

Epilogue

On Oct. 16, 1995, the Coast Guard announced that it would close its base on Governors Island, thus ending the island's long military history. Admiral Robert E. Kramek, Commandant of the Coast Guard, said closing Governors Island will save \$30 million annually in operating expenses. The service will still provide the same essential services to the maritime public in the New York area.

The announced plan included the following:

The Atlantic Area Command and the Maintenance and Logistics

Command, Atlantic will move to the Tidewater, Va. area in May 1996.

The two high-endurance cutters, the Dallas and Gallatin, will shift their home port to Charleston, S.C. in the summer of 1996. For years, evolving operations had required the two cutters to maintain an almost constant presence in the Caribbean, conducting anti-narcotics and alien-migration operations. Moving the vessels south will therefore improve the operational readiness of the vessels.

The Captain of the Port of New York will move its operations back to Staten Island and Support Center New York would be dissolved.

As early as the summer of 1997, the Coast Guard will turn the island over to the federal government's General Services Administration for final disposition.

The Coast Guard will act as caretaker of the historic buildings until another tenant is found, but at the time of this writing, the future of the island is undecided.