



For Immediate Release

Press Contact:

Bill Armbruster, Executive Director, Fort Monroe Authority

757.637.7778 or barmbruster@fmfada.com

Honors from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation note exemplary actions to preserve and protect Fort Monroe, Virginia as the Fort Monroe Authority, the successor to the FMFADA, creates administrative structure to manage the new state enclave.

Fort Monroe, Old Point Comfort, Virginia, June 20, 2010.... The work of the U.S. Army and its principle partners, the Fort Monroe Authority (the Authority) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources have been recognized with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP) Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation for exemplary actions to preserve and protect into the future, the richly historic and irreplaceable Fort Monroe, Virginia stated, John L. Nau, III, chairman of the ACHP, in presenting the award.

On July 1, 2010 the Authority continues implementation of the reuse plan under a new name, Fort Monroe Authority. The core management team has department oversight in real estate, operations, public programs and heritage asset management/historic preservation officer. Bill Armbruster, states, "This is the start-up of the Fort Monroe state enclave, which will be open to all on September 15, 2011. The pace has picked-up and the responsibility to do this right is part of every decision we make. We want people to look back on our work as a model for how to protect a national treasure for the public's enjoyment."

Two of the major benchmarks of the programmatic agreement are ready to go before the board for acceptance on June 24, 2010, the design standards and interpretive programs. The design standards will guide the repair and maintenance of existing facilities, as well as new construction. The Interpretive Master Plan establishes the interpretive and educational programs for the public. Armbruster adds, "We are actively continuing efforts to expand the role of the National Park Service (NPS) with the goal that part of Fort Monroe will become a unit.

-more-

“We offer our sincere thanks to the Historic Preservation Advisory Group (HPAG), chaired by Kathleen Kilpatrick, Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Members of the HPAG contributed countless volunteer hours to complete an extensive body of work that will protect the historic assets.” states Bill Armbruster.

The HPAG provided oversight for the Interpretive Master Plan and assembled three working groups on specific topics: Natural Resources Working Group, National Park Service Working Group and the African-American Culture Working Group.

The HPAG also directed the drafting of the design standards completed by Hanbury, Evans, Wright, Vlattas, a respected historic preservation architectural firm located in Norfolk, VA. HPAG members with considerable participation in the design standards are preservation architect, Eleanor Krause and Bill Brookover, from the staff of the National Park Service, National Historic Landmarks program.

HPAG members include, Chair, Kathleen Kilpatrick, State Historic Preservation officer, Robert Nieweg (ex-officio-National Trust) –Southern Field Office Director, Eleanor Krause – Preservation Architect and Planner, Dr. Laurant Lee –Curator of African-American History, Virginia Historical Society, Jean Zeidler–Mayor of Williamsburg, John Munick–Former CEO of Drucker & Falk, Alisa Bailey –President of Virginia Tourism Corporation, Dorothy Redford – Former Executive Director of Somerset Place and William Frazier –Architectural Historian and Planner.

Armbruster goes on to acknowledge the end of term for several board members, “the Fort Monroe Authority has been able to achieve significant progress because of the community service freely given by the citizens of Hampton and Virginia. Departing the board are Hampton city council liaison members Joe Spencer and George Wallace and Hampton City Council appointed members, Mr. Robert Harper, Dr. Kanata Jackson, Dr. Wayne Lett, Mr. John Quarstein, Mr. Robert A. Scott, Robert W. Wagner and acting board chair, Mr. Tommy Thompson. Also ending their service to the board are the Governor's Citizen Appointees with special expertise, Catharine Gilliam, Historic Preservation and Jeanne Zeidler, Heritage Tourism and General Assembly Appointees, Senator Mamie Locke - Virginia Senate District 2 and Delegate Glenn Oder - Virginia House District 94.

Fort Monroe will become a Virginia state enclave, open to all on September 15, 2011 when the U.S. Army transfers the site to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The 2010 Virginia General Assembly created the Fort Monroe Authority, with an 11 member board of trustees as successor to the FMFADA granting all the authorities of a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

On July 1, 2010, the Fort Monroe Authority, Board of Trustees will include City of Hampton council members, Mayor Molly Joseph Ward and Ross A Kearney, II, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, Doug Domenech, Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade, James S. Cheng, Virginia Senate District 1, John Miller and Virginia House District 91, Tom Gear. Governor Bob McDonnell will appoint five more non-legislative members, four with special expertise in the implementation of the Fort Monroe reuse plan and one representative from the Hampton Roads region.

The Fort Monroe Authority will manage Fort Monroe in perpetuity. The Authority has retained Divaris Real Estate, Inc. (Divaris) and Frye Properties, Inc. to provide leasing, management and advisory service. Divaris and Frye Properties have formed a joint-venture titled Old Point Comfort Real Estate Services, LLC. Leasing of the Fort Monroe Apartments begins on August 1, 2010. For more information: www.FortMonroeAuthority.com

###

Editor's Note

To view a copy of the 2010 legislation: <http://www.fmfada.com/pdf/legislation.pdf>