



News Release

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

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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18th Century Army fort reveals its Navy past

Fort Norfolk, a historic fortification authorized by President George Washington, will show its versatility as it transitioned from being an Army installation to a U.S. Navy Ammunition Depot. On Aug. 26-27, re-enactors will don the uniforms of a naval era gone by and resurrect the activities that were once common place in the old fort.

During the mid 1800's Fort Norfolk served as a U.S. Navy Ammunitions Depot supplying local Naval ships with ammunition. Originally constructed in 1794, the fort protected Norfolk's inner-harbor during the war of 1812. Fort Norfolk also 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 the fort's buildings as offices until the district moved to its current building in the early 1980's.

What will you see?

Re-enactors will be in naval uniforms ranging from the time period of the Revolutionary War to the Civil War. Various period displays and weapons will be available for viewing. Also cannons will roar out over the Elizabeth River during the event.

The public can get a taste of what naval life was like during the first 100 years of the nation, by visiting the fort minutes from downtown just off Colley Avenue, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 26-27. 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.