Landing Practice Makes Perfect: 
Navy Field Carrier Operations at Wallops
Featuring a presentation by aviators from the Navy’s VAW-120

When: Tuesday, January 12th, 2016, 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Where: NASA Wallops Visitor Center, Rt. 175 on the way to Chincoteague Island, VA

What’s that overhead? A bird? A plane? Yes, it’s an E-2 or C-2 aircraft, and it’s being piloted by Navy trainees. The public is invited to join US Naval Aviators and instructor Landing Signals Officers from Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 120 (VAW-120) from Norfolk, VA for a discussion on flying E-2 Hawkeyes and C-2 Greyhounds both on the Eastern Shore and aboard aircraft carriers around the globe. Topics will include training pilots to fly using the Improved Fresnel Optical Landing System (the meatball) and Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) at NASA Wallops Flight Facility in preparation for a Naval Aviator’s first night aircraft carrier arrested landing and a career as a carrier-based aviator.

The US Navy has a long term partnership with NASA to use the Wallops Flight Facility to conduct four or five two-week FCLP pilot training detachments per year as well as other pilot training events at the airfield. Each detachment consists of 160 to 190 US Navy personnel and contractors, and six to eight aircraft. These detachments prepare roughly 110 Naval Aviators per year to safely land on US aircraft carriers both day and night in all weather conditions. The US Navy has conducted seven such detachments thus far for a total of over 25,000 practice landing passes.

Admission is free!