



President Ronald Reagan, President-Elect George Bush and Soviet Union Premier Mikhail Gorbachev meet on the steps of the Admiral's House. Summit meetings between the three leaders were held on Governors Island in 1988.

Chapter 11

Almost immediately following the transfer, Governors Island Coast Guard forces were called into action. The newly commissioned high-endurance cutter Dallas was ordered to Vietnam where it earned the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. The Dallas was one of 30 high-endurance cutters that served in Vietnam between 1967 and 1971. In Vietnam, during seven combat patrols, the cutter compiled a very impressive list of accomplishments: 161 naval gunfire support missions, 7,665 rounds of ammunition fired accounting for 58 sampans destroyed and 29 supply routes, base camps and rest areas damaged or destroyed. The crew also provided medical and humanitarian services to the South Vietnamese.

The Dallas returned to a bustling, expanding community. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, new construction was begun all over the island as the Coast Guard attempted to tailor the base to its needs.

For Coast Guard personnel and their fami-

lies, the change was a big one. Most Coast Guard installations are very small with limited, if any, housing for married personnel. They were accustomed to doing their grocery shopping in commissaries operated by other services, often having to travel a considerable distance. Suddenly, there existed a Coast Guard base with housing to accommodate 526 families.

Governors Island, the largest military installation in New York City, was, and is, a town of its own. There is a large commissary, an exchange, bank, library, churches, gas station, bowling alley, golf course, swimming pools, and a school.

While this town has no official mayor, the commanding officer of Support Center New York is known as the "mayor." The island does have its own police force and fire department and town meetings are held on a regular basis by the commanding officer and staff of Support Center New York.

There are playgrounds, tennis courts, sports fields, picnic areas and, in the winter, ice-skating rinks. When snow blankets the island, the slopes of