our engineers lead and manage T&E projects and are responsible for translating requirements into test plans, budgeting, conducting tests, engineering analysis of data, and reporting test results.

WHO ARE WE?
We have approximately 300 Flight Test Engineers (FTEs), mostly from the Aerospace & Mechanical disciplines. Our current workforce is young and 5.1.6 FTEs grow rapidly into full-fledged project engineers whose level of responsibility is largely determined by their willingness to accept it. Our FTEs are typically assigned to teams with Navy Test Pilots and Flight Officers, Prime Contractor Personnel, and NAVAIR engineering counterparts.

OUR CORE VALUES
Our FTEs employ Critical Thinking, the fundamental skill required to understand and apply sound reasoning across our T&E work. We exhibit the maturity to work hard and be professional and to always respect ourselves and others. We provide safe, effective, and efficient flight test engineering for the Fleet Warfighter. Above all, we expect every employee to Mentor, Teach, and Coach their workmates – to continually improve and pass our knowledge and experience from one generation to the next! We strive to keep morale high through a healthy work/life balance.

WHERE DO YOU FIT?
If you are an engineering student or engineer with a passion for aircraft and any of the specialties noted in our “Subdivisions” block to the right, along with a desire and ability to work with others on exciting, fast-paced, Warfighter-centered projects, we may have a place for you. If you prefer a more hands-on approach to engineering over a strictly analytical one, including use of excellent written and oral communication skills, our Division might be for you.

Aeromechanics and Flight Controls (Flying Qualities and Performance, Structural Loads, Structural Dynamics)
Propulsion and Mechanical Systems (Engines, Inlets, Air Vehicle Subsystems, Aerial Refueling)
Air Vehicle Stores Compatibility (Captive Carriage, Safe Separation, Ballistics, Ordnance Support)
Ship Suitability (Fixed Wing Catapult and Arrestment, Rotary Wing Dynamic Interface, Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems)

NAS Patuxent River, MD
NAF Webster Field, MD
Detachments to China Lake CA, Lakehurst NJ, Edwards Air Force Base CA, and aviation-capable US Navy ships

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