

Fortress International Group, Inc.  
Form DEF 14A  
April 30, 2012

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant  x  
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  o  
Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12

**FORTRESS INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
  - Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
- 1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
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3)

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4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

5) Total fee paid:

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Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing:

1) Amount previously paid:

2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) Filing party:

4) Date Filed:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

**7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104  
Columbia, Maryland 21046  
(410) 423-7438**

April 30, 2012

Dear Stockholder,

We cordially invite you to attend our 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, at our corporate offices at 7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104, Columbia, Maryland 21046. The attached notice of annual meeting and this proxy statement describe the business we will conduct at the annual meeting and provide information about us that you should consider when you vote your shares.

At the annual meeting, one person will be elected as a Class I director. In addition, we will ask stockholders to consider and approve an amendment to our 2006 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan and to ratify the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2012. The Board of Directors recommends the approval of each of these proposals. Such other business will be transacted as may properly come before the annual meeting.

We hope you will be able to attend the annual meeting. Whether you plan to attend the annual meeting or not, it is important that your shares are represented. Therefore, when you have finished reading the proxy statement, you are urged to complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card promptly in accordance with the instructions set forth on the card. We encourage you to vote by proxy so that your shares will be represented and voted at the meeting, whether or not you can attend.

Sincerely,

/s/ Anthony Angelini  
Anthony Angelini  
Chief Executive Officer

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

**FORTRESS INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.  
7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104  
Columbia, Maryland 21046  
(410) 423-7438**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON JUNE 6, 2012**

To the Stockholders  
of Fortress International Group, Inc.:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2012 annual meeting of Fortress International Group, Inc. will be held at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on June 6, 2012 (the Annual Meeting ) at our corporate offices at 7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104, Columbia, Maryland 21046 for the following purposes:

1. To elect Mr. Gerard J. Gallagher as a Class I director to serve a three-year term;
2. To approve a proposal to amend the 2006 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan;
3. To ratify the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012; and
4. To transact such other business as may properly be presented before the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Only those holders of our common stock of record as of the close of business on April 27, 2012, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and at any adjournments or postponements thereof. A list of stockholders of record will be available at the meeting and, during the 10 days prior to the meeting, at our offices at 7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104, Columbia, Maryland 21046.

A total of 14,729,520 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding as of that record date. Each share of our common stock entitles its holder to one vote. Cumulative voting of shares of common stock is not permitted.

**All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. At least a majority of all issued and outstanding shares of common stock on the record date is required to constitute a quorum. Accordingly, whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting or not, we ask that you complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible in accordance with the instructions on the proxy card. A pre-addressed, postage prepaid return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.**

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
/s/ Anthony Angelini  
Anthony Angelini  
Chief Executive Officer

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND DIRECTOR COMPENSATION</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>PROPOSALS TO BE VOTED UPON BY STOCKHOLDERS</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS</u>	<u>26</u>

i

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**FORTRESS INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.**  
**7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104**  
**Columbia, Maryland 21046**  
**(410) 423-7438**

**PROXY STATEMENT**  
**2012 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL**  
**MEETING**

**Why Did You Send Me this Proxy Statement?**

We sent you this proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card because our Board of Directors is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and any adjournments or postponements of the meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, at 7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104, Columbia, Maryland 21046. This proxy statement along with the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders summarizes the purposes of the meeting and the information you need to know to vote at the annual meeting.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on June 6, 2012. The proxy statement and annual report to security holders are available at <http://www.cstproxy.com/thefigi/2012>.**

On or around April 30, 2012, we began sending this proxy statement, the attached notice of annual meeting and the enclosed proxy card to all stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting. Although not part of this proxy statement, our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K, which includes our financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, accompanies this proxy statement. You can also find a copy of this proxy statement and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 at <http://www.cstproxy.com/thefigi/2012>.

**Who Can Vote?**

Only stockholders who owned our common stock at the close of business on April 27, 2012 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting. On this record date, there were 14,729,520 shares of our common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Our common stock is our only class of voting stock.

You do not need to attend the annual meeting to vote your shares. Shares represented by valid proxies, received in time for the meeting and not revoked prior to the meeting, will be voted at the meeting. A stockholder may revoke a

proxy before the proxy is voted by providing a signed statement of revocation or a duly executed proxy card bearing a later date to us at 7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104, Columbia, Maryland 21046, Attention: Timothy C. Dec, Chief Financial Officer. Any stockholder who has executed a proxy card but attends the meeting in person may revoke the proxy and vote at the meeting.

## How Many Votes Do I Have?

Each share of our common stock that you own entitles you to one vote.

## How Do I Vote?

Whether you plan to attend the annual meeting or not, we urge you to vote by proxy. Voting by proxy will not affect your right to attend the annual meeting. If your shares are registered directly in your name through our stock transfer agent, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, 17 Battery Place, New York, NY 10004, or you have stock certificates, you may vote:

**By mail.** Complete and mail the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope. Your proxy will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you sign the proxy card but do not specify how you want your shares voted, they will be voted as recommended by our Board of Directors.

**In person at the meeting.** If you attend the annual meeting, you may deliver your completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot, which will be available at the meeting.

1

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

If your shares are held in street name (held in the name of a bank, broker or other nominee), you must provide the bank, broker or other nominee with instructions on how to vote your shares and can do so as follows:

**By mail.** You will receive instructions from your bank, broker or other nominee explaining how to vote your shares.

**In person at the meeting.** Contact the bank, broker or other nominee who holds your shares to obtain a broker's proxy card and bring it with you to the meeting. You will not be able to vote at the meeting unless you have a proxy card from your broker.

## **How Does the Board of Directors Recommend That I Vote on the Proposals?**

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote as follows:

**FOR** the election of Mr. Gerard J. Gallagher as a Class I director; and

**FOR** the proposal to amend the 2006 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan; and

**FOR** the ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2012.

If any other matter is presented, the proxy card provides that your shares will be voted by the proxy holder listed on the proxy card in accordance with his or her best judgment. At the time this proxy statement was printed, we knew of no matters that needed to be acted on at the annual meeting, other than those discussed in this proxy statement.

## **May I Revoke My Proxy?**

If you give us your proxy, you may revoke it at any time before the meeting. You may revoke your proxy in any one of the following ways:

signing a new proxy card and submitting it, as instructed above;  
notifying us at 7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104, Columbia, Maryland 21046, Attention: Timothy C. Dec, Chief Financial Officer, in writing before the annual meeting that you have revoked your proxy; or  
attending the meeting in person and voting in person. Attending the meeting in person will not in and of itself revoke a previously submitted proxy, unless you specifically request it.

## **What if I Receive More Than One Proxy Card?**

You may receive more than one proxy card or voting instruction form if you hold shares of our common stock in more than one account, which may be in registered form or held in street name. Please vote in the manner described under How Do I Vote? for each account to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

## **Will My Shares be Voted if I Do Not Return My Proxy Card?**

If your shares are registered in your name or if you have stock certificates, your shares will not be voted if you do not return your proxy card by mail or vote at the meeting as described above under How Do I Vote?

If your shares are held in street name and you do not provide voting instructions to the bank, broker or other nominee that holds your shares as described above under How Do I Vote?, the bank, broker or other nominee has the authority to vote your unvoted shares on Proposal 3, even if it does not receive instructions from you. We encourage you to provide voting instructions. This ensures your shares will be voted at the meeting in the manner you desire. If your

bank, broker or other nominee cannot vote your shares on a particular matter because it has not received instructions from you and does not have discretionary voting authority on that matter, this is referred to as a broker non-vote.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

## What Vote is Required to Approve Each Proposal and How are Votes Counted?

Proposal 1: Elect One Director

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares of common stock cast by stockholders present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting is required to elect Mr. Gerard Gallagher as a Class I director. You may vote either FOR the nominee or WITHHOLD your vote from the nominee. Votes that are withheld will not be included in the vote for the election of directors. Banks, brokers, and other nominees do NOT have the authority to vote your uninstructed shares in the election of directors. If you hold your shares in street name and you do not instruct your bank, broker, or other nominee how to vote your shares in the election of directors, no votes will be cast on your behalf. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the election.

Proposal 2: Amend the 2006 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the annual meeting is required to approve the amendment to the 2006 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan. Banks, brokers, and other nominees do NOT have the authority to vote your uninstructed shares on this proposal. If you hold your shares in street name and you do not instruct your bank, broker, or other nominee how to vote your shares in the approval of the amendment, no vote will be cast on your behalf. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be treated as shares represented at the meeting and will have the same effect as votes against this proposal.

Proposal 3: Ratify the Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the annual meeting is required to ratify the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm. Abstentions will be treated as shares represented at the meeting and will have the same effect as votes against this proposal. Banks, brokers, and other nominees have discretionary authority to vote customers' uninstructed shares held by the firms in street name on this proposal. We are not required to obtain the approval of our stockholders to appoint our independent registered public accounting firm. If our stockholders do not ratify the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2012, however, our Audit Committee of our Board of Directors will reconsider its appointment.

### Is Voting Confidential?

We will keep all the proxies, ballots and voting tabulations private. We only let our Inspector of Election, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, examine these documents. Management will not know how you voted on a specific proposal unless it is necessary to meet legal requirements. We will, however, receive any written comments you make

on the proxy card or elsewhere.

## **What Are the Costs of Soliciting these Proxies?**

We will pay all of the costs of soliciting these proxies. Our directors and employees may solicit proxies in person or by telephone, fax or email. We will pay these employees and directors no additional compensation for these services. We will ask banks, brokers and other institutions, nominees and fiduciaries to forward these proxy materials to their principals and to obtain authority to execute proxies. We will then reimburse them for their expenses.

3

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **What Constitutes a Quorum for the Meeting?**

The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock as of the record date is necessary to constitute a quorum at the meeting. Votes of stockholders of record who are present at the meeting in person or by proxy, abstentions, and broker non-votes are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists.

## **Attending the Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, at our corporate offices at 7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104, Columbia, Maryland 21046. When you arrive at our offices, signs will direct you to the appropriate meeting rooms. You need not attend the annual meeting in order to vote.

## **Householding of Annual Disclosure Documents**

In December 2000, the Securities and Exchange Commission adopted a rule concerning the delivery of annual disclosure documents. The rule allows us, or your broker, to send a single set of our annual report and proxy statement to any household at which two or more of our stockholders reside, if we or your broker believe that the stockholders are members of the same family. This practice, referred to as *householding*, benefits both you and us. It reduces the volume of duplicate information received at your household and helps to reduce our expenses. The rule applies to our annual reports, proxy statements and information statements. Once you receive notice from your broker or from us that communications to your address will be *household*ed, the practice will continue until you are otherwise notified or until you revoke your consent to the practice. Each stockholder will continue to receive a separate proxy card or voting instruction card.

If you do not wish to participate in *householding* and would like to receive your own set of our annual disclosure documents in future years, follow the instructions described below. Conversely, if you share an address with another stockholder and together both of you would like to receive only a single set of our annual disclosure documents, follow these instructions:

If your shares are registered in your own name, please contact our transfer agent, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, and inform them of your request by calling them at 212.509.4000 ext. 206, or by e-mail at [cstmail@continentalstock.com](mailto:cstmail@continentalstock.com), or writing them at 17 Battery Place, New York, NY 10004.

If a broker or other nominee holds your shares, please contact the broker or other nominee directly and inform them of your request. Be sure to include your name, the name of your brokerage firm and your account number.

4

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TABLE OF CONTENTS**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of April 27, 2012 for (a) each of our executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table on page 11 of this proxy statement, (b) each of our directors and director nominees, (c) all of our current directors and executive officers as a group, and (d) each stockholder known by us to own beneficially more than 5% of our common stock. Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. Except as indicated in footnotes to this table, we believe that the stockholders named in this table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown to be beneficially owned by them based on information provided to us by these stockholders. Percentage of ownership is based on 14,729,520 shares of common stock outstanding on April 27, 2012. Unless otherwise indicated, the address for each director and current executive officer is c/o Fortress International Group, Inc., 7226 Lee DeForest Drive, Suite 104, Columbia, Maryland 21046.

	Beneficially Owned	Ownership	
Directors and Executive Officers			
Peter H. Woodward	147,450	1.0	%
Harvey L. Weiss	648,000	4.4	%
Anthony Angelini <sup>(1)</sup>	250,000	1.7	%
Gerard J. Gallagher <sup>(2)</sup>	2,270,768	15.0	%
Timothy C. Dec <sup>(3)</sup>	285,005	1.9	%
All directors and officers combined as a group (5 persons) <sup>(4)</sup>	3,601,223	23.9	%
5% Stockholders			
Thomas P. Rosato <sup>(5)</sup>	2,229,341	15.1	%
Paul D. Sonkin <sup>(6)</sup>	1,378,926	9.4	%
Norman H. Pessin <sup>(7)</sup>	885,727	6.0	%

\* Represents beneficial ownership of less than 1% of the outstanding shares of our common stock.

(1) Includes 250,000 shares of restricted stock that are subject to forfeiture.

(2) Includes 366,667 shares issuable upon the conversion of a note held by Mr. Gallagher.

(3) Includes 150,000 shares of restricted stock that are subject to forfeiture.

(4) Includes 410,000 shares of restricted stock that are subject to forfeiture and 366,667 shares issuable upon conversion of a note.

(5) Mr. Rosato has agreed to vote all voting securities of the company held by him consistent with the recommendations of our Board of Directors with respect to all matters.

(6) Derived from the Schedule 13D (Amendment No. 1) filed jointly by Paul D. Sonkin, The Hummingbird Value Fund, L.P. ( HVF ), The Tarsier Nanocap Value Fund, L.P. ( Tarsier ), Hummingbird Management, LLC ( Hummingbird ) and Hummingbird Capital, LLC ( Hummingbird Capital ) on April 22, 2010. According to the Schedule 13D, HVF is deemed to have sole voting and disposition power with respect to 1,153,664 shares, and Mr. Sonkin is deemed to have sole voting and disposition power with respect to 1,378,926 shares. Hummingbird is the investment manager of HVF and Tarsier, and Hummingbird Capital is the general partner of HVF and Tarsier. Mr. Sonkin is the managing member of Hummingbird Capital and Hummingbird and is the investment manager to certain managed accounts. Each of the reporting persons specifically disclaims beneficial ownership of any shares

that are not directly owned by that reporting person. The business address of Mr. Sonkin and the foregoing entities is 145 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10022.

(7) Derived from a Schedule 13D/A (Amendment No. 2) filed by Norman H. Pessin on April 16, 2012. Mr. Pessin's business address is 366 Madison Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York 10017.

5

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

## MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### The Board of Directors

Our Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws provide that our business is to be managed by or under the direction of our Board of Directors. Effective January 3, 2012, Messrs. John Morton, III, William L. Jews, and Asa Hutchinson resigned from our Board of Directors and Peter H. Woodward was elected to our Board of Directors. On March 28, 2012, Thomas P. Rosato resigned from our Board of Directors.

We do not have a policy as to whether the role of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors should be separate or combined or whether the Chairman of the Board of Directors should be a management or non-management director. Following the resignation of Mr. Rosato as Chairman of our Board of Directors on March 28, 2012, our Board of Directors elected Mr. Woodward, who is an independent director as defined by the rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market, LLC, as the non-executive Chairman of our Board of Directors. Given the recent changes to our senior management and Board of Directors, our Board of Directors has determined that having an independent director serve as the non-executive Chairman of our Board of Directors is in the best interests of our stockholders at this time. This structure allows the Chairman of our Board of Directors to focus on the effectiveness of our Board of Directors while the Chief Executive Officer focuses on executing our strategic plan and managing our operations and performance.

In accordance with our Certificate of Incorporation, our Board of Directors is divided into three classes for purposes of election. One class is elected at each annual meeting of stockholders to serve for a three-year term. Our Board of Directors currently consists of four members, classified into three classes as follows:

Mr. Gerard J. Gallagher constitutes a class with a term ending at the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders; Messrs. Anthony Angelini and Harvey L. Weiss constitute a class with a term ending at the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders; and

Mr. Peter H. Woodward constitutes a class with a term ending at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders. Any additional directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors will be distributed among the three classes so that, as nearly as possible, each class will consist of one-third of the directors.

Our Board of Directors has voted to nominate Mr. Gallagher for election at the 2012 annual meeting for a term of three years to serve until the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders and until his successor has been elected and qualified, or until their earlier death, resignation or removal.

Set forth below are the names of the persons nominated as directors and our current directors whose terms do not expire this year, their ages, their offices in the company, if any, their principal occupations or employment for the past five years, the length of their tenure as directors, the names of other public companies in which such persons have held directorships during the past five years, and the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that support the conclusion that these persons should serve as members of our Board of Directors. Mr. Woodward is the sole member of the Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee.

Name	Age	Position with the Company
Peter H. Woodward	39	Chairman
Harvey L. Weiss	69	Vice-Chairman



Anthony Angelini            48            Chief Executive Officer and Director

Gerard J. Gallagher        55            President, Chief Operating Officer and Director

**Peter H. Woodward**, age 39, is the Founder and President of MHW Capital Management, a private investment firm that takes concentrated positions in micro-cap turnaround companies, with a focus on the technology sector. Prior to founding MHW Capital Management in 2005, Mr. Woodward was a Managing Director at Regan Fund Management Ltd., a hedge fund group specializing in active equity investments in

