

Media Clips February through April 2017

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-0217-20170216-story.html>

## **Getting land from the Army will mean big bills for Fort Monroe**

By Dave Ress dress@dailypress.com

February 16, 2017

With the final "i"s about to be dotted and "t"s crossed on the transfer to the state of more Army-owned land at Fort Monroe, two big pending challenges for its managers will now come into sharp focus.

Those are the Fort Monroe Authority's ability to stand on its own financial feet and its assignment to develop the historic base with strict controls to protect historic resources, authority executive director Glenn Oder told the authority board at its quarterly meeting Thursday.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced a deal to buy 75 acres of land still held by the Army at his state of the commonwealth address last month.

That deal will give the authority control of the shore by the marina and the North Gate parcel, a kidney-shaped tract north of the historic fortress.

The parcels have some 200,000 square feet of buildings – and with them come a bill that will likely range between \$20 million and \$30 million in order to make them fit to occupy, Oder said.

That's a total far beyond the authority's means, or what the state is likely to contribute.

It means the authority will have to consider ways to bring in private investment, by either selling or leasing the buildings, he told the board.

Or, as Hampton City Manager Mary Bunting suggested, perhaps a combination of both.

"It doesn't have to be one or the other," she said. Deed restrictions and zoning guidelines are tools the authority and the city can use to protect the fort's historic buildings while allowing people and businesses to use them, she said.

"If you go to Colonial Williamsburg, there's foundation property and private property and, for visitors, it's seamless," she said.

Authority chairman Jim Moran, a former congressman from Northern Virginia, asked Bunting to make a presentation on such options when the board gathers for a retreat in April.

At that retreat, the board should also tackle its plans to mark the 400th anniversary of the 1619 arrival of the first Africans to the British-held North America, when roughly 20 men and women captured from a Portuguese slave ship landed at Point Comfort, said Clark Mercer, representing Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, who serves as vice chairman of the authority board.

"We don't want to be here in four years wondering about how we're going to tell our story if we've missed that opportunity," Mercer said.

He spoke after an impassioned presentation from Terry Brown, superintendent of Fort Monroe National Monument, calling for a major effort to connect with African-Americans, to share the story of those first arrivals and the hundreds of slaves who fled to the fort to seek their freedom during the Civil War.

"There are people in the community who feel Fort Monroe is not for me," he said.

Earlier, John Hutcheson, the authority's deputy executive director, reported repairs in the wake of Hurricane Matthew would cost the state about \$1.4 million.

Oder said the authority is planning a project for new sump discharge lines for about 200 buildings to prevent the basement flooding that caused much of the damage.

The authority is also planning a project to repair erosion damage to the outer scarp walls, Oder said. He's concerned because especially high tides could push moat water into the damaged areas and cause more serious deterioration.

*Res can be reached by phone at 757-247-4535.*

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-kaine-400th-commission--20170216-story.html>

## **Kaine, Warner, Scott push for African-American history commission**

February 15, 2017

By Dave Ress [dress@dailypress.com](mailto:dress@dailypress.com)

There's something about Point Comfort and Fort Monroe that Sens. [Tim Kaine](#) and Mark Warner think the rest of country should know:

It is where men and women from Africa first stepped onto the shores of what would become the United States, and into bondage, nearly 400 years ago. And it is where hundreds of African-Americans came to find freedom during the Civil War.

The senators, joined by Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., are leading a bipartisan effort in in the Senate to set up a "400 Years of African-American History Commission," keyed to the 400th anniversary of the day when roughly 20 men and women captives arrived at Point Comfort.

"I think of them, stepping into such an uncertain future," said Kaine. "I think of the slaves going to Fort Monroe and getting emancipation started. When I'm there I keep thinking about the uncertainties they faced, about their dreams and hopes and not knowing what would happen to them...."

"Just think of both events happening, so close to each other."

African-American history has tragedies and triumphs and Kaine wants the commission to help tell Americans about both. It's a more complicated history than many recognize, he said. More uncertain, too.

### Museum hosts Black History Month event

The men and women who were brought ashore at Point Comfort in 1619 weren't slaves when they stepped ashore, he said. They were considered indentured servants, like many English settlers in temporary bondage to repay debt, usually the cost of their passage to America. It wasn't until 1640 that an African-American indentured servant was sentenced to the permanent condition of slavery for running away from his bondage in York County. But it wasn't

much longer before colonial judges and lawmakers held that African descent meant men and women would be slaves for life, and that their children would be, too.

Kaine sees the commission as an opportunity to think about the nation's heritage and what it means for Americans today, in much the same way the commission to mark the 400th anniversary of Jamestown did or the commission that celebrated the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine, Fla., did.

For Warner, the commission is a chance to highlight "the immeasurable contributions of African-Americans to our diverse culture and their resilience in the face of injustice during slavery and in the decades of racial discrimination that have ensued."

Both worked with Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, D-Newport News, on a similar bill that passed the House of Representatives last year.

Kaine was involved with the Jamestown anniversary, as governor of Virginia at the time. For him, that celebration of the English settlement of North America was a chance to think about the heritage of a government of laws not dictators, as codified in the Magna Carta and exemplified in the common law of English courts.

As a senator and honorary chairman of the United States/Spain Council, and with a deep personal interest in Hispanic America dating back to his student days as a missionary in Honduras, he was an eager participant in the St. Augustine celebrations, as a reminder of the diverse mixture of peoples, including 45 million Latinos and Latinas, who make the modern United States the country that it is, he said.

Which brings him back to Point Comfort.

"It was the first place where indigenous people, Europeans and Africans lived together, at least in North America," he said.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letsmon-0213-20170210-story.html>

**Feb. 13 Letters: Fort Monroe, travel ban, helping hands**

February 12, 2017

Fort Monroe's relevance

As the nation marks Black History Month, it's a good time to also reflect upon the rich African-American history close to home. Fort Monroe National Monument's story spans centuries of American history, including the first landing of enslaved Africans in 1619 and, 250 years later, the site where freedom fighters seized their liberty.

Coined "Freedom's Fortress," the site's historic significance prompted President Barack Obama to name it a national monument in 2011. Since that time, the Fort Monroe Authority and the National Park Service have been working closely to bring the many layers of history at Fort Monroe to life.

Virginians are fortunate to have this national treasure in our state, which, when fully restored, will become a major visitor destination, drawing tens of thousands of people to learn more about this important and sometimes overlooked chapter in our nation's history.

To realize this vision, I urge the new administration, along with Congress, to prioritize funding for our national parks. Virginia's national parks — Fort Monroe included — currently face a backlog of deferred maintenance costs amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars, which imperils historic buildings, roads, visitor centers and trails. To ensure that the world can fully and safely appreciate Virginia's history, I hope our leaders in Washington will make addressing the critical deferred maintenance backlog in America's national parks a top priority for federal infrastructure spending.

*Destry Jarvis  
Hamilton*

*Jarvis is a Fort Monroe Authority board member and former consultant to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Parks Conservation Association*  
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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-peninsula-a-regular-stop-for-presidents-20170301-story.html>

## **Peninsula a regular stop for presidents**

By Jonathan Heeter

March 1, 2017

Presidential ties to the Peninsula area date back to President George Washington, who spent time in Yorktown before his presidency leading the Continental Army in the decisive battle in the Revolutionary War.

Thomas Jefferson studied at William & Mary and later served as the governor of Virginia in Williamsburg. William McKinley, Ulysses S. Grant and Franklin Pierce all visited Hampton either before or after their presidency.

But local archives don't show a regular stream of visits by sitting presidents until Andrew Jackson visited Fort Monroe in 1829. When Donald Trump visits Newport News on Thursday, he will be at least the 26th sitting president to visit the Peninsula area. Using Daily Press archives, let's take a look at reported visits by sitting presidents to the area.

**Andrew Jackson:** The eighth president visited the area multiple times following a visit in July 1829. Jackson inspected Fort Monroe and visited Rip Raps, what is now known as Fort Wool in Hampton. Jackson returned to Rip Raps in 1831, 1833 and 1834, with some referring to the area as his summer White House.

**John Tyler:** Tyler, who was living in Williamsburg when he became president, visited Rip Raps in 1842 to mourn the death of his wife Letitia Tyler. He returned to Fort Monroe in July 1844 for his honeymoon with Julia Gardiner Tyler.

**Millard Fillmore:** Fillmore visited Fort Monroe in 1851, according to the book "Fort Monroe: The Key to the South."

**Abraham Lincoln:** Lincoln visited Fort Monroe at least twice. He visited first in 1862 to see the Union army capture Norfolk. He returned in February 1865 to conduct negotiations to end the Civil War aboard the River Queen near Fort Monroe.

**Rutherford B. Hayes:** Hayes made several stops in Hampton. He celebrated the Fourth of July in 1879 at Fort Monroe. He gave a speech at the Naval Review at Fort Monroe in November 1880. Hayes visited the 10th and 12th anniversaries of the Hampton Institute in May 1878 and May 1880, respectively.

**James Garfield:** Garfield stopped by Fort Monroe on the way to the Soldier's Home in 1881.

**Chester A. Arthur:** Arthur visited for the groundbreaking ceremony of the Yorktown Victory Monument on the 100th anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown in October 1881. Arthur returned in April 1882 to visit the Soldier's Home and the Hampton Institute, according to The New York Times.

**Theodore Roosevelt:** Roosevelt visited Portsmouth and Hampton in May 1906, drawing a crowd of more than 50,000. Roosevelt visited Hampton Roads to see off the Great White Fleet in 1907 and returned to welcome it back in 1909.

**William Taft:** Taft visited Fort Monroe in 1909.

**Woodrow Wilson:** Wilson visited the Peninsula often, perhaps more than any other sitting president. He played golf at Hampton Roads Golf and Country Club in Hampton's Old Wythe area in May 1915. He would visit the area regularly to play golf in Hampton. He visited Fort Monroe in February 1916 and the shipyard and Williamsburg in March 1916. Wilson made a stopover in Gloucester on the way to giving a speech at William & Mary in March 1917.

**Warren G. Harding:** Harding received an honorary degree from William & Mary and attended the inauguration of William & Mary's president.

**Calvin Coolidge:** Coolidge visited the Capitol building site at Williamsburg to participate in the ceremonies for the anniversary of the Virginia Resolutions of Independence.

**Herbert Hoover:** Hoover gave a radio address from the commandant's house at Fort Monroe in May 1930. He visited for the 150th anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown and received an honorary degree from William & Mary in 1931.

**Franklin Roosevelt:** Roosevelt visited to dedicate the Historic Area of Colonial Williamsburg in 1934 and oversaw the opening of Duke of Gloucester street. Roosevelt returned to Fort Monroe on a tour of area military installations in 1940.

**Harry Truman:** Truman visited twice in 1948, getting an honorary law degree from William & Mary and supporting his Good Neighbor Policy in Williamsburg.

**Dwight Eisenhower:** Eisenhower visited Williamsburg with Winston Churchill prior to his presidency, but he returned to Williamsburg at least twice as president. He received an honorary degree from William & Mary in 1953 and returned to address the Governors Conference in 1957.

**Lyndon B. Johnson:** Johnson attended an education conference in Williamsburg in October 1967.

**Richard Nixon:** Nixon made a pair of trips to Williamsburg in back-to-back months in 1971. He first visited in March for a conference on the judiciary, and he returned in April for the Republican Governors' Conference.

**Gerald Ford:** Ford visited Colonial Williamsburg in January 1976 to kick off bicentennial celebrations. He returned later in the year for a presidential debate with Jimmy Carter.

**Ronald Reagan:** Reagan, Vice President George H.W. Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand and their families visit Colonial Williamsburg and Yorktown for the bicentennial of the Siege of Yorktown in October 1981. Reagan visited in 1985 to give the featured speech at Colonial Williamsburg's Prelude to Independence Ceremony.

**George H.W. Bush:** Bush attended the christening of the USS George Washington in July 1990, and he later spoke at Hampton University's commencement in 1991.



**Bill Clinton:** In his first visit as president, Clinton played golf with senators at Kingsmill in April 1994. He returned in October 1995 for a speech at the Williamsburg Inn. Clinton visited Kingsmill again in 1998 for the Democratic Issues Conference. Clinton made his final visit as president to the Peninsula for Bobby Scott's annual Labor Day cookout in 1999.

**George W. Bush:** Bush is believed to be one of the most frequent visitors to the Peninsula. Bush made his first trip in March 2001 when he attended the christening of the USS Ronald Reagan. He also visited the christening of the USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier in 2006. Bush attended a Republican congressional retreat in Williamsburg in May 2001. He spoke at the Virginia BioDeisel Refinery in West Point in May 2005. He visited the House Democratic Issues Conference in Williamsburg in February 2007. And he appeared at the 400th anniversary celebration of the Jamestown Settlement in 2007.

**Barack Obama:** The 44th president made six trips to the Peninsula. He made his first visit shortly after his inauguration when he visited the Democratic Issues Conference in Williamsburg in February 2009. He made another visit while giving the commencement address at Hampton University in 2010. He returned to Hampton for a jobs speech in October 2011 and munched on pizza and picked up pumpkins in Hampton. Obama campaigned at Phoebus High School in July 2012, and he prepared for his second presidential debate with Mitt Romney at Kingsmill Resort in the fall of 2012. His final trip was to Newport News Shipbuilding in February 2013.

**Donald Trump:** Trump is scheduled to visit the Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier at Newport News Shipbuilding on March 2, 2017.

Are we missing a visit? Email Jonathan Heeter at [jheeter@dailypress.com](mailto:jheeter@dailypress.com) to let him know.

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## **March 11 Letters: Fort Monroe, airport commission**

### **Fortified opportunities**

In your March 2 editorial ("Dear Mr. President"), you say that Fort Monroe, the site of the first mass exodus to freedom in the Civil War, "has quite a story to tell" and you connect that story to the nation's "still very fraught" race relations and the need for unity.

Those are two excellent reasons to unify Fort Monroe National Monument by adding all of the 90-acre middle area known as Wherry. The bigger and more beautiful the monument is, the more worthy is its remarkable history and the more likely it is to attract visitors who will learn of that history.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe understood this when he told the Daily Press in December 2015 that his administration was "working with the federal government to expand the Fort Monroe national monument to include a roughly 90-acre area (Wherry) owned by the state."

At its 2016 March meeting, the Fort Monroe Authority took a significant step in the right direction by voting to convey 40 acres of Bayside land in Wherry to the monument. But this action doesn't save the rest of Wherry from monument-diminishing development.

The hope of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park is that the governor and Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward will work to implement the governor's full vision. Short of that, they could transfer the green space north of the fort and along Mill Creek to the monument and place upon the state-owned portion of Wherry a conservation easement that prohibits residential development. Otherwise, after 10 years of the public's advocacy of an optimal national park, chances are Fort Monroe National Monument will never realize its cultural and economic potential.

Philip Adderley

vice president, Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park

Yorktown

<http://www.dailypress.com/business/tidewater/dp-liberty-source-signs-another-leases-at-fort-monroe-20170306-story.html>

**Liberty-Source signs another leases at Fort Monroe**

March 6, 2017

Check out the latest Hampton Roads business leases reported by Divaris Real Estate Inc.

RAI Care Centers of Virginia leased 7,767 square feet of office space in Planet Fitness Plaza at 5850 Churchland Blvd. in Portsmouth.

Liberty-Source leased 6,727 square feet of office space in Fort Monroe Building 162 at 84 Patch Road in Hampton. Liberty-Source is a flexible onshore business process outsourcing model that will provide financing, accounting, human resources, customer care and additional support services for its clients.

Turner Construction Co. renewed its lease for 2,200 square feet of office space in Two Columbus Center located in the Town Center of Virginia Beach at 4500 Main St.

H&A Experts renewed its lease for 1,488 square feet of office space in Parkway 4 at 2697 International Parkway in Virginia Beach. H&A Experts is a general automotive repair shop.

Reach Orthotic & Prosthetic Services renewed its lease for 1,380 square feet of office space in the Poplar Hill Professional Center at 4057 Taylor Road in Chesapeake.

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### **Daily Press hosts Ukrainian journalists**

By Andi Petrini [apetrini@dailypress.com](mailto:apetrini@dailypress.com)  
March 31, 2017

The Daily Press Media Group hosted a group of multimedia reporters from the Halytsky Korespondent in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, this week.

Iryna Fedoliak, Nataliia Mostova and Nataliia Derkevych represented their media organization's staff of about 15 for a week in Newport News.

The journalists were joined by translator Olena Pashnina and Ukrainian Media Partnership Program manager Svitlana Zholobaylo. They arrived March 26 in Hampton Roads and leave to return to Ukraine Saturday.

The exchange program is part of the Ukrainian Media Partnership Program sponsored by IREX, an international nonprofit group. Staff members from DPMG will visit the Halytsky Korespondent newsroom later this year.

Independent media in Ukraine still is developing since the fall of the Soviet Union. The partnership allows for the exchange of ideas and practices.

"We have been committed to this partnership for more than five years. This is our fourth partnership, and we will host another news organization later this year," said DPMG publisher and editor-in-chief Marisa Porto.

"The reason for this partnership is simple. We believe in open government and a free press. We believe journalism is a foundation for democracy. This exchange with our Ukrainian colleagues helps us to foster dialogue about our industry and our countries. But more importantly, it reminds all of us that what we do is important not just to our community and our nation but to our world."

The journalists met with several members of the newsroom staffs at the Daily Press and Virginia Gazette. Topics of discussion included covering local government, courts and investigative reporting.

"Monday was the highlight of my week, when I got to sit on a porch, eat pizza and talk local politics with our Ukrainian friends," said Daily Press reporter Reema Amin, who covers the City of Newport News.

"The content of their thoughtful questions quickly reminded me that journalists everywhere, though divided by culture and language, are typically the same: curious and critical. They were

so curious that they attended a Newport News City Council work session, where they were asked to stand up so the entire room could clap for them.

"It has been so cool to hear about their reporting methods on some of the same topics in Ukraine."

Ivano-Frankivsk is located in the western portion of Ukraine, in the Carpathian Mountains. Halytsky Korespondent dedicates a group of reporters, freelancers and bloggers to its website and many sessions focused on how digital content is managed at the Daily Press. There also were sessions dedicated to social media and breaking news.

"I was impressed by digital tools that the Daily Press uses to illustrate publications at the website," Derkevych said. "We will try to use these tools for building interactive elements for our articles."

Zholobaylo said, "On behalf of UMPP, I'd like to thank Daily Press team and leadership for their readiness and willingness to do this media partnership for the fourth time now.

"Having this experience of exchanging professional skills with Ukrainian colleagues, the Daily Press brings new components with every new partnership. For Halytsky Korespondent, they focused on digital, especially working with social media and interactive tools for presenting stories in a better way for readers."

During the group's visit, the journalists went on guided tours of Fort Monroe's Casemate Museum and historic site, and heard a cannon fire at the new American Revolution Museum in Yorktown before taking in the 4-D movie.

"The Peninsula is so rich in history, so I love sharing the locations of so many crucial moments in our country's history with our Ukrainian colleagues," said Daily Press digital engagement specialist Jonathan Heeter.

The group also saw a bomb squad demonstration by the Newport News Fire Department and toured several fire stations.

Before getting to town, the group enjoyed the cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C., and visited many of the monuments and Smithsonian Institute museums.

"We started our trip with Washington, D.C., and then we came to Newport News and everything on this trip was amazing," Fedoliak said. "But for me, personally, I was impressed the most by Fort Monroe. It's so beautiful. ... It's a perfect combination of beautiful views and rich history."

*Petrini can be reached by phone at 757-247-4643.*

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<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/galleriesandmuseums/dp-fea-garrison-life-fort-monroe-20170330-story.html>

## **Explore Civil War life at Fort Monroe this weekend**

By Natalie Joseph [njoseph@dailypress.com](mailto:njoseph@dailypress.com)

March 29, 2017

Since transitioning from an active Army base to a national monument and place of residency, life on Fort Monroe has changed a lot over the years — especially since the days of the Civil War.

This weekend, Fort Monroe invites visitors to relive the time period through a weekend of events that allow them to experience "Garrison Life at Fort Monroe: American Civil War Encampment."

The event runs 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

The event begins with a flag raising Saturday and Sunday and includes re-enactors who will portray Civil War soldiers and cavalrymen on Fort Monroe's parade ground and Walker Airfield, which will be designed to serve as a regimental camp and mess.

"It gives people a glimpse of the historical operations and the sites and sounds and smells that would have been present here," said park ranger Aaron Firth.

"Events like this give people the opportunity to smell the horses, hear the bands, to see the equipment and engage in what today, we are so far removed from."



Fort Monroe invites visitors to experience Garrison Life this weekend. Historical interpreters, cannon firings and demonstrations from cavalymen will teach visitors about what the fort was like during the Civil War.

(Courtesy of National Park Service)

Visitors and residents will have the opportunity to watch cannon firings, rifle demonstrations, explore medical tents, and interact with horses and interpreters. Saturday includes a performance from Federal City Brass Band, which recreates the sounds of a Union Army regiment.

A special Sunday event includes a traditional Civil War-era church service at the Chapel of the Centurion at 10 a.m.

"There's a lot of different ways to see what military life would have been like during that time. It's really portraying the garrison life before a campaign, so we are interpreting April of 1864 when people were preparing for the spring campaign season," Firth said.

The National Park Service is asking visitors and residents to limit driving within the fort during the event.

*Joseph can be reached by phone at 757-374-3134.*

### **Want to go?**

**When:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

**Where:** Fort Monroe; 20 Ingalls Road, Fort Monroe.

**Cost:** Free. Parking available at Outlook Beach.

**More info:** [nps.gov/fomr](http://nps.gov/fomr) or 757-722-3678.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letswed-0329-20170327-story.html>

### **March 29 Letters: Charging admission**

#### **Counterfeit logic**

I have been a resident of this area for more than 25 years and fully appreciate the significance and beauty of the Peninsula's historical areas: Yorktown, Jamestown, Williamsburg and Fort Monroe. That these monuments, the re-enactments and restorations require funds for upkeep is clear.

To provide a part of this funding, Colonial Williamsburg sells a ticket to enter the exhibits in the Historical Area, whether the area should be fenced off and admission charged is open to debate



and I can see both sides of the argument. What I object to strongly is trotting out fallacious economic arguments about how much money is being lost by not charging admission.

If I visit Williamsburg to see the exhibits, I will buy a ticket. As a relatively local resident if I visit to, for example, shop and have a Saturday afternoon stroll, I will not walk up to a gate and pay a fee to take my stroll, I will stroll somewhere else. My admission fee is not "lost" because it never existed.

The same argument has been used in Hampton to support charging a fee for parking at Fort Monroe. Many local people who visit now will just not visit at all if a fee is charged.

*Graham Heyes*

*Newport News*

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### **Liberty Source hiring 70 workers at Fort Monroe**

By Tara Bozick tbozick@dailypress.com

March 28, 2017

Liberty Source PBC is hiring for at least 70 more workers this year and plans to expand into a third building on Fort Monroe in April, company officials said.

The company got its start in two buildings at 355 and 351 Fenwick Road at Fort Monroe in 2014 when the governor announced the startup aimed to bring nearly 600 jobs to the area by recapturing contracted back-office work for large corporations that had been going overseas.

"The good news is we're still on track," Liberty Source Chief Operating Officer Robert Siegel said.

Liberty Source was formed as a public benefit corporation focused on a mission of employing military spouses and found Fort Monroe centrally located for its target workforce in Hampton Roads. The company has 176 full-time employees so far and plans to add another 70 this year, said Ashley Dolor, Liberty Source talent acquisition specialist and military spouse ambassador.

Siegel said the third office building — the 6,727-square-foot Building 162 at 84 Patch Road — would fill up quickly. The firm has three major clients and plans to add more, he said. In November 2014, the company announced it had landed AOL Inc. as a client.



Tara Bozick / Daily Press

"We will quickly be expanding beyond the three buildings we have today," Siegel said.

In August 2014, the company agreed to invest \$1.57 million and create 596 full-time jobs by June 2017 to get a \$300,000 grant from the Governor's Development Opportunity Fund with a match from Hampton of \$150,000 and \$150,000 in rent reduction from the Fort Monroe Authority. The state also had agreed to pitch in \$400,000 from the Virginia Jobs Investment Program.

Hampton is allowing Liberty Source another 15 months — or until September 2018 to reach its goals, Hampton Economic Development Director Leonard Sledge said. The grant performance agreement provides for that extension, he said.

"I think the key is they're still growing," Sledge said. "They're doing what they said they would do — just not as fast per the terms of our agreement."

So far, most of the third-party services Liberty Source provides to Fortune 500 clients are in finance and transactional accounting although the firm's capabilities can be expanded and customized to fit clients' needs, Dolor said. The firm also aims to be a "learning organization" that trains military-affiliated workers to diversify their skills for the corporate world and expand their career options, Siegel said.

Liberty Source has the capability for workers to take their work with them if they move or change duty stations, Dolor said. The training can help spouses who have had an interrupted work history or had limited work opportunity overseas.

"I wish I would have found something like this when I first became a military spouse nine years ago," said Dolor, a founding employee who started in August 2014.

The influx of Liberty Source workers has helped Fort Monroe business development and helps to enliven the area as the workers eat at local restaurants and use the Fort Monroe YMCA, Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director Glenn Oder said.

"We courted them and encouraged them to come to Fort Monroe," Oder said. "They are exactly the kind of corporate client we hoped and dreamed they would become."

Liberty Source plans to be at the NCOA job fair at Scope arena in Norfolk from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 30, Dolor said. For more information, email [careers@liberty-source.com](mailto:careers@liberty-source.com). Jobs are open to all qualified applicants in addition to military spouses and veterans.

*Bozick can be reached by phone at 757-247-4741. Sign up for a free weekday business news email at [TidewaterBiz.com](http://TidewaterBiz.com).*

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**April 9 Feedback:**

**Fort Monroe**

**Mary, Portsmouth:** Subject: Fort Monroe: Is it not time we stopped being the state that used to be sensitive about preserving its historic places? There is no excuse for giving short shrift to Fort Monroe and its need to be preserved and maintained. It's time to give it more ink and more support. Please attend to it. It's good journalism.

**Rita:** My father retired from Fort Monroe after 39 years in the Army. My mother and our family, went many places with him and had the privilege of returning to Fort Monroe, Virginia several times. Many of their friends retired in the towns surrounding Fort Monroe, wedding in our family. My brother's up at West Point. It was the closest we had to a real home. So many felt the same way. Both my sister Ruth and I worked at the Officer Club after graduating from high schools in Newport News. My parents after they retired spent many summer nights walking the seawall, visiting with friends. But now your newspaper has not following the pledges that the governor put forth to save this historic and beautiful place. The view from Norfolk and the island, and Fort Monroe view we had looking at ships, coming into the harbor you would not see in your lifetime. The journalist from the Ukraine got it. They were overwhelmed. With the beautiful view, the post, its history looking across the bay. Please don't let us down.

**Editor:** My goodness, ladies, I get the sense that you think we don't appreciate Fort Monroe. That couldn't be further from the truth. I have lost count of the number of people I have taken through the museum and up to the pet cemetery so they could see the view of Fort Wool and Norfolk. Last year I brought a bunch of editors from around the state to the Chamberlin so they could listen to Glenn Oder share Fort Monroe's history and talk about its future. During a recent visit from Ukrainian colleagues, I took one of our friends to the Deadrise for lunch (She had been there during a previous visit and wanted another crab cake.) Beyond my personal feeling for the place, reporters and editors at the Daily Press have produced a large number of stories that we've published in print and online. I'll grant you that, with its long and storied history, we

could write many more. If we had the resources to do it, I probably would find a way to make it a full-time beat because I'm fascinated with its history. But we do try to strike a balance when it comes to the various topics we cover in the community, including Fort Monroe. As my first editor told me years ago, do the best job you can. Beyond that, you're never going to make everyone happy. It appears, in this case, he was right.

*Today's Feedback was written by Marisa J. Porto, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Daily Press Media Group.*

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<https://allevents.in/fort%20monroe/full-spectrum-independence-day-celebration-at-fort-monroe-va/1390207614336218>

**Full Spectrum Independence Day Celebration at Fort Monroe, VA**

**TIME** Tue Jul 04 2017 at 07:00 pm to Tue Jul 04 2017 at 09:15 pm

**VENUE** Fort Monroe at Old Point Comfort, 20 Ingalls Rd, Fort Monroe, United States

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