

Media Clips December, 2013 through February 2014

<http://www.capitalbay.com/news/washington-dc/virginia/439901-governor-approves-controversial-fort-monroe-development-plan.html>

Governor approves controversial Fort Monroe development plan
12/13/2013 17:40:00

HAMPTON -- Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has approved a new master plan for Fort Monroe, eight years after BRAC voted to close the former Army post, but the decision is surrounded by some controversy.

The plan allows the Fort Monroe Authority to sell off some homes and property for residential development in 313 acres between the historic moated fortress and Buckroe Beach.

"It intensifies the prospect that we will forget that this is a national treasure and not a development plum for one city and some developers," said Poquoson resident and Fort Monroe activist Steve Corneliussen. Read more here.

Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director Glenn Oder insists there will be plenty of green space, and historic preservation will be a top priority.

"We wanted to make sure that we preserved the property, we'd tell the great stories of Fort Monroe, and we make it economically sustainable so we're not a tax drain on the Commonwealth," Oder said.

<http://insidebiz.com/news/governor-designates-more-state-funds-fort-monroe>

Governor designates more state funds for Fort Monroe

Posted: December 13, 2013

By Lydia Wheeler

lydia.wheeler@insidebiz.com

The governor is budgeting additional state funds for Fort Monroe.

In his proposed biennial budget, slated to go before the General Assembly in January, Gov. Bob McDonnell is recommending an additional \$701,620 from the general fund go to the Fort Monroe Authority in 2014.

For 2015 and 2016, the budget proposal calls for \$12.2 million to help cover operating expenses and management costs, which includes Fort Monroe Authority staff. Budget amendments also

authorize the Virginia Public Authority to issue \$22.5 million in bonds to the authority, according to a news release issued by the governor's office.

Since the former Army post property in Hampton is expected to need \$26 million in capital improvements over the next five to six years, the authority will be able to use the bonds to repair and upgrade infrastructure, like the gas, water, sewer and stormwater systems, repair roofs throughout the site and fix non-functioning elevators and HVAC systems.

"To market a building, it has to be warm, dry and operational," said the authority's executive director, Glenn Oder. "So by fixing or replacing the roof, we make the building dry. By fixing the heating and air conditioning system, we make the building warm, and we have elevators on the property that need repairs and that's what I mean by operational."

The improvements should allow the authority to charge market-rate rents on vacant buildings.

"This is going toward contractors and suppliers, and vendors that will help restore these buildings, improve the infrastructure and put people back to work," Oder said. "This is a shot in the arm to the local economy."

Though not specifically stated, the allocated money is expected to go directly to the authority.

On Dec. 11, the governor approved the Fort Monroe Master Plan, which maps out future development on the 565-acre property. The plan, which he called "thoughtful," calls for residential and retail units, better public access to the waterfront and connected green space. The operating and capital expenses expected to be incurred from 2014 to 2016 are necessary to implement the master plan, a press release issued by his office said.

New construction allowed in the master plan includes 720 mixed-use residential units, 160,000 square feet of commercial mixed-use space, a 7-mile waterfront trail and a hotel at the north end of Wherry Quarter.

In November, the Virginia Science Technology Engineering Applied Mathematics Academy signed a letter of intent to lease part of the property and open a nonprofit, statewide boarding school by the summer of 2015.

The academy's co-founder, Judy Stewart, said the school is still negotiating the terms of the lease with the Fort Monroe Authority. She did not know when the document would be signed.

"We're still working through the lease," she said. "It's pretty dense."

At full build-out, the school is expected to repurpose 300,000 square feet and house 1,000 students. Buildings slated to be used for academic classrooms and dormitories date back to the late 1800s and early 1900s.

<http://blog.preservationnation.org/2013/12/13/fort-monroe-master-plan-approved/>

Fort Monroe Master Plan Approved; National Treasure Now Set for Revitalization

Posted on: December 13th, 2013 *by* Rob Nieweg No Comments

We are very pleased to report that Virginia's Governor Bob McDonnell has approved the Fort Monroe Authority's master plan for the restoration and revitalization of historic Fort Monroe, one of our National Treasures.

The long-awaited master plan, which provides a path forward for the preservation-based reuse of this former U.S. Army post, was prepared by Sasaki Associates. When implemented, the Fort Monroe master plan will use all of the fortress's 180 historic structures, develop a new public park which complements the National Park Service's Fort Monroe National Monument, and create new opportunities to tell the full stories of Fort Monroe's unique U.S. military and African-American history.

We believe the master plan strikes a reasonable balance of preservation of historic resources and construction of new buildings.

The National Trust has been actively involved with historic preservation planning for this National Treasure since 2005, when the Army decided to vacate Fort Monroe. With the support of our members and allies, we have helped to protect Fort Monroe by contributing to the fort's programmatic agreement, design standards for treatment of historic properties and for construction of new buildings, Sasaki's land-use master plan, and a protocol for continuing public involvement.

Now, the National Trust will turn its attention to the National Park Service's Foundation Document, which will guide all future management and planning decisions for the National Monument. Of particular interest to the National Trust is the Park Service's planning for interpretation of African-American heritage at Fort Monroe.

The National Trust thanks Governor McDonnell for approving the Fort Monroe master plan. We are grateful for the good work of the Fort Monroe Authority, Sasaki Associates, and Virginia

Department of Historic Resources (especially Kathleen Kilpatrick, longtime State Historic Preservation Officer and Fort Monroe champion), as well as Preservation Virginia and a long list of other public-interest organizations at the local, state, and national levels which have advocated for the preservation of Fort Monroe.

And of course, we thank *you* for all your petitions, donations, and support! Together, we'll keep our National Treasures moving forward.

<http://www.wvec.com/news/Fort-Monroe-master-plan-faces-controversy-235785611.html>

Governor approves controversial Fort Monroe development plan

by Mike Gooding, 13News Now

WVEC.com

Posted on December 13, 2013 at 4:47 PM

Updated Friday, Dec 13 at 5:40 PM

HAMPTON -- Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has approved a new master plan for Fort Monroe, eight years after BRAC voted to close the former Army post, but the decision is surrounded by some controversy.

The plan allows the Fort Monroe Authority to sell off some homes and property for residential development in 313 acres between the historic moated fortress and Buckroe Beach.

"It intensifies the prospect that we will forget that this is a national treasure and not a development plum for one city and some developers," said Poquoson resident and Fort Monroe activist Steve Corneliussen. [Read more here.](#)

Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director Glenn Oder insists there will be plenty of green space, and historic preservation will be a top priority.

"We wanted to make sure that we preserved the property, we'd tell the great stories of Fort Monroe, and we make it economically sustainable so we're not a tax drain on the Commonwealth," Oder said.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-governor-master-plan-20131213,0,4129940.story>

Gov. Bob McDonnell approves Fort Monroe master plan Plan used to develop historic property

By Robert Brauchle, rbrauchle@dailypress.com Daily Press
8:24 p.m. EST, December 12, 2013

HAMPTON—

Outgoing Gov. **Bob McDonnell** on Thursday announced his approval of **Fort Monroe's** master plan.

The document guides how land and buildings will be used on the decommissioned Army post as the property just west of the **Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel** morphs into a civilian community.

McDonnell's signature grants a number of powers to the Fort Monroe Authority, including the ability to sell homes and portions of the 313 acres it now owns.

"It should be said that the board, staff and citizens have put in a lot of work toward this master plan," Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director **Glenn Oder** said. "It's been a big undertaking for our organization."

The Army decommissioned the post in September 2011 and has since worked with the authority to sublease apartments to residents; commercial buildings to companies and public agencies; and the beaches and the fishing pier to the city of Hampton.

"The National Trust for Historic Preservation and many others have long envisioned Fort Monroe as an economically self-sufficient and well-preserved historic place that tells an important story about a key chapter in our nation's history," David J. Brown, executive vice president at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, wrote in an emailed statement. "The Fort Monroe Authority and planners, Sasaki & Associates, have produced a thoughtful master plan that strikes a proper balance of historic preservation and compatible growth."

The authority's ability to sell land will prompt discussion about how privately owned land will be served and taxed by the city. The governor's approval opens the opportunity to sell homes and to solicit bids from contractors to rehabilitate unused buildings.

Separate lobbyists from the authority and city will head to Richmond in 2014 to lobby the General Assembly for funds to help pay for Fort Monroe.

City officials contend the city is subsidizing services on Fort Monroe because the state is not willing to pay the full cost of those services. In the current fiscal year, the state will pay

\$983,164 for city services — about 60 percent of the total bill, according to City Manager Mary Bunting.

"... the General Assembly should recognize that it is not appropriate for residents and businesses at Fort Monroe to be subsidized by non-Fort Monroe residents and businesses in Hampton, especially as they all receive and have access to the same city services," Hampton Mayor George Wallace wrote in a news release.

"It is important that those residents and businesses at Fort Monroe — who receive the exact same city services as other residents — contribute to the city operations at the same rate as our other residents," state Sen. Mamie Locke, a member of the Fort Monroe Authority, said in the city's news release.

The authority will continue talks with the city about services and payments, said authority board of trustees chairman John Lawson.

"We're joined at the hip on this, and we always will be," Lawson said.

In the coming year, the authority's lawyers will continue to work with the Virginia STEAM Academy on a lease for the school, which will focus on teaching high school students science, technology, engineering and applied mathematics. School officials have said they would like to open the school in 2015.

The authority continues to address maintenance issues, including leaky roofs, road repairs and broken underground pipes.

"Broken lines are the surprise of the day," Oder said.

"We don't have a lot of building renovations going on, but broken water lines give Josh (Fort Monroe Historic Preservation Officer John Gillespie) an opportunity to see what was in the ground around them because there are always excavations," Oder said.

On Dec. 6, the governor announced he was recommending that the state fund the authority through fiscal year 2016. That funding includes \$22 million to pay for capital projects.

"We'll work with the General Assembly in the next few months to hold onto as much of that as possible," Fort Monroe Authority Deputy Executive Director John Hutcheson said. "This is all good news for the authority."

In 2014, Oder said he expects the authority to move its headquarters from inside the moat to the former post office on Ingalls Road.

Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-247-2827.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2014/01/make-fort-monroe-state-priority>

Make Fort Monroe a state priority

The Virginian-Pilot

© January 3, 2014

DURING his campaign for governor, Terry McAuliffe pledged to help protect Fort Monroe. He needs to make it a priority early in his term.

For starters, McAuliffe can lend his support to outgoing Gov. Bob McDonnell's proposal to budget roughly \$13 million for the property over the next three years, plus an additional \$22.5 million in bonding authority to pay for much-needed repairs to roads, buildings and utility systems.

From there, McAuliffe needs to address critical flaws in plans for preserving the historic fort - specifically, the fate of an area known as the Wherry Quarter.

When President Barack Obama declared a large portion of the historic fort a national monument in 2011, the arrangement left Wherry and its swath of green space in the protection of the state.

Since then, however, the state panel in charge of managing roughly 240 acres of the 565-acre property has approved a master plan that allows new residential construction in the Wherry Quarter.

The plan runs contrary to overwhelming public sentiment in favor of leaving the core of the Wherry area as open space until the National Park Service can someday incorporate it into the national monument.

Last month, McDonnell signed off on the master plan - with advice to the Fort Monroe Authority to "continue to work with all interested parties to mitigate any unnecessary negative impact on the historical attributes" of the property.

Some supporters of the master plan, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, contend that the Wherry can be developed in a compatible manner that will help accelerate restoration elsewhere on the property.

But it's a short-sighted, overly optimistic view that McAuliffe and his cabinet - including Molly Ward, the state's new secretary of natural resources - need to reassess promptly.

Ward knows better than anyone the critical role that the Wherry Quarter plays in the future of Fort Monroe. She was mayor of Hampton when she helped lead the drive for Obama to declare the fort a national monument.

The McAuliffe administration needs to step up discussions with the White House and the National Park Service about completing the job at Fort Monroe and incorporating Wherry into the monument.

The fate of the property should be addressed now, before the inevitable day when someone introduces a development proposal for the Wherry Quarter.

Fort Monroe's rich history - particularly its role as a safe harbor for slaves seeking refuge at the start of the Civil War - must remain at the forefront of federal and state plans for the property. Intense residential development in the Wherry Quarter would degrade the vision that residents of Hampton Roads and beyond have embraced for the fort.

Fort Monroe, as McAuliffe said during a visit there in 2011, is a "historic gem." It can become a tourist attraction and education center as well known as Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown. But achieving that goal will require proper care and planning.

So far, those efforts at the state and federal levels are still far short of what's needed.

<http://insidebiz.com/news/top-stories-2013-transition-progresses-fort-monroe-more-funds-proposed>

TOP STORIES OF 2013 Transition progresses for Fort Monroe, more funds proposed

In a two- to three-month span, a major prospective tenant signed a letter of intent to repurpose 30,000 square feet, the governor issued additional state funds and a master plan was approved. It was a busy year-end for Fort Monroe.

In November, the Virginia Science Technology Engineering Applied Mathematics Academy announced plans to lease three buildings and open a nonprofit, statewide boarding school for rising ninth- and tenth-graders. The goal is to open the school in the summer of 2015. At full build-out, 1,000 students are expected to live and learn there. The academy is negotiating the lease with the Fort Monroe Authority.

On Dec. 6, Gov. Bob McDonnell budgeted an additional \$701,620 for Fort Monroe in his biennial budget, which will go before the General Assembly in January. The proposal calls for an additional \$12.2 million for 2015 and 2016 to help cover operating and management costs, and authorizes \$22.5 million in bonds. Fort Monroe is expected to need \$26 million in improvements over the next five years. To charge market rental rates, roofs, elevators and HVAC systems need to be repaired or replaced, and upgrades to the gas, water, sewer and stormwater systems are needed.

The additional funds are needed to implement the fort's master plan, which was adopted by the governor on Dec. 11. The plan calls for construction of new residential and retail units and better public access to the waterfront.

Hampton city officials want their fair share in payments in lieu of taxes on the property. The state budget capped payments based on the property's assessment, so Fort Monroe pays a tax rate of less than 73 cents per \$100 of assessed value, while others in Hampton pay \$1.24.

State Sen. Mamie Locke, D-Hampton, said it's important for residents and businesses at Fort Monroe to contribute to city services at the same rate as other residents. She and Del. Gordon Helsel Jr., R-Poquoson, plan to introduce legislation to make the fort's payment in lieu of taxes agreement more fair in 2014. nib.

- Lydia Wheeler

<http://www.defensecommunities.org/headlines/fort-monroe-master-plan-gains-governors-approval/#>

Fort Monroe Master Plan Gains Governor's Approval
December 13, 2013

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) last week approved Fort Monroe's master plan, conferring several authorities to the Fort Monroe Authority, including the ability to sell homes and other property it now owns at the historic post located on the Virginia shore of the Chesapeake Bay. David Brown, executive vice president at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, praised the master plan for helping steer the redevelopment project toward economic self-sufficiency while allowing it to share "a key chapter in our nation's history."

"The Fort Monroe Authority and planners, Sasaki & Associates, have produced a thoughtful master plan that strikes a proper balance of historic preservation and compatible growth," Brown told the Daily Press.

Approval of the plan comes one week after McDonnell said he was recommending the state fund the authority through fiscal 2016, a proposal that includes \$22 million for capital projects. The LRA's new authority is expected to prompt discussion with the city of Hampton on how privately owned land at the former Fort Monroe will be served and taxed by the city. While the commonwealth of Virginia pays a majority of the cost of municipal services at the installation, the city currently subsidizes them to make up the shortfall.

- See more at: <http://www.defensecommunities.org/headlines/fort-monroe-master-plan-gains-governors-approval/#sthash.rbo3ZRhP.dpuf>

<http://www.wtop.com/120/3542529/State-library-releases-Kaine-administration-emails>

State library releases Kaine administration emails

Wednesday - 1/15/2014, 3:40am ET

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- The Library of Virginia has released more than 66,000 emails from former Gov. Tim Kaine and his some of his top aides.

They are among about 1.3 million emails the Kaine administration transferred to the library four years ago at the end of the Democrat's term. Processing of the rest of the emails continues, and another batch will be released this spring.

The library says in a news release that the emails provide an inside look into the administration's deliberations on the Fort Monroe's future, business closures and relocations, weather disasters, legislative priorities and other issues. On the advice of the attorney general, emails pertaining to the Virginia Tech shooting are being withheld until lawsuits stemming from the tragedy are resolved.

The materials can be viewed at <http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/kaine> .

Copyright 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

www.dailypress.com/features/family/dp-nws-civil-war-black-troops-2-20140208,0,6672059.story

dailypress.com

Forging Lincoln's black legion

By [Mark St. John Erickson](#), merickson@dailypress.com

February 9, 2014

Most Union troops moving from Fort Monroe to Yorktown during the Civil War made the trip by boat.

But soon after the first African-American regiment on the Peninsula arrived at Old Point Comfort in October 1863, it took to the road.

Resplendent in their blue uniforms, the long column of soldiers that made up the 4th U.S. Colored Troops Infantry marched to the beat of drums and a full military band, striding through Elizabeth City and York counties by way of the old York-Hampton Highway.

And everyone who saw the extraordinary sight of 1,000 black men with gleaming guns, grim bayonets and rippling Union flags knew it heralded a revolutionary break with a world shaped by 300 years of slave culture.

Between the 1st USCT's arrival in Portsmouth on July 1, 1863, and the creation of the Army of the James the following April, more than a dozen African-American units recruited, trained and embarked on their first operations in Hampton Roads, making the region a leader in forging President Abraham Lincoln's new black legion.

Ultimately, they not only formed the nucleus of the Union's first all-black army corps but also earned fame as its first troops to enter Richmond. Ten black men with Hampton Roads links won the Medal of Honor.

Long before they became a military force to be reckoned with, however, the USCT units here provided a powerful symbol.

That's why the 4th's march up the Peninsula ignited such passion.

"These were the first black soldiers anyone here had seen, and the local white people — mostly women — yelled and jeered as they passed. They shook their fists and spat and tried to strike out in this great outpouring of fear and defiance," says Edward G. Longacre, author of "A Regiment of Slaves: The 4th United States Colored Troops Infantry, 1863-1866."

"Black men with guns were the greatest fear of every slave owner — and not only didn't these blacks look like slaves any more but they looked like men of war."

A black tide

As early as six months before the 1st USCT arrived, Lincoln saw occupied Hampton Roads as an ideal place for African-American soldiers.

Two weeks after issuing the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, he sent a "private and confidential" letter to Maj. Gen. John A. Dix, commander of the Department of Virginia headquartered

at Fort Monroe, asking about the potential for freeing up badly needed white soldiers by garrisoning either Monroe or Yorktown — or both — with black ones.

Following the creation of the USCT in May, more than half a dozen units streamed into the region, beginning with the 1st Colored Infantry from Washington, D.C., on July 1 and followed by three regiments from northeastern North Carolina in August.

Both the 4th Colored Infantry from Baltimore and the 6th from Philadelphia came to Yorktown in October, followed in November by the 5th from Ohio. The 22nd arrived there in January from Philadelphia.

When Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler returned to Fort Monroe from New Orleans on Nov. 11, he quickly added to this tide by applying what he'd learned in Louisiana with the first black regiment mustered into Federal service.

By the month's end, he'd organized the 10th USCT, which recruited 1,000 refugee slaves from the teeming contraband camps at the fort, nearby Camp Hamilton in Hampton, Newport News Point and Craney Island. Two new regiments of black cavalry — the 1st and the 2nd — formed at Camp Hamilton and Fort Monroe on Dec. 22, followed by Battery B of the 2nd U.S. Colored Light Artillery at Fort Monroe on Jan. 8.

"This all goes back to Butler's 'contraband of war' decision in May 1862, which brought thousands of refugee slaves to Fort Monroe in search of freedom," historian John V. Quarstein says.

"Butler wasn't an abolitionist at this point. But he was an opportunist — and he saw what could be done with all the manpower in the contraband camps. Nobody did more than Butler to recruit and arm these men so they could fight for the Union."

Forging an army

Despite being a conservative Democrat before the war, Butler's energy and direction gave the region's black regiments an unusually high profile.

In General Orders No. 46, he commanded that "every enlisted colored man shall have the same uniform, clothing, arms, equipments, camp equipage, rations, medical and hospital treatment as are furnished to the U.S. soldiers."

He also instituted a \$10 enlistment bounty in addition to \$10 monthly pay, then called on Congress to make the rate equal to that of white soldiers.

"(I) can see no reason why a colored soldier should be asked to fight upon less pay than any other," Butler proclaimed.

"The colored man fills an equal space in the ranks while he lives, and an equal grave when he falls."

Spurred by Butler's keenness, white recruiting officers swarmed across Hampton Roads, with the 2nd North Carolina Volunteers alone setting up offices in the camps at Fort Monroe, Hampton and Yorktown as well as Portsmouth and Norfolk.

So hot did their rivalries become that the commander in Yorktown insisted the recruiter for the 2nd — which soon mustered into Federal service as the 36th Colored Infantry — be ordered someplace else.

"My colored regiments require all the recruits which can be obtained here," Brig. Gen. Isaac J. Wistar wrote.

Black enlisted men circulated in the camps, too, including Pvt. Peter Wilson of the 36th, who was detailed to "make a parade and attract recruits" in Hampton in December 1863.

But most of the African-Americans there were so impressed by the glamour of Butler's new black horse soldiers that they signed up for the 1st and 2nd U.S. Colored Cavalry instead, writes James K. Bryant II in "The 36th Infantry United States Colored Troops in the Civil War."

I felt like a man

Ultimately, nearly half of the 1,074 men in the 36th came from the local camps.

Similarly impressive numbers were logged by every black unit that formed or filled its complement here, with fewer recruits joining the regiments that came from someplace else.

Of the local men who chose the 36th, more than 105 hailed from Norfolk, nearly 90 from Princess Anne, more than two dozen each from York and Gloucester and just over a dozen each from Hampton, Nansemond, Isle of Wight and Suffolk, according to enlistment records.

Names from Isle of Wight, Nansemond and Norfolk show up frequently in the 10th, with others coming from Elizabeth City County and Portsmouth and a dozen from the Eastern Shore.

By far the most often reported occupation is farmer, reflecting the agrarian nature of the region. But among the 36th there were also numerous watermen, bricklayers, shoemakers, carpenters, woodcutters, drummers and waiters.

Some, like the large number of Elliots who joined the 10th from Isle of Wight — sometimes spelled "Allywhite" — were likely to have been kin, Bryant says.

"We have many cases of fathers and sons, uncles and nephews, brothers and half-brothers making a conscious group decision to enlist," the Bethel High School graduate explains. "They were close-knit."

Those same blood ties, however, kept some men from enlisting.

Others decided against risking their lives for less pay than a Union laborer made — not to mention the impact of their absence on loved ones left behind.

"If they were drafted, their families might not have been able to draw rations," says Eola Dance, chief of visitor services and resource management at Fort Monroe National Monument.

"That was a fear that ran across the board."

Still, many who did enlist cited a deep sense of purpose as well as adventure.

And few who exchanged their old slave clothes for a new blue Union uniform failed to recognize that they were redefining the country as well as themselves.

"This was the biggest thing that ever happened in my life," one veteran said.

"I felt like a man with a uniform on and a gun in my hand."

Trial by fire

Unlike many other Union officers — who often consigned black troops to duty as laborers and guards — Butler fully intended to use his men as soldiers.

The 4th led the way just days after marching to Yorktown, joining a punishing counter-insurgency expedition that helped drive Confederate partisans out of Mathews County.

Still more keen were Massachusetts Brig. Gen. Edward A. Wild and the abolitionist officers of "Wild's African Brigade," who pursued Southern troops in Princess Anne so ruthlessly and effectively in November 1863 that they trapped and captured one notoriously elusive foe — leading to a hanging that silenced many others.

"The black soldiers plugged into the local slave grapevine — and it was just amazing," Bryant says.

"They always seemed to know who to talk to and where to go."

When the African Brigade left to raid northeastern North Carolina that December, its handling of suspected partisans and sympathizers hardened still more, sparking an explosive order from Confederate Maj. Gen. E. George Pickett.

"Butler's plan...is to let loose his swarm of blacks upon our ladies and defenseless families, plunder and devastate the country," he wrote.

"Anyone caught in the act (Negroes or white men) of burning houses or maltreating women, must be hung on the spot."

In response, Wild and his men took the wives of two captured guerrillas as hostages. He hanged a suspected partisan at a well-traveled crossroads.

"He lived up to his name — and he let his men pillage, burn and loot in a way that was close to being out of control," Longacre says.

"They adopted the guerrillas' own tactics, fighting fire with fire in an attempt to root them out."

On the march

Despite the uproar caused by the raids, the black troops returned as veterans rather than recruits — and that experience distinguished them later in the war.

"Compare what happened here to out in Texas, where the black units spent their [time] guarding fields of cotton," Quarstein says.

"They knew how to march in hostile territory. They knew how to set a picket line. They knew how to skirmish. They already had a purpose — and now they knew how to fight."

No one saw that more clearly than the slaves who swarmed out whenever a black unit marched into the countryside.

Unlike the many terrified whites, they greeted this unmistakable symbol of change with jubilation.

"When the 6th marched to Williamsburg in early November 1863, they ran into a throng of black people who were overjoyed," Longacre says.

"They praised God for their deliverance. They sang hymns. One woman went into a trance she was so overcome.

"They may have been even more astonished at the sight of black men with uniforms and guns than the whites."

Erickson can be reached at 757-247-4783. Find more Hampton Roads history stories at dailypress.com/history and [Facebook.com/hrhistory](https://www.facebook.com/hrhistory).

Lincoln's Black Legion

From mid-1863 to the spring of 1864, Hampton Roads became a pioneering proving ground for the recruiting, training and operational use of the newly formed United States Colored Troops. This Black History Month series explores President Abraham Lincoln's black legion.

(Courtesy of the Library of Congress / February 6, 2014)

The 4th U.S. Colored Troops Infantry were the first Federal black troops seen on the Peninsula during the Civil War. Local whites harassed their Oct. 1, 1863 march from Fort Monroe to Yorktown with jeering and spitting. Just days later, the 4th took place in a punishing counter-insurgency expedition on the Middle Peninsula

