Fort Monroe Authority
Glenn Oder
June 15, 2015
Board of Trustees

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Old Point Comfort

🌟 In 1607, the Virginia Company “found a channel ... which put (them) in good comfort.”

🌟 Fort Algernourne, the first defensive structure, was built in 1609.

🌟 Dutch ship arrived at Fort Algernourne with “twenty and odd” Africans in 1619.

🌟 Fort George, a more permanent fortification was constructed in 1730.

🌟 Served as the key defensive site of the Chesapeake Bay for 400 years.
African-American History: The Contraband Story

- In May of 1861 three slaves (Frank Baker, Shepherd Mallory, and James Townsend) rowed across the harbor to Fort Monroe.
- Gen. Benjamin Butler refused to return slaves declaring them Contraband of War.
- Thousands of slaves sought refuge under the protection of Fort Monroe.
- 13th Amendment adopted December 6, 1865.
Vision for Fort Monroe

- Preserve the Property
- Tell the Story
- Economic Independence
National Park Service Transfer
Inner Fort
Fort Monroe, VA
Questions?