



News Release

**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Norfolk District

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Norfolk District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 3, 2006, # 06-10
Contacts: Steve Forrest, 642-8311 (on the day of the event)
Norfolk Historical Society, 640-1720

18th Century fort near downtown Norfolk comes alive

Fort Norfolk, a historic fortification authorized by President George Washington, will come alive on Aug. 5-6, when civil war reenactment soldiers will set up camp. The soldiers will be braving the heat and humidity in uniforms from the Civil War era, as they perform company drills, weapons demonstrations and other activities of daily life during that time period.

The fort, originally constructed in 1794, protected Norfolk's inner-harbor during the war of 1812. Fort Norfolk served as home for the Frigate Constellation during the war of 1812 and was also used to supply the CSS Virginia (Merrimack) with powder and shot for its famous battle against the USS Monitor during the Civil War. Today, the fort is under the care of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District, which at one time used its building as offices until the district moved to its current building in the early 1980's.

The public can get a taste of what life was like when the ironclads ruled Hampton Roads, by visiting the fort minutes from downtown just off Colley Avenue, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The event is sponsored by the Norfolk Historical Society. Questions about the reenactment should be directed to the Norfolk Historical Society, Mon. through Fri. at 640-1720. A cell phone will be active during the event and can be reached at 642-8311. Proper Identification is required to enter the premises.

Prior to the day's event, additional information can be obtained by email at: bahoward@cox.net, vahistoryfan@cox.net.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Media are encouraged to visit and cover the event!
Possible story angles to consider

- **Re-enactors brave heat and humidity in full Civil War attire**
- **Oldest Fort in Hampton Roads shows visions of past**
- **Excellent story for NAT PACK/ Photo Essay**