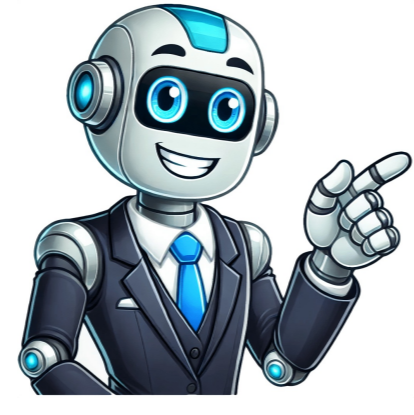


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## Atlantic undersea test and evaluation center

US Navy laboratory Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center Andros, Bahamas Aerial view in 1974AUTEC InsigniaSite informationTypeMilitary baseControlled byUnited States NavyLocationCoordinates24°42′20″N 77°46′9″W﻿ / ﻿24.70556°N 77.76917°W﻿ / 24.70556; -77.76917Site historyIn use1966–present The United States Navy's Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) is a laboratory that performs integrated three-dimensional hydrospace/aerospace trajectory measurements covering the entire spectrum of undersea simulated warfare - calibration, classifications, detection, and destruction. Its mission is to assist in establishing and maintaining naval ability of the United States through testing, evaluation, and underwater research. The typical task performed at AUTEC is testing and certifying the proficiency of U.S. Navy submarine captains and their crews, as well as the accuracy of their undersea weapons. The sophisticated facility includes three test ranges - the Weapons Range, the Acoustic Range, and the FORACS Range - all located in the Tongue of the Ocean (TOTO), a deep-ocean basin approximately 100 nautical miles (190 km) long by 15 nautical miles (28 km) wide, with depths as great as 6,000 feet (1,800 m). The main AUTEC support base and downrange tracking stations are on Andros Island in the Bahamas, just west of Nassau and about 180 nautical miles (333 km) southeast of West Palm Beach, Florida. On January 23, 2020, the corporation PAE Applied Technologies received roughly \$32.9 million for six more months of facility and range maintenance and range operations support services at AUTEC.[1] On August 12, 2020, the corporation Amentum (created in January 2020 when AECOM sold its management services business to American Securities LLC and affiliates of the private equity firm Lindsay Goldberg[2]) received roughly \$430 million for five years' worth of operation and maintenance of AUTEC.[3] During the 1940s and 1950s, the U.S. Navy's need for a deep water test facility became so apparent that in 1958 the Chief of Naval Operations established an advisory group to determine the location and specifications for testing underwater vehicles, weapons, and weapon systems. As a result of the extensive studies of this group, the United States Secretary of the Navy in November 1959 directed establishment of the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) under the Bureau of Ships (now Naval Sea Systems Command) to provide a deep water test and evaluation facility for making underwater acoustic measurement, testing sonar, and providing accurate underwater, surface and air tracking data on ships and weapons in support of the U.S. Navy's antisubmarine and undersea research and development programs. The area chosen for AUTEC was the Tongue of the Ocean (TOTO) located between the islands of Andros, New Providence, and Exuma Sound in the Bahamas. Chosen because of its ideal natural characteristics, and its climate which permits year-round operations, the TOTO is a U-shaped, relatively flat-bottomed trench approximately 20 miles (32 km) wide by 150 miles (240 km) long with a depth which varies gradually from 3,600 feet (1,100 m) in the south to 6,600 feet (2,000 m) in the north. Its only exposure to the open ocean is at the northern end, and except for this ocean opening, the TOTO is surrounded by numerous islands, reefs, and shoals which make a peripheral shelter isolating it from ocean disturbances, particularly high ambient noise which degrades undersea tests and evaluations. A joint United States/United Kingdom Agreement signed in 1963 with the concurrence of the Bahamian Government, enabled the United States to develop this area of water and certain territory on the east coast of Andros Island, readily accessible to the TOTO, and there install equipment to build three offshore test ranges. Under this agreement, the Royal Navy has equal access to the test facility. Construction of the Navy's Main Base and the downrange tracking sites on Andros Island began in March 1964, and the initial cadre of officers and men arrived by U.S. Navy LST in August 1965. In October of that year, Commander G. P Barney arrived as the first permanent Officer-in-charge, Andros Ranges, and the official dedication of AUTEC was held on 14 April 1966. The complex electronics installation was accomplished from fall of 1965 to fall of 1966, and in September 1966 RCA Service Company was awarded the Maintenance and Operations Contract for AUTEC. Temporary U.S. Mainland Headquarters was opened at the Orlando Air Force Base in September 1966 with Captain L. L. Jackson, Jr., being assigned as Prospective Commanding Officer. Following a study of possible locations for a permanent headquarters the West Palm Beach, Florida area was chosen due to the combined facilities of the airport and the Port of Palm Beach, plus its proximity to Andros Island. On 26 February 1967, AUTEC was commissioned at West Palm Beach when Admiral E. J. Fahy, Commander, Naval Ship Systems Command, presented Captain Jackson with orders making him the first Commanding Officer, and AUTEC became an operational field activity. In May 1967, headquarters personnel moved from Orlando to West Palm Beach and established offices at the Palm Beach International Airport in the building which was formerly the Airport Terminal. In July 1967 at a Change of Command ceremony on Andros Island, Commander Barney was relieved by the new Officer-in-Charge, Andros Ranges, Commander Frank A. Smith. First of the three ranges to become operational was the Weapons Range in 1966. This was followed by the Acoustics Range, a portion of which became operational in 1968 with a total operational capability anticipated by the end of 1969. First phase of the Sonar Range became operational in January 1968, and the final phases, were scheduled to be completed and operational by 1974.[4] The deep water Weapons Range lies roughly parallel to the east coast of Andros Island. It is the largest and most versatile of the AUTEC ranges, and it is capable of tracking up to 63 in-water objects simultaneously. The range is supported by the Main Base (Site 1) and various smaller sites located to the south along the east coast of Andros Island. AN/WQC-2A Sonar Communications Sets and Bi-Directional Communications Nodes provide underwater voice communications for mobile target and emergency command signal coverage, while HF, UHF, and VHF radio communications are available over the entire range.[5] In-air tracking is provided by radars and various other in-air tracking systems such as LATR, the Hyperbolic In-Air Tracking System (HITS), and Differential GPS (DGPS). These in-air systems cover the AUTEC Weapons Range up to a distance of 500 nautical miles (930 km) from Site 1 and a height of 70,000 feet (21,000 m). Surveillance radars operate to support air and surface safety.[5] The in-water portion of the Weapons Range covers 500 square nautical miles (1,700 km²). This range can be divided into two distinct tracking areas consisting of roughly 250 square nautical miles (850 km²). This flexibility allows for the unique operation of two distinct individual exercises. Use of the total range is referred to as "Weapons Range", while dividing the range into two distinct portions, the northern section is referred to as "Weapons Range North", whereas the southern portion is called "Weapons Range South".[5] Electronic Warfare Threat Simulator (EWTS) is a real-time system that can generate complex, dynamic, electromagnetic signal environments at the radio frequency (RF) level. With this system, AUTEC offers capabilities to test different platform receivers in an open-air, over-the-water range. The system consists of a radar simulator, pedestal and controller, antennas, high-power amplifiers, calibration equipment, and an operator workstation. The system is housed in an air-conditioned radome and located on a 74-foot (23 m) tower.[6] Major facilities at AUTEC's Andros Island base were named in 1969 in honor of various Navy heroes: Shafer Brothers Hall, the 116-man Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ), was named in honor of Benjamin N. and John D. Shafer, who were Chief Electrician's Mates aboard the USS Thresher when she was lost in 1963. Jacobson Hall, the 250-man BEQ was named in honor of George W. Jacobson, Sr., Chief Motor Machinist's Mate who died in 1966. During World War II he served aboard the USS Pillsbury and received the Silver Star Medal for his valiant service during the capture of a German submarine off French West Africa in June 1944. Mackey Hall, the BEQ Mess, was named in honor of Harry E. Mackey, Jr., an Aviation Machinist's Mate killed in action in November 1943. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement during operations off French Morocco. Momsen Hall, the 75-man Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQ), was named in honor of Vice Admiral Charles B. Momsen who died in May 1967. He was awarded the Distingushed Service Medal for developing the fomsen Lung, Danenhower Hall, the BOQ Mess, was named in honor of Lt. Commander Sloan Danenhower who died in November 1967. He was a pioneer submariner who commanded the original USS Nautilus on an Arctic expedition in 1931. He was the son of John Wilson Danenhower, commander of the USS Jeannette.[4] Roger L. Glei Chapel was named after Roger L. Glei who, in 1969 during the Vietnam War, left his protected armored position during heavy gunfire to aid an injured vehicle machinegunner and consequently sacrificed his own life. Previous to joining the U.S. Army, Roger's parents, Alfred and Ruth Glei, brought him to AUTEC in October 1966.[7] Male dense-beaked whale tagged for study In Tom Clancy's 1988 novel The Cardinal of the Kremlin (sequel to The Hunt for Red October), the former Soviet submarine captain Marko Ramius (portrayed by Sean Connery in The Hunt for Red October movie) works for AUTEC as Mark Ramsey after his defection to the United States. In NCIS Season 9 episode "The Tell", the plot of the episode revolves around AUTEC. AUTEC also performs some biological research in the surrounding ocean environments.[8] Wikimedia Commons has media related to Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center. BUTEC Naval Undersea Warfare Center ^ "Contracts for January 23, 2020". U.S. Department of Defense. Retrieved 2020-09-05. ^ "Management Services Sale". AECOM. Retrieved 2020-09-05. ^ "Contracts for August 12, 2020". U.S. Department of Defense. Retrieved 2020-09-05. ^ a b U.S. Navy AUTEC Soundings, August 1969. ^ a b c "The AUTEC Weapons Range". Department of the Navy. Archived from the original on 25 August 2007. Retrieved 2007-09-12. ^ "The Electronic Warfare Threat Simulator". Department of the Navy. Archived from the original on 3 September 2007. Retrieved 2007-09-12. ^ Chickcharney News, April 1967 ^ "U.S. Navy Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center". Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS). United States Navy. August 1, 2009. Archived from the original on 2022-10-13. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, Rhode Island Dunning, Brian (December 3, 2013). "Skeptoid #391: 8 Secret Bases: Real of Fictional?". Skeptoid. 4. AUTEC Retrieved from " Contact InformationThe Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center Complex is located relatively close to West Palm Beach in Florida and the Bahamas and operated by the US Navy. It performs some of the most advanced tests and training sessions for undersea techniques. It covers pretty much every aspect of this field, from calibration to construction. In other words, the place can be described as one of the most advanced laboratories in the world, with three dimensional operations. It consists of three different test places - one for weapons, one for acoustic purposes and one for FORACS. All these tests take place underwater, on an almost 200 km long and 30 km wide area with depths that can reach 2 km. The place is often referred to as TOTO among the people working there. The general purpose of the base is to train and certify captains and crew members for submarines. At the same time, the professionals here test the most sophisticated weapons and their accuracy. History The US Navy requirement and necessity for a wide area to test various weapons and equipments became critical during the '40s and the '50s. World War II was a great opportunity to discover this necessity. In 1958, the US Navy selected a group of professionals to choose the most appropriate spot for such a base. The spot was picked for its relief and perfectly natural environment and characteristics. The place is U shaped and somehow protected by numerous islands and reefs. The only major connection with the ocean is in the northern side. The environment was perfect. The place was protected against the natural disturbances from the ocean, turning it into an ideal place for tests and practices. The actual construction began later, in 1964. A big part of it was ready in 1965, allowing the first cadres to show up. The first range was ready in 1966 - the one for weapons. The others two were ready in 1968 and 1969. The rest of the base was entirely built by 1974. Ever since then, it has managed to remain among the most sophisticated and advanced laboratories in the world. The constant improvements and upgrades stayed in touch with the technology, ensuring a proper evolution of AUTEC Complex over the years. Most of the most important facilities at AUTEC Complex were renamed in the memory of some of the US Navy heroes, such as the Jacobson Hall, the Roger L. Glei Chapel or the Shafer Brothers Hall. Housing According to the position of this base, the housing system at AUTEC Complex is entirely on site. It is run by the US Navy, without any privatized spots. Since the place is relatively isolated from human communities, getting off site accommodation is practically impossible. When dispatched here, the troops are automatically assigned with a sponsor and a home. The students are hosted in specific buildings, in larger rooms. The superiors and the long term inhabitants live in different buildings, with more advanced facilities. The Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) range systems provide accurate underwater and in-air tracking for both firing platforms and targets using a variety of acoustic beacons and sensors. By taking advantage of the growing maturity of underwater acoustic telemetry, AUTEC can also provide two-way digital data communications with submarines operating at speed and depth. Systems already under test have demonstrated reliable, secure, two-way data transmission over several nautical miles at data rates exceeding one kilobit per second (Kbps). While this is neither wide-band nor long range, it adequately supports the current requirement, and expected advancements will bring higher data rates and longer ranges in the future. The Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) Operating Areas (OPAREA) are located in the vicinity of Andros Island, Bahamas. Facilities and instrumentation for deep-water test and evaluation are available. The complex consists of the following instrumented operating areas: OPAREA T-1 through T-8 AUTEC Shallow Water OPAREA Large Area Tracking Range (LATR) The following non-instrumented danger areas which are the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) equivalent to warning areas are located in this OPAREA: Danger Area D-3002 Danger Area D-3003 AUTEC's semi-tropical climate, quiet acoustic environment, and extensive capabilities make it an ideal year-round test facility. AUTEC is located at Andros Island because of its close proximity to the Tongue of the Ocean (TOTO). TOTO is a unique deep-water basin approximately 110 nautical miles long (204 kilometers) and 20 nautical miles wide (almost 37 kilometers), varying in depth from 700-1100 fathoms (1280-2012 meters). The basin floor is relatively smooth and soft, with very gradual depth changes. TOTO is bounded on the west by Andros Island, to the south and east by large areas of very shallow banks that are non-navigable, and to the north by the Northwest Providence Channel. This unique geography results in very low vessel traffic, minimal distant shipping noise, an absence of large ocean swells, and slight currents, while providing operational security and easy access to deep water. These factors make the TOTO an excellent location for a test facility. North of the TOTO, in the southern boundary of the Northwest Providence Channel, is a shallow-water plateau that varies in depth from 5-400 fathoms (9-731 meters). This convenient plateau, which is adjacent to the Berry Islands, is a prime choice for satisfying littoral warfare test requirements. Other surrogate shallow-water test sites off the east coast of Florida are also available. AUTEC consists of two facilities. One is located in West Palm Beach, Florida and supports test planning, logistics, and administrative requirements. The actual test facility and range complex is located 285 km/177 nm southeast of West Palm Beach at Andros Island and the Tongue of the Ocean (TOTO) in the Bahamas. Access to Andros Island is limited and must be arranged through the Commander, Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division in Newport, Rhode Island. The AUTEC test facility on Andros Island covers approximately 1 square mile. The test range sea surface covers 2,670 nm2, and unlimited altitude airspace covers 835 nm2. AUTEC aircraft make scheduled daily flights between West Palm Beach and Andros Town Airport. Commercial flights and special charters are available to supplement the AUTEC flights. Major test support facilities on Andros Island are located at Site 1 in the Command Control Building and Range Support Facility. The Command Control Building houses the range tracking displays and replay centers, the computer center, photo lab, communications center and the central timing system. The Range Support Facility houses a torpedo post-run workshop, Mk 46/Mk 50 Intermediate Maintenance Activities (IMA), a Target Mk 30 IMA, a Mk 48 R&D Turnaround and extensive technical laboratories. The complex includes electrical and physical calibration labs, a complete electronics maintenance shop, a dive locker, a precision machine shop/office and logistic spaces. AUTEC has a 285 foot long concrete pier with a controlling depth of 17 feet (5.2 meters) at mean low tide. An adjacent wharf is approximately 240 feet long (72 meters) with a controlling depth of 15 feet at mean low tide. 440 VAC power is available at both locations (200 and 60 Amp at the pier and 60 Amp at the wharf). Facilities at the pier/marine area include fully equipped machine/fabrication and marine overhaul shops. At Site 1 there are six Range User Buildings (RUBs) available to range users for assembling test equipment and equipment check-outs during a mobilization or dockside period. These staging areas are equipped with a variety of power sources, gantry cranes, compressed air and other minimal to maximum security capabilities. A fully equipped range user hanger, for ground maintenance and storage of helos, is located adjacent to the helo landing area. Designed specifically as a high-precision RDT&E test facility, the Weapons Range is primarily used to gather highly accurate positional data required to analyze and assess the performance of undersea warfare weapons, weapons systems, and component subsystems. The range provides for 3-dimensional in-water and in-air tracking of multiple objects simultaneously, making it suitable for testing both shipboard and aircraft weapons systems. The Weapons Range is roughly parallel to the east coast of Andros Island. It is the larger and more versatile of the AUTEC ranges, being over 9 nautical miles wide (17 kilometers) and 35 nautical miles lone (65 kilometers), and capable of tracking nine objects simultaneously. The range is supported by the Main Base (Site 1) and various smaller sites located to the south along the east coast of Andros Island. AN/WQC-2A Sonar Communications Sets provide underwater voice and command link coverage, while HF and UHF radio communications are available over the entire range. In-air tracking extends to about 70,000 feet (21,000 meters) over the Weapons Range. In-air data are taken in the same coordinate system as the in-water tracking data, allowing multipatform tests to be monitored in real time and facilitating post-test analysis. Surveillance radars are provided to assure safety. The in-water portion of the Weapons Range is divided into two instrumented sections located about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) apart. The larger section, located off Sites 3 and 4, consists of a rectangular array of hydrophones covering an area approximately 5 nautical miles wide (9 kilometers) by 15 nautical miles long (28 kilometers). The section provides in-water tracking over an area of up to 230 square nautical miles. The second section, located to the southeast of Site 1, provides a tracking area of about 120 square nautical miles. The two sections of the Weapons Range may be used either independently or simultaneously to support tests. The primary mission of AUTEC's Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check site (FORACS) is to perform precision measurements of the accuracy of target and navigation sensors installed on surface ships, submarines, and helicopters. AUTEC is certified by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) to perform Sensor Accuracy Tests and is affiliated with the NATO FORACS program. The eight participating NATO member nations are Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States. AUTEC has a variety of underwater acoustic measurement systems. For measuring the acoustic signatures of quiet vehicles, a high-gain vertical line array is deployed from a boat rigged for quiet operation. The line array is lowered to the running depth of the submerged vehicle so that the vehicle lies within the beamwidth of the line array. Other systems include a portable measurement system composed of a hydrophone, cable, and spectrum analyzer, all powered by batteries and operable from small boats; calibrated, broadband sonobuoys (AN/SQ-58) for remote collection of ambient noise, biologics, etc.; an omnidirectional hydrophone located on the OHDF, supplemented by an array of sensors, for measuring the acoustic noise of buoyant ascent vehicles. These systems are often operated within the Weapons Range to conveniently measure the separation distances between test vehicle and hydrophone(s) which allow accurate range corrections. AUTEC, the Navy's premier east coast in-water test facility, recently established a shallow-water test range and minefield to meet the need for operations and evaluation in the challenging littoral environment. Conveniently situated just 8 miles from our local landing site, the shallow-water facility is located 65 miles (120 kilometers) north of AUTEC Site 1 in the southern boundary of the Northwest Providence Channel in the Berry Islands, Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas. NEWSLETTER Join the GlobalSecurity.org mailing list Become a part of our legacy! Work conducted to support the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) is located on Andros Island, Bahamas and West Palm Beach, FL. AUTEC is a Major Range and Test Facility Base and is managed by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, providing both deep and shallow water testing and training environments. Our work on Andros Island is vital to the United States Navy and our NATO allies to secure our future and safeguard our national interests. As we move boldly into the future, we're excited to meet self-starters looking for new opportunities to grow their career and support our mission. At AUTEC, we embrace hard work, share core values, and strive to make every day a success. Join today and become part of our legacy! Let's chat We are hiring for a variety of roles in the Bahamas and Florida. Click the link below for the full list of openings. See all AUTEC jobs No clearance? Don't worry, we will sponsor you. The U.S. Government processes and adjudicates security clearances based on federal law, executive orders, and specific directives. Our best word of advice is to be completely candid during the security process. Your cooperation in this regard will help ensure that the process goes more smoothly and quickly. This begins with completing all the security forms accurately and honestly. Only US citizens are eligible for a clearance. The background investigation helps determine the applicant's honesty, trustworthiness, reliability, discretion and unquestioned loyalty to the United States. Personal interviews are conducted to review the completed security forms and discuss the topics necessary to help our Intelligence Community customer adjudicate the applicant's eligibility for a security clearance. There are also other checks conducted during a clearance process. The clearance process addresses both employment suitability and security reliability issues. To obtain the security clearance for employment, applicants must satisfy the criteria found in Executive Order 12968 and Intelligence Community Directive (ICD) Number 704. The hiring process includes, but is not limited to, a polygraph interview, and a background investigation. Additionally, all applicants and employees are subject to random drug testing in accordance with Executive Order 12564. Please note: Marijuana is NOT legalized Federally and any type of marijuana use in the last twelve (12) months WILL disqualify you. We strongly recommend all responses to questions posed by representatives at any time during employment processing be complete, candid and truthful. There is no typical application process timeline, however you should expect that the process is considerably longer than normally experienced in private industry. For most jobs candidates can start with an interim Secret. Interim Secret clearances have been averaging 4-6 weeks after completion of eQIP, with some being granted under 3 weeks. On this contract, candidates can start work on an interim clearance. Each applicant is unique in terms of life experience and background. Just fill out this simple form and our recruiting team will be in touch with you shortly. Thank you! Excited to get to know you.