



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Meade's Community Covenant Pledge Signing 2019

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md – A number of community leaders gathered together Nov. 7, for the periodic signing of the Fort Meade Community Covenant – the guiding document for signatories who “commit in the spirit of collaboration to build relationships, identify and combine resources, and address critical needs,” according to the Covenant document.

Congressmen, C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger and John Sarbanes attended, addressed the crowd and signed the covenant along with several Maryland state delegates and county elected officials.

“Noticeably absent from today’s ceremony is our friend and strong supporter of Fort Meade, Congressman Elijah Cummings,” said Garrison Commander, Col. Erich C. Spragg during his remarks. “Our prayers and thoughts remain with his family and his leadership will be sorely missed.”

Sherry Kuiper, Fort Meade’s community relations chief and manager of the installation’s involvement in the Community Covenant, explains that “inside the fence line of Fort Meade, our community is fairly obvious. It’s the Service Members, the Families, the Veterans and the civilian workers who keep the machine running.

“What may be less obvious is that our community at Fort Meade expands beyond that fence line. Our community is Odenton, Columbia, Laurel, Severna Park, Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Howard County, Carroll County... I could go on. We know that all 56,000 of us who work here do not live on the installation with our families.

As the largest single employer in the state of Maryland with an economic impact of more than \$21 billion, Fort Meade community members have a huge impact of the economy of Maryland.

So, there is an inherent need to collaborate for the good of our greater Fort Meade community,” said Kuiper.

Once during every garrison commander’s tour at the fort, the Fort Meade Community Covenant signing is held, according to Kuiper. The event brought together the community outside the fence line that supports Fort Meade. In addition to elected officials, chambers of commerce, community organization and education leaders took part in the event.

“Decisions made by federal, state and local elected officials as well as businesses, have a rippling effect on Fort Meade,” said Spragg. “Today, we gather to recognize that partnership and the undeniable fact that we are one community and we need each other.”

Tim O’Ferrall, current chairman of the Community Covenant Council, said, “This Covenant Committee is a national model for cooperative community leadership.

“The importance of our working together cannot be understated,” he continued. “Fort Meade is our region’s largest economic driver, the State of Maryland’s largest employer, the US Army’s 2nd largest installation by population and our Nations front line for the war in cyberspace. Our community has the opportunity to play a significant role to impact positively these factors, and the responsibility to support those who serve and defend us.

Specific pledges in the covenant include:

- * To present a unified voice for the Fort Meade Community.
- * To increase the region’s awareness and understanding of Fort Meade, its goals and objectives.
- * To connect the Fort Meade Community on and off the post with beneficial partnerships and opportunities.
- * To serve as the Garrison Commander’s resource for relevant information related to the surrounding region.
- * To assist the garrison in supporting the mission of the agencies and organizations.

“Our long and mutually supportive relationship with the off-the-installation community directly gets after two of our garrison commander’s priorities—readiness and quality of life,” said Chad Jones, director of Fort Meade Public Affairs.

While signing the document is mostly ceremonial, Jones acknowledges it represents the earnest commitment of each member to serve the best interests of Fort Meade and the great community beyond the installation.

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Cutline Information:

- About fifty people attended the Fort George G. Meade Covenant signing event, pledging support to the installation from the community beyond the fence line.

- Congressman John Sarbanes was one of the many elected officials, representatives of chambers of commerce, universities and community organization leaders who signed the pledge to present a unified voice for the Fort Meade community.

List of signatories:

2019 Covenant Signing list

List of Signatures (top to bottom left to right order)

Maj. Gen. Omar J. Jones IV

Commander

Military District of Washington

Col. Erich C. Spragg

Garrison Commander

Fort George G. Meade

Gen. Paul M. Nakasone

Commander, U.S. Cyber Command

Director, NSA

Larry Hogan - pull from previous board

Governor

State of Maryland

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator

Maryland

Chris Van Hollen

United States Senator

Maryland

C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger

United States Congressman

Maryland 2nd District

Elijah E. Cummings – electronic sig *in memoriam

United States Congressman

Maryland 7th District

John P. Sarbanes

United States Congressman

Maryland 3rd District

Anthony Brown

United States Congressman

Maryland 4th District

George W. Owings III

Secretary

Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs

Stuart Pittman Jr.

County Executive

Anne Arundel County

Dr. Calvin B. Ball III

County Executive
Howard County

Ed Rothstein

Vice President
Carroll County Commissioners

Pamela Beidle

Senator
Maryland District 32

Guy Guzzone

Senator
Maryland District 13

J. Sandy Bartlett – electronic sig

Delegate
Maryland District 32

Mark S. Chang

Delegate
Maryland District 32

Mike Rogers

Delegate
Maryland District 32

Eric Ebersole

Delegate
Maryland District 12

Sarah Lacey

Councilwoman
District 1

Andrew C. Pruski - electronic

Councilman
District 4

Samuel Minnitte, Jr.

Chair
The BWI Business Partnership

Doreen Harwood

President
Fort Meade Alliance

John Calder

Operations Director
Corvias Military Living

John Falin

Director of Center Operations
USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore

Mary Bello

Chair
Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Leonardo McClarty

President
Howard County Chamber

Kirkland J. Murray

President & CEO
Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation

Dr. Dawn Lindsay

President
Anne Arundel Community College

Dr. George Arlotto

Superintendent
Anne Arundel County Schools

Melissa Ellis

Representative
Anne Arundel County School Board

Skip Auld

CEO
Anne Arundel County Public Library

Eliza Cagle & Brandy Malone

Presidents
Fort Meade Officers' Spouses' Club

Althea Freeman

President
Retired Officers' Wives' Club

Tim O'Ferrall

2019 Chairman
Community Covenant Council

BACKGROUND

Fort Meade stands at the forefront of national security through its cyber defense and offense efforts and continues to grow in importance in the technology universe. With more than 100 years of service, we are the nation's platform for intelligence, information and cyber operations. The installation is the largest employer in the state of Maryland with a joint force of 56,000 civilian and military professionals working around the clock in defense of the nation. We are the second largest Army installation in the continental United States in terms of personnel and home to all branches of military service. 119 partner organizations are located on our installation including U. S. Cyber Command, the National Security Agency, the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Defense Information School as well as federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Science Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact: Mary Doyle in the Fort Meade Public Affairs Office at 301-677-5592 or mary.l.doyle14.civ@mail.mil or

For more about Fort Meade, visit the Fort Meade website at www.ftmeade.army.mil, or go directly to the Fort Meade Press Center at www.ftmeadepresscenter.com. You can also check out Fort George G. Meade on Facebook and Twitter.