



Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Request By: Supervisor Gross

Question: Please provide a history of the County contribution to Ft. Belvoir National Army Museum.

Response:

On March 22, 2004, the Board of Supervisors approved annual funding of \$240,000 to support development of the U.S. Army Museum to be constructed at Fort Belvoir in the southeastern part of Fairfax County.

Construction of the museum at Fort Belvoir is estimated at \$90 million and will be funded privately through the Army Historical Foundation -- a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the Army's heritage. In addition, Prince William County donated 135 acres of land for the museum and provided \$850,000 to bring utilities to the facility. The museum will feature unique educational programs and resources in the areas of technology, history, geography, political science, engineering and civics for students of all ages. The opening date is now tentatively set for June 2013, for which the museum is expected to draw approximately 740,000 visitors annually when it opens.

Since FY 2005, the County has provided an annual contribution of \$240,000 for a total of \$1,200,000 in funding to support the construction of the National Museum. There is no known formal agreement that requires the County to provide funding for this Contributory Agency. Total funding of \$240,000 was requested in FY 2010, which is consistent with previous years, however \$150,000 is included in the County Executive's budget for FY 2010. It should be noted that the Army Historical Foundation is expected to have raised approximately \$19 million by the end of FY 2009.