

that enabled it to be an Army stockade for so many years, made it the perfect place to hold many internationally watched events. The high-profile events led to the creation of the Governors Island Historic District in 1985. The Northern end of the island from building 400 north was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Parks Service.

Operation Sail 1976 (OPSAIL '76) was the first of these events. On July 4, New York Harbor was packed with ships of all shapes and sizes to view the parade of tall ships and the fireworks display commemorating America's bicentennial. Island residents donned colonial attire and gave guided tours to thousands of visitors. Most spectacular, however, was the Parade of the Tall Ships, or International Naval Review, for which Governors Island was host. About 20,000 visitors and residents had an advantageous viewing point for this procession of the most beautiful sailing ships from around the world. This was followed by the largest fireworks display in the history of America, part of which was fired from Governors Island.

OPSAIL '76 was so successful that subsequent OPSAILS in 1986 and 1992 were held.

OPSAIL '86 celebrated the unveiling of the refurbished Statue of Liberty. From a point on the southwestern tip of the island, President Ronald Reagan turned on the torch to the statue that kicked off the celebration. An old wooden, single-story apartment complex, Fog Horn Alley, was torn down to accommodate the statue's centennial celebration. After the birthday party, Liberty Village, a modern three-story complex, was built for junior officers and their families on the site.

OPSAIL '92 commemorated the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the new world. The parade of tall ships featured replicas of Columbus' small fleet.

President Reagan apparently enjoyed his trip to the island so much that, on Dec. 7, 1988, he returned. With him came President-Elect George Bush and the Soviet Union's Premier Mikhail Gorbachev for a round of summit talks. The talks were held at the Admiral's House.

In 1993, the South Battery Club had its turn to host historic talks when ousted Haitian President Jean-Paul Aristide met with the man who overthrew him, Lt.-Gen Raoul Cedras, in a United



King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway tour Vessel Traffic Services New York with Vice Admiral James M. Loy, Commander of the Coast Guard Atlantic Area. The nationally implemented VTS system of monitoring harbor traffic was first put into use on Governors Island.