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RUDY'S HIGH-TECH LAIR: A \$12 MILLION WEAPON AGAINST ALL ENEMIES

Fabled Command Center Is Now Open for Business After Speedy Work

SUPERMAYOR'S FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE?

Duels With Police Plaza War Room;
Taxpayers Foot \$1.5 Million Rent

BY GREG SARCENT

Remember the command center in the sky derisively referred to as Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's private bunker? Well, less than a year after plans for the facility came to light, the high-tech facility is open for business.

The \$12 million project, located on the 23rd floor of 7 World Trade Center, is "90 percent complete but fully operational," said Denise Collins, a spokesman for the city's Department of Administrative Services, which oversees some city capital projects. Yes, there's a private place for the Mayor to sleep and shower, but it's in a pretty prosaic, good-enough-for-government office—hardly the forbidding bunker that critics imagined last spring.

From that office and an adjacent conference room, the Mayor can run the entire city, communicating with the outside world via bugproof telephones.

The command center takes up a sprawling 46,000 square feet in a building just north of the World Trade Center towers—ironically enough, the site of a terrorist attack in 1993. The facility is meant to coordinate the responses of at least 50 city, state and Federal agencies to all sorts of disasters, except, perhaps, those of the electoral variety. The center is surrounded by a hurricane wall—it's made of bulletproof material, but not because officials are afraid of sniper fire, but because at 23 stories, the facility is vulnerable to flying debris. And here's why they built it in the sky rather than underground: According to an administration official intimately familiar with the project, the brittle water mains downtown could have endangered an underground facility. "Had we put it underground and there was a water main break," the official said, "we would have a multimillion-dollar swimming pool."

Getting into the center requires a card and a code, and those who enter will see a series of U-shaped consoles broken down