NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, NOVEMBER 28, 2001

Mayor says he will try to convince President Bush to reactivate Stapleton base

Rudy: Bring military back to home port

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Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani has set out on a new mission — to convince the Bush administration to reopen the long-dormant Stapleton home port as a military base.

The mayor said the 36-acre facility, opened as a Navy base in 1991 and mothballed in 1994, would be a potent deterrent to terrorist attacks here.

He said he planned to make the case to the White House "either today or tomorrow."

The reuse of the home port as a military base drew immediate opposition from about 20 North Shore residents attending a Community Board 1 meeting last night, as well from North Shore Councilman-elect Michael McMahon.

City Hall has already spoken to the Bush administration about bringing the Coast Guard back to Governors Island, Giuliani said.

The Coast Guard moved the bulk of its Atlantic command to Norfolk, Va., in 1997, and relocated hundreds of sailors and the headquarters of Activities New York to Fort Wadsworth.



Mayor Giuliani



President Bush

"It would be valuable to have military establishments in New York City," the mayor explained. "I was very disappointed when the home port was taken out of New York. I think the city, unfortunately, created some of that by the protests against the base.

"But I would be very happy to add whatever weight I could to consideration of the home port, Governors Island and other places as places where we could have some military presence in New York City."

Giuliani's soon-to-be successor, Michael Bloomberg, through a spokesman, said last night the military option is worth considering in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist

PLEASE SEE **MILITARY**, PAGE A 4

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