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For Immediate Release

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## **Fort Monroe Authority Board Selects G. Glenn Oder as New Executive Director**

*-Hampton Roads Delegate Takes Over for Former Executive Director Bill Armbruster-*

**August 9, 2011, Fort Monroe Authority, Hampton, VA--** The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) Board voted unanimously today to appoint G. Glenn Oder as the next Executive Director of the Fort Monroe Authority. Oder was unanimously recommended by the search committee and received full support from the board and its chairman Terrie L. Suit. "I'm very pleased with the board's selection of Glenn Oder as the new Executive Director of the Fort Monroe Authority," said Suit who is also the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security in the Governor's office. "Glenn's knowledge, leadership and tireless work ethic make him a perfect fit and I look forward to working with him as we move into the next exciting phase of Fort Monroe's reversion to the Commonwealth."

Oder is currently a member of the House of Delegates representing Newport News in the 94<sup>th</sup> district where he has served since 2002. As a member of the House of Delegates Glenn's ability to build strong relationships among diverse groups has been important to his success and will be a necessity in his new role as Executive Director. "Glenn Oder has all of the qualifications we were seeking," said Colin Campbell, chairman of the search committee. "He's a true leader and consensus builder who embraces with enthusiasm the preservation, education and recreation mission objectives of the FMA. Glenn is also a businessman who understands the importance of assuring economic sustainability for this national treasure, and will be a distinguished representative of the Authority on a local, regional and national basis."

Glenn Oder is a landscape architect by profession with a robust background in real estate and community management. His education and experience provide him with a strong working knowledge of all aspects of design including preserving natural environments and focusing on preservation of historic resources. Oder's passion for Virginia history and understanding of the fort's importance as a national historic resource was also apparent during the selection process as he spoke of a vision for Fort Monroe where "people could come and visit this historical treasure and mingle with a vibrant community enjoying the natural beauty of open spaces and thriving businesses."

"The selection of Glenn Oder was a most pleasant experience for this member of the search committee," said Ross Kearney, member of Hampton city council. "Glenn Oder brought an added dimension in his interview by making it very clear that he understands the needs of both the Commonwealth and the local communities." Kearney continued, "Glenn will provide a valuable link to both the General Assembly and the Office of the Governor and his understanding of the historical value of the Monroe Post is highlighted with an understanding of limited development of the adjacent properties. I am most confident that Glenn will work with the Board to develop a vision for Monroe's future with much needed fiscal restraints and a professional understanding of the caretaker responsibilities of a magnificent property."

The FMA's search committee was looking for proven leadership and strong organizational skills to direct the day-to-day operations of a very complex organization tasked with assuring the economic sustainability of Fort Monroe. Hampton Mayor Molly Ward commented, "Glenn is a proven leader and a man of integrity who has been a faithful friend to the City of Hampton in the General Assembly. We look forward to our continuing partnership with him and the Fort Monroe Authority in our careful stewardship of Fort Monroe."

The selection process began in June of this year after current Executive Director Bill Armbruster announced his retirement plans. "I believe Glenn will work very effectively with the Board, the city of Hampton and the many stakeholders we have developed relationships with over the past several years," said Armbruster. "I look forward to handing over the reins to such a proven and accomplished leader."

*The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) is the legal entity created by the legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia to oversee the transition of Fort Monroe from federal to state ownership. The FMA is governed by an 12-member board of elected officials, business and civic leaders. The board retains experts in BRAC law, environmental engineering, historic architecture and preservation planning, structural engineering, housing, commercial/retail, public relations/marketing, and tourism planning. The FMA team and consultants are working collaboratively to create the best outcome for the future of Fort Monroe.*

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