



News Release

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

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Big Bethel Reservoir changes owners Langley Air Force Base acquires Reservoir from Ft. Monroe

The Norfolk District Real Estate Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in coordination with Fort Monroe and the Department of the Air Force, recently completed a land transfer of the 447-acre Big Bethel Reservoir from the Department of the Army to the Department of the Air Force.

Fort Monroe's Big Bethel Reservoir was used to supply Fort Monroe with water until the base entered into a service agreement with Newport News Waterworks. Since then the reservoir has been used mainly as a recreational area and provides a buffer zone to local residents from both Fort Monroe and Langley Air Force Base.

With the closure of Fort Monroe due to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) '05, the future of this 447-acre property has been uncertain. The transfer signifies that the properties future is now secure.

“As of July 28, 2006 the Ft. Monroe Big Bethel Reservoir has been officially transferred from the Department of the Army to the Department of the Air Force,” said 1st Lt. Rachel Sherburne, 1st Fighter Wing Public Affairs. “The purpose of the acquisition is to secure the recreational needs of the Air Force and the United States Military Community. We are excited about the opportunity to manage the 447 acre parcel and assist in the preservation of the natural, cultural, and historical resources to be enjoyed on the property. It is not the intent of the government in the near or long term future to adversely alter, dispose or divest of the property.”