

# MIDDLETOWN NIKE

A CASE STUDY IN ARMY PUBLIC RELATIONS



U.S. Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Information

for

POLICY & PROGRAMS DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION

31 December 1958

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1. THIS WAS THE PROBLEM:

To take effective public relations action following the NIKE explosion in MIDDLETOWN, New Jersey, early Thursday afternoon, 22 May 1958.

2. THIS WAS THE BACKGROUND:

Because the public relations program pursued over the years prior to the explosion exerted such an overriding influence on the solving of this problem, this background data is discussed at some length.

In 1945, the Army asked the Bell Telephone Laboratories to study the antiaircraft missile problem and suggest a program for development of a weapon system. Thus was NIKE begun.

Eight years later, with its missile in production, the Army told of its plans to put the first NIKE on site at FT. MEADE, Maryland (See Exhibit A).

Over the next several years, through such systematic public information, troop information, and community relations efforts as security considerations would permit, at the local, regional and national level, the Army sought its publics' understanding and support of the NIKE program. The objectives of the information program were these:

Appreciation of the importance and effectiveness of NIKE;

Understanding of the site and land acquisition problems and procedures;

Harmonious troop community relationships;

Appreciation of the long and successful role of the Army's antiaircraft arm; and

Understanding of the importance of guided missiles to the accomplishment of the Army's mission

Principal public information steps taken:

(1) For television, a BIG PICTURE film, "Guided Missiles" was released in February, 1954. Another, "Pictorial Report No. 20," was exhibited in April, 1956. Conservatively estimated, some 30 million viewers saw each of these films. The latter proved of such community relations value it was re-produced as MF 45-8698, "NIKE for the Defense of Your Community."

(2) Naturally, press coverage emanating from NIKE-defended areas, as such sites were publicly identified, was extremely broad. (The extracts of press coverage from the PITTSBURGH, BUFFALO, and NEW YORK areas which are attached as Exhibit B, testify to public information effort early in the game.) Not always was the press coverage of the sort desired, however--more in this vein later.

(3) A press tour of the LORTON, Virginia, NIKE site in the spring of 1955 triggered national newspaper and magazine coverage during the months that followed. (The news release related to the tour, typical NEW YORK news coverage, and a subsequent Saturday Evening Post article are attached as Exhibit C.) The NIKE site tour soon became a prime technique for reaching professional and public service organizations and the general public. (The photographs at Exhibit D illustrate a tour conducted for the National Education Association.)

(4) 1956 saw extensive news magazine coverage given the Army's air defense role as one factor in public debate on Service missions and appropriations. (Exhibit E illustrates the Newsweek and Life treatments of the topics.)

(5) NIKE figured prominently in industrial advertising over the years from 1953 to 1958. (Two samples are inclosed as Exhibit F.)

(6) Youngsters incorporated "NIKE" into their jargon through commercially marketed model kits and toys. (Exhibit G shows an example.)

Not that the public information campaign was all sweetness and light--there were "flaps", of course. These largely revolved about the site selection and land acquisition phases of the NIKE program. Some of the problems could have been "headed off" had security restrictions on the release of information been less stringent. Some could have been obviated through anticipatory public relations planning and closer coordination between civic officials, representatives of the Army commander, representatives of the artillery commander and representatives of the technical services concerned.

In several instances community antagonism toward the program

appeared well after initially favorable reaction to the announcement that NIKE was to enter an area. The typical cry of anguish was: "Sure, I'm glad NIKE's coming, but don't put it in my yard!" (Exhibit H, clippings from the NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES and CLEVELAND press illustrate this problem.)

There was a "flap" of another sort too—a "runaway NIKE" at FT. MEADE, 1955. No personal or property damage stemmed from this accidental firing, and public attention to the incident was short-lived.

#### Troop information:

Troop information effort over the years was steady and pointed. All actions were geared to establish pride in both weapon system and unit and awareness of the individual soldier's community relations responsibility as a "back-yard defender".

Media used to supplement the public information techniques which had troop understanding as a supplementary objective included the Army Information Digest, pamphlets, the Army News Service, unit newspapers, the Army News Features clipsheet — this a troop information as well as public information medium — and unit commanders' discussions with their troops. (Several examples are attached as Exhibit I.)

#### Community relations:

The community relations effort initiated by the NIKE units as they prepared to move on site—and it was pressed systematically after occupation of the site—was far and away the aspect of the public relations program most productive of public understanding and support. The continuing effort was aimed at welcomed integration of the unit into the life of the community. As the Army Information Digest of December, 1956, phrased it, what had been public relations problems—these were the land acquisition difficulties—were turned to public relations opportunities.

The community relations program systematized over the years entailed:

- (1) Pre-deployment coordination with civic officials;
- (2) Tours of the site for local opinion leaders;
- (3) Identification of the site with the name of the community;
- (4) Site beautification;
- (5) Road signs to identify the site and publicize visiting hours;



- (6) Participation in and assistance to civic activities and youth programs;
- (7) Display and exhibit programs;
- (8) Guest speaker programs;
- (9) Harmonious press relations; and
- (10) Personal decorum on the part of the troops.

The effort "paid off". Said the Saturday Evening Post as early in the game as 3 September 1955:

In an incredibly short space of time, Upper Marlboro and Battery B have not only come to know each other but to rely on each other for diversion, recreation and friendship.

Contributing heavily to the impressive success of this community relations effort was OPERATION UNDERSTANDING, the program by which community opinion leaders are--the program continues today--invited to witness the annual service practice of "their" NIKE Unit at RED CANYON RANGE. Identification with the unit, first-hand assurance that the missile would protect their homes, and appreciation of "their" missile-men's technical proficiency--all these effects of OPERATION UNDERSTANDING fostered community acceptance and support of the NIKE program.

Appended as Exhibit J is "Community Relations in Action Report No. 6," a summary of objectives of the community relations program and typical techniques which have proved successful in achieving those objectives.

A notable product of these continuing public relations activities was general public readiness to accept NIKE HERCULES. The Department of Defense announcement (Exhibit K) in February, 1957, of the deployment of nuclear air defense weapons within the United States was met with subdued comment. The ground work in public opinion had been laid; NIKE was accepted as a sign of the times. News items, editorial comment and advertisements featuring HERCULES reflected this public acceptance. Some public apprehension was apparent, of course. Yet, the consensus was that the nuclear weapon was a logical extension of a much-needed air defense system. (See Exhibit L) For example: With the site "hassle" satisfactorily resolved, the LOS ANGELES press, September, 1955, anticipated the advent of a more powerful NIKE with these words: "Add this to the obvious fact that newer antiaircraft missiles are in development--including a NIKE II--and you have a fairly comforting picture of inner-ring defenses."

On the heels of Secretary of Defense Wilson's announcement, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 23 February 1957, said: "A new measure of assurance for the nation comes with the announcement." Said the Washington Star, 22 February 1957: "It is reassuring...."

Thus was the scene set for the problem to which this study is addressed. At about 1315 hours, Thursday, 22 May 1958, an inexplicable explosion rocked the NIKE site of Battery B, 526th AAA Missile Battalion (since redesignated Battery B, 4th Battalion, 71st Artillery) at LEONARD CHAPEL HILL near MIDDLETOWN, New Jersey.

### 3. HERE IS HOW THE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED:

The nature of the explosion, the number and identification of the dead and injured, and the extent of property damage were not immediately known. Plainly, immediate public relations action was demanded.

The fact-finding, planning and communicating phases of the public relations process were necessarily compressed. Communicating was begun; planning was concurrent.

The broad problems and objectives which had governed the information program during the years preceding the explosion had to contribute to these basic goals:

- (1) Public appreciation of the Army's air defense program, and
- (2) Public appreciation of the Army as a citizen of its many NIKE communities.

These specific policies, albeit they were but unconsciously recognized, governed immediate public relations actions:

- (1) Complete explanation of the facts to all parties concerned and full cooperation with communication media and civic officials would be essential.
- (2) Prompt and considerate assistance to families which had suffered material and personal loss through the explosion would establish the Army as thoughtful people rather than explosive machines.
- (3) Decentralization of public relations activities to the units and installations immediately concerned would insure the most effective public information and community relations effects.
- (4) Speed in all actions would be demanded if public alarm and adverse reaction were to be minimized.

Public information actions taken:

A scanning of the terse wire service reports regarding the accident will illuminate actions taken and the degree to which these actions supported the policies set forth above:

1408 hrs, AP 121 - AN EXPLOSION ROCKED THE U. S. ARMY NIKE BASE HERE TODAY. STATE POLICE REPORTED SEVERAL DEAD AND INJURED.

No official Army spokesman was yet in on the act.

1424 hrs, UP 135 - THE ARMY HOSPITAL AT FT. MONMOUTH WAS THROWN OPEN FOR THE DEAD AND INJURED, AN ARMY INFORMATION SPOKESMAN TOLD UNITED PRESS.

The nearness of FT. MONMOUTH was fortunate. This insured quick medical attention for victims of the explosion.

At FT. WADSWORTH, on STATEN ISLAND, across the bay from the scene of the blast, the Information Officer of the 52d AAA Brigade (since redesignated the 52d Air Defense Artillery Brigade), Captain Grant R. LASHER, learned of the explosion through a query from a New Jersey paper at about 1320 hours. He immediately verified that the disaster had occurred by using his direct line to the Army Air Defense Command Post. He then notified: his brigade commander; the Acting Commanding General, 1st Region, Brigadier General Charles B. DUFF; and the 1st Region Information Office. By about 1400 hours, he and an assistant were in an Army aircraft enroute to the blast scene.

1516 hrs, AP 154 - IN WASHINGTON, THE ARMY SAID THE UNIT MANNING THE BASE WAS PART OF THE 526th AIR DEFENSE BATTALION WHICH HAS HEADQUARTERS AT LEONARDO, N. J. THE ARMY SAID IT HAD NO DIRECT REPORTS ON THE BLAST.

The Office of the Chief of Information, Headquarters, Department of the Army, had not yet received any official word of the explosion.

1539 hrs, AP 163 - AN ARMY SPOKESMAN SAID THE MISSILES HAD NO ATOMIC WARHEADS AND THERE WAS NO DANGER OF RADIATION.

1601 hrs, AP 171 - MILITARY POLICE BARRED NEWSMEN FROM THE BASE.

1633 hrs, AP 184 - AN ARMY SPOKESMAN SAID ONE MISSILE EXPLODED AND SET OFF SIX OTHERS ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY. THAT WOULD ACCOUNT FOR ONLY TWO BLASTS BEING HEARD, HE SAID. THE SPOKESMAN SAID SEVEN BODIES WERE FOUND: SOME WERE SOLDIERS AND OTHERS CIVILIANS.

1702 hrs, AP 199 - CAPT LASHER SAID FIVE CIVILIANS WERE WORKING AS AN ORDNANCE TEAM AT THE LAUNCHING SITE OF ONE OF THE MISSILES. THEY WERE INSTALLING A MODIFICATION ON ONE.

Apprised by AP 171 of the apparent "news blackout" at the scene of the explosion, the Office of the Chief of Information quickly phoned Headquarters, 1st Region, FT. TOTEN, to advise that the blast area be opened to news writers and photographers as soon as safety considerations would permit, and that inquiries be answered frankly and promptly. (An Ordnance inspection team was already enroute to the scene.)

The Brigade Information Officer reached the scene at about 1500 hours. During the next two hours, he gathered facts and answered questions. He called the press together and told them: the nature of the explosion, the casualty figures, the reason for temporarily barring them from the blast area, and background data on the modification being performed on the missiles at MIDDLETOWN and other sites. He assured newsmen they would be permitted in the blast area as soon as safety considerations permitted.

By about 1510 hours, Brigadier General Charles B. DUFF, Acting CG 1st Region, USARADCOM, had reached MIDDLETOWN by helicopter from FT TILDEN. In rapid sequence, during the ensuing several hours, these actions were taken:

(1) General DUFF opened the area to writers and photographers as soon as the Ordnance inspection team had declared the area safe; he held a press conference in the Battery Day Room to bring the press up-to-date on the number of casualties and to announce appointment of a three-man board of officers to investigate the explosion; and he was interviewed by television and motion picture representatives;

(2) Sergeant Joseph McKENZIE, who had been in the immediate vicinity at the time of the blast, was interviewed by television newsmen;

(3) Next-of-kin of the dead and injured were notified;

(4) Arrangements were made for participation in the Dave GARROWAY Today television program at 0800 hours the next day, 23 May.



Within a few hours, too, though considerably more rapid reaction would have been preferable, Headquarters, Department of the Army agencies and other major commands were systematically reacting to the incident:

(1) Representatives of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations reached MIDDLETOWN by Army aircraft at about 1830 hours to observe the accident scene at first-hand and to evaluate the data obtained.

(2) An inspection team appointed by the Chief of Ordnance was flown to the blast scene the same afternoon.

(3) The next morning, other technical experts were enroute to MIDDLETOWN to assist in the investigation. These were on their way from the Office of the Chief of Engineers, from Redstone Arsenal, from Douglas Aircraft, and from the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

(4) Queried at their headquarters, Information Officers in DA and ARADCOM released background information on the air defense organization and on the NIKE missile.

Samples of the immediate news coverage given the explosion and a photograph of the site are attached as Exhibit M.

On the 23rd, the coordinated public information effort moved toward completion. In these follow-up actions, the answering of press queries and releasing of locally-slanted information from various headquarters, there was an overlap of public information and community relations actions which must be recognized. Through the public information effort, facts were explained and the public reassured with respect to the safety and effectiveness of the air defense program; these assurances and explanations had considerable community relations impact:

(1) An Army photographer was flown to the scene at the request of the board of officers investigating the accident;

(2) An Assistant S-3, Headquarters 52d Brigade, took over the Brigade Information Office, relieving the Information Officer for duty at MIDDLETOWN;

(3) A DA release was made to reemphasize the safety factor built into NIKE HERCULES. In CHICAGO, NEW YORK and COLORADO SPRINGS spokesmen of the 45th Brigade, First Army, and Headquarters USARADCOM reiterated this message (see news items, Exhibit N);

(4) That afternoon (the 23rd), the 52d Brigade Information Officer held further press conferences and arranged interviews between the 1st Region commander and the press and civic officials.

(5) Also on Friday afternoon, the 23rd, the Chief of Information arranged for the filming of a brief television statement by Acting Secretary of the Army Hugh M. MILTON II. The message was designed to: (a) give the latest information about causes of the explosion; (b) announce suspension of the missile modification; (c) call attention to the Army's air defense safety record and previous success with the modification; (d) reassure the public that steps would be taken to prevent future accidents; and (e) extend condolences to the families of the dead and injured. That evening, all networks gave top attention to Secretary MILTON's statement. Typical of the treatment given was John DALY's newscast, the substance of which is repeated in Exhibit O.

Final public information action was taken on 3 July, some six weeks after the explosion. As far as could be determined, the facts by that time were all known. Operational SOP's had been thoroughly reviewed to verify the comprehensiveness of safety procedures. A final news release was made, then, to make known the findings of the board of investigation and identify the possible causes of the explosion. It attracted minimum attention. (A copy is appended as Exhibit P.)

Community relations actions taken:

The regulations spelled out the community relations steps demanded. (Change 1 to AR 360-55, Community Relations, is appended as Exhibit Q.) These were the principal things done:

(1) General DUFF, on Friday morning, 23 May, met MIDDLETOWN's Mayor Frank BLAISDELL at the site of the explosion. General DUFF explained all that was known of the circumstances surrounding the accident and advised the Mayor of actions the Army was taking. For the same purpose, that evening, General DUFF called on New Jersey's Governor Robert D. MEYNER in TRENTON. Immediately following their get-together, the General and the Governor held an impromptu press conference in the latter's office.

(2) Also on Friday, the Judge Advocate General dispatched claims adjusting teams to the area. (This action was taken at the direction of the Chief of Staff, as recommended by the Chief of Information.) Before the day was out, these teams were operating from Township Hall in MIDDLETOWN. Earlier that afternoon, Secretary MILTON had personally telephoned both Governor MEYNER and Mayor BLAISDELL to advise them of the arrangements made for prompt settlement of claims. News releases publicized the establishment of the claims office and explained the procedures the Army had set up for on-the-spot compensation for damages. By Saturday morning, claims were being paid.



(3) On the night of the 26th, General DUFF and other Army officials attended a meeting of the CHAPEL HILL Community Association called by that group for the express purpose of receiving General DUFF's explanation and report of action taken. Unexpectedly, the meeting was characterized not by protest but by strong affirmation of support of Army air defense and by expression of sympathy for the lives lost in the blast. One after the other, Miss Mary SULLIVAN, Mr. James J. MALONEY, MIDDLETOWN's Mayor BLAISDELL and other local residents rose to proclaim confidence in NIKE and to applaud the Army's handling of the regrettable incident. Typical local news coverage of the meeting is illustrated by Exhibit R.

(4) On Tuesday, 27 May, four victims of the explosion (two soldiers and two civilians) were buried with military honors. The bodies of the other six victims had been released to their families for private burial.

#### Resume of public relations action taken:

Following rapidly on the heels of the accident—considering the nature of the explosion and the geographical factors involved, the action must be viewed as prompt—these steps were taken: a complete explanation was given to civic officials and communications media; assistance was offered the press to the extent permitted by considerations of safety; assistance and condolences were extended to the citizens of the community.

In the aftermath of the incident, the Army took steps to profit from several public relations lessons inherent in the many public information and community relations actions which had been taken. From a listing of these actions, as has been set forth in preceding pages of this study, guidelines for public relations reaction to future accidents were developed. (See Exhibit S.) These guidelines have since been passed along to the Information Officers of all major commands for further dissemination and adaptation to the local situation.

#### 4. EVALUATION:

How did it all turn out? What lessons can be learned?

The public was given the facts; the public accepted those facts and, to all intents and purposes, reiterated its support of the Army's air defense program.

The trepidation triggered by the accident was short-lived. The public information actions taken served to calm public jitters and dispel natural fears of the unknown. Friday's banner headlines became

Sunday's back page column. By Wednesday the subject was a dead issue. (Fortuitously, the French-Algerian political crisis loomed large in the headlines during this period.)

Editorial comment by various media mirrored public support of the Army's air defense effort while voicing regret over the incident. The newspapers' reminder that the Army had tabbed NIKE "safe as a gas station" was coupled with philosophical comment in the "even-gas-will-burn" vein. Typical of considered public reaction were these views of the CLEVELAND PRESS, 24 May 1958:

Residents of Cleveland and other great metropolitan centers must remember that they now live in the front lines.

They must accept the presence of front-line weapons, armed and ready to go at a moment's notice.

Whatever the risks may be, there is no choice at the moment but to accept them as one of the unfortunate by-products of living in a tense and uneasy world.

Further examples of editorial comment are given in Exhibit T.

As far as can be determined, NIKE communities throughout the United States retained their appreciation of the Army as a worthwhile neighbor. In MIDDLETOWN, the one locality immediately affected, the Army's material assistance and considerate approach were accepted and apparently appreciated.

This community acceptance has since been confirmed by subdued news comment and editorial discussion on the advent of HERCULES in LOS ANGELES, WASHINGTON, CHICAGO and other metropolitan areas. (See examples, Exhibit U.)

#### Summary:

The MIDDLETOWN NIKE case underscores four basic principles of public relations:

ONE -- A thorough program of preventive public relations establishes communication between an organization and its publics, and builds attitudes of mutual understanding. On this solid base, adversity and unforeseen vibrations can be withstood.

TWO -- If the first lesson has been heeded, the adversity can be minimized by continuing to recognize the public's right to straightforward recounting of the facts in the case.



THREE -- The public has a further right, the entitlement to considerate treatment as individuals. Every step taken which proves that the organization in trouble is humane, considerate and helpful will find the trouble diminished. The seemingly small and insignificant personal problem is often the one charged with the greatest potential for good or ill will.

FOUR -- Faced with the sort of crisis typified by the MIDDLETOWN NIKE accident, the organizations immediately concerned must inform higher and adjacent headquarters as rapidly as circumstances permit. Resources far beyond the local capability can thus be drawn upon quickly.

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Exhibits attached:

- A - News Release No. 1185-53, NIKE to be Installed in the Anti-Aircraft Defense System
- B - Early press coverage on deployment of NIKE to Pittsburgh, Buffalo and New York
- C - 1955 News Release No. 443-55, NIKE Fact Sheet; newspaper and magazine (Saturday Evening Post) comment following public admittance to NIKE sites
- D - Photographs of a typical NIKE site conducted tour
- E - Magazine treatment of public debate on Army air defense effectiveness, 1956 (Newsweek, Life)
- F - Examples of advertisements featuring NIKE AJAX
- G - Examples of children's toys featuring NIKE
- H - Early news comment on community antagonism toward NIKE site acquisition in New York, Los Angeles and Cleveland
- I - Examples of Troop Information publications
- J - Community Relations in Action Report No. 6
- K - News Release No. 147-57, Deployment of Nuclear Weapons for Air Defense Announced
- L - Examples of news and editorial comment and advertisements featuring HERCULES following Release No. 147-57

- M - Examples of immediate news coverage given the MIDDLETOWN explosion; photograph of the site
- N - News Release No. 515-58, 23 May 58, The explosion, missile modification, actions being taken
- O - Excerpts from John DALY's newscast, 23 May 58, regarding Secretary MILTON's television statement
- P - News Release No. 648-58, 3 Jul 58, Final release on the explosion
- Q - Change 1 to AR 360-55, Community Relations (accident SOP)
- R - Examples of news coverage given the meeting of the Chapel Hill Community Association, 26 May 58
- S - Guidelines for Disastrous Accidents, OCINFO, September 1958
- T - Examples of editorial comment following the MIDDLETOWN explosion
- U - Examples of news and editorial comment on the advent of NIKE HERCULES in the Los Angeles and Washington areas.



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**PLEASE NOTE DATE**



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D. C.

HOLD FOR RELEASE  
UNTIL 6:00 P.M. (EST)  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1953

No. 1185-53 Exhibit A  
LI 5-6700 Ext. 71252

**ARMY'S NIKE GUIDED MISSILE TO BE INSTALLED  
IN NATION'S ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE SYSTEM**

The first NIKE unit to be used in the Nation's anti-aircraft defense system will be installed in the near future at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, the Department of the Army announced today.

NIKE is the Army's first supersonic anti-aircraft guided missile designed to follow and destroy the enemy target regardless of evasive action. It is the first guided missile system to defend American cities against aerial attack.

Named after the goddess of victory of Greek mythology, NIKE is the end product of eight years of guided missile research, development and engineering.

An integral part of the Army's guided missile program, the NIKE project was initiated in 1945 when Army Ordnance asked Bell Telephone Laboratories to undertake a study of the problems involved in the construction of a new anti-aircraft system. As a result of their recommendations, the Army promptly authorized a development contract so that the envisioned guided missile system could be brought to a reality.

Initial firing tests of NIKE missiles started in the fall of 1946. Throughout the intervening years, the NIKE missile and its associated equipment progressed from one development stage to another, until finally, NIKE was ready for mass production.

This new addition to the country's arsenal of defense was developed by a service-industry team composed of engineers of the Army Ordnance Corps, Western Electric Company, Bell Telephone Laboratories, and Douglas Aircraft Company. Current mass production of the control equipment is largely accomplished by the Western Electric Company. The missile and component parts of the NIKE system are being produced by the Douglas Aircraft Company, Western Electric, and several hundred suppliers and subcontractors in more than 20 states.

MORE

The NIKE system consists essentially of two parts: First, an expendable missile; second, an elaborate and highly complex control system requiring approximately 1,500,000 individual parts.

Essentially a defensive weapon, the NIKE system will provide defended areas with a far greater degree of anti-aircraft protection than was ever before possible with the more limited ranges and altitudes of conventional anti-aircraft guns.

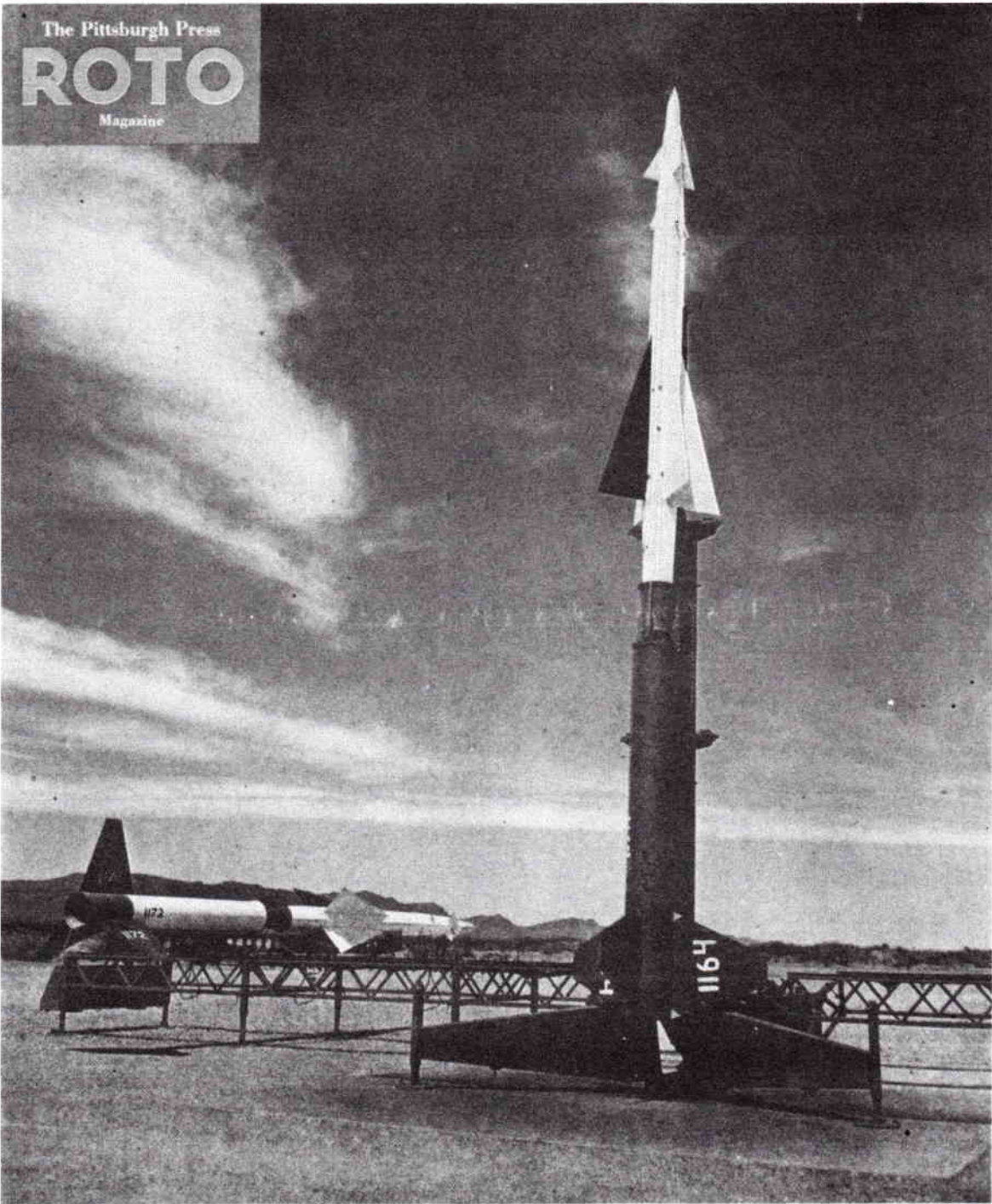
NIKE employment in the anti-aircraft defense of the Continental United States will utilize constructed emplacements. While the land requirement for each individual site is relatively small, positioning of the site is comparatively rigid. Only the absolute minimum land interests necessary to emplace and operate the weapon systems and to afford safety protection will be acquired. Government-owned land will be utilized to the maximum extent possible consistent with technical requirements. This will reduce to a minimum inconvenience to the civilian population and the removal of revenue-producing land from tax rolls.

15 The term "government-owned land" includes state, county, and municipally-owned lands. In the developing program of setting up defense installations, decisions which would affect lands owned by states, counties or cities, will be reached only after consultations with officials of the governmental subdivisions concerned.

For obvious reasons, visits to NIKE installations by news media representatives and the public are not authorized at this time.

E N D





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Sunday, October 24, 1954

Nike . . . Supersonic Defender Of Pittsburgh Skies

See Page 2



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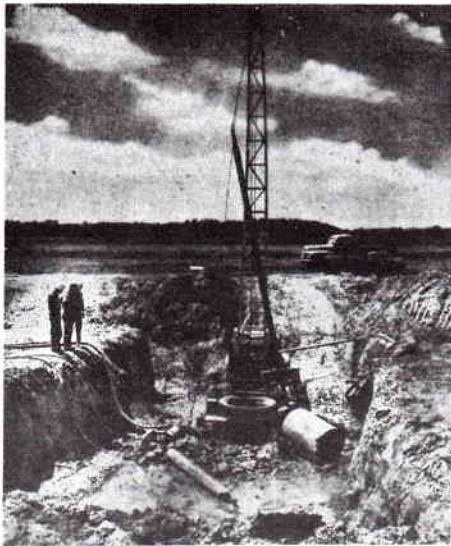
The Pittsburgh Press, Sunday, October 24, 1954

THE ARMY LIBRARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



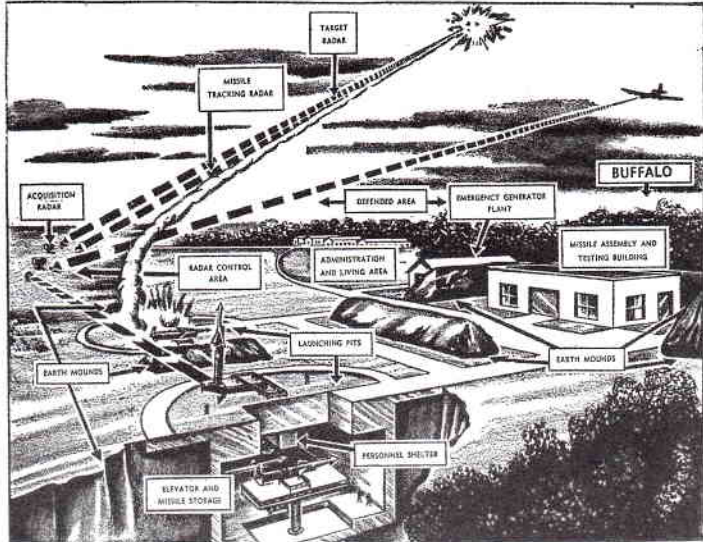
BUFFALO EVENING NEWS—Thursday, Aug. 5, 1954  
 Picture Page \* Photos by Wire \* Page 52

# First Photos of Start on Niagara Frontier's Nike 'Ring of Steel'



Start of 'Ring of Steel' About the Niagara Frontier

Despite tough resistance on the part of nature, workmen today are carving out a site near Cambria Center for one of the Nike stations that will ring the Niagara Frontier. Nike is the uncanny, 1,500-mile-an-hour supersonic missile that unerringly finds an enemy bomber and destroys it. At Cambria Center, workmen are encountering a hard layer of rock similar to the tough rock-over-shale formation involved in the recent Presque Point rockfall.



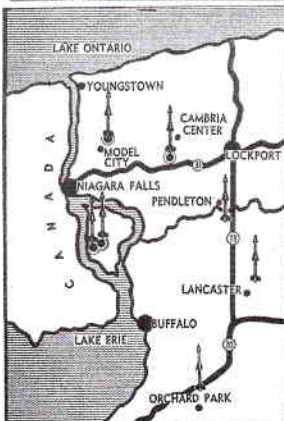
Here's How a Typical Nike Installation Is Set Up

This is an artist's conception of a Nike installation in actual operation. The cutaway section shows an underground emplacement from which Nike is thrust upward to a launching position. One mile distant is the radar-control area. Acquisition radar picks up the target. Target radar "locks" on the enemy bomber, relaying directions to missile-tracking radar.



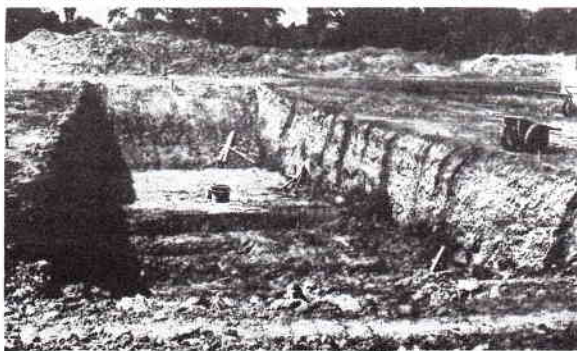
A Nest for the Nike: Construction on Site Near Model City

This pit on the Lake Ontario Ordnance Depot near Model City in preparation for one of the guided-missile centers is well under way. Another of three pits is in the background. Underground concrete emplacements for crew positions and the storing of Nikes will be built in each pit. Launchers above ground will receive the missiles from a hydraulic lift. The entire area will be neatly graded and covered with concrete and grass.



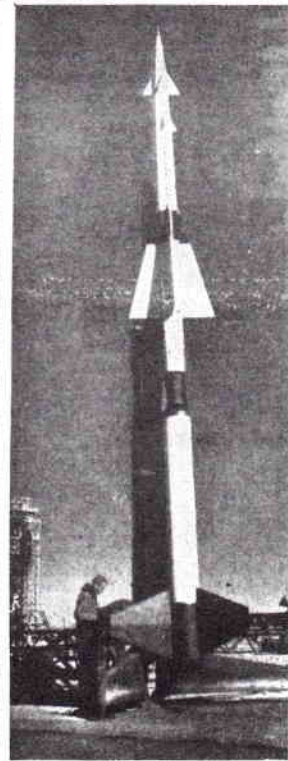
Where Nike Centers Will Be Located

Sites for Nike installations already are being prepared near Model City and Cambria Center, and two locations selected on Grand Island. Others are planned near Pendleton, Lancaster and Orchard Park. (Map is unofficial.)



Casing Already in Place for Hydraulic Lift at Nike Site

This rough excavation at the Model City installation eventually will house a Nike storage and launching unit. The center already contains casing for the hydraulic lift which thrusts the missile upward to its launching position.



This Is the Nike

The supersonic, guided anti-aircraft missile, Nike, scheduled to defend the Niagara Frontier in about six months, is shown on a launcher. Below dark band at midpoint is booster rocket unit, detached after launching.



# Your Life Can Depend on This

## Guided Missiles Guard N. Y. City

First of 2 Articles

By **GEORGE CARROLL**  
Aviation Editor

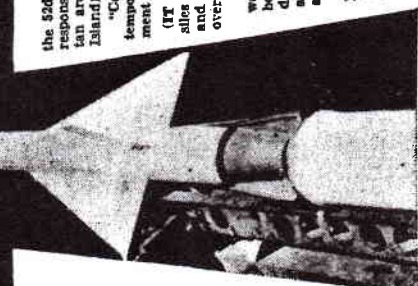
**B**ATTERIES of guided missiles now guard Greater New York and its 15,000,000 people against Red air attack. The Journal-American can disclose today.

They are armed with the Army's prize ground-to-air weapon, the 1,500-mile-an-hour Nike, with a reported range of 30 miles.

**THE NIKE** is about 30 feet long and a foot in diameter and is designed to streak out and destroy an enemy target regardless of the latter's evasive action.

It consists of an explosive warhead, a two-part rocket propulsion unit and a secret electronic guidance system.

The first rocket unit, a booster to hurt

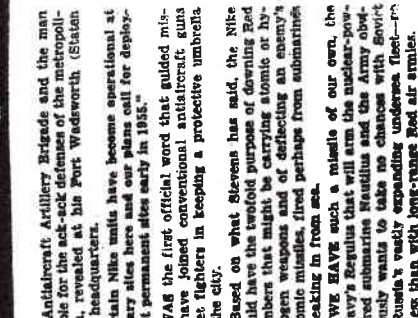


THIS IS THE NIKE

It off the launcher, falls to the ground soon after the Nike is airborne. As a safety factor, the warhead can't explode unless "the bird," as missilemen call one of their weapons, is in flight.

**IT HAS BEEN** claimed the Nike can score "killer" in two out of three shots and Army Secretary Stevens has said the weapon can destroy either planes or other missiles "traveling at supersonic speeds."

Col. Richard S. Spangler, commander of



the 52d Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade and the man responsible for the set-up defense of the metropolitan area, revealed at his Fort Weddworth (Staten Island) headquarters.

"Certain Nike units have become operational at temporary sites here and our plans call for deployment at permanent sites early in 1955."

**IT WAS** the first official word that guided missiles have joined conventional antiaircraft guns and jet fighters in keeping a protective umbrella over the city.

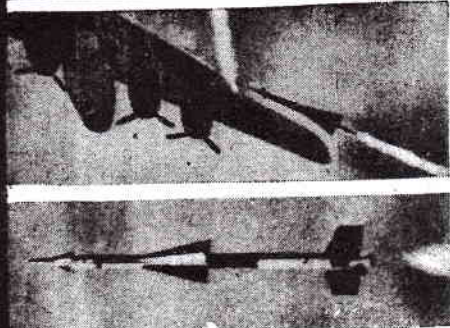
Based on what Stevens has said, the Nike would have the twofold purpose of downing Red bombers that might be carrying atomic or hydrogen weapons and of deflecting an enemy's atomic missiles fired perhaps from submarines sneaking in from sea.

**WE HAVE** such a missile of our own, the Navy's Neptune that will aim the nuclear-powered submarine Neptune and the Army about county wants to take no chances with Soviet Russia's vastly expanding Red air armies.

less than with long-range Red air armies. Next to the fashioning of Nike weapons, construction of permanent Nike launching sites for the defense of New York has the highest priority in the Army.

Fourteen critical defense areas of the United States are designed for Nike batteries, not all with the same degree of urgency. It is believed the Washington-Baltimore area enjoys the same priority level as New York.

**THE NIKE**, named after the goddess of victory in Greek mythology, introduces push button methods to the Army's defensive setup here.



Up It Goes...

Nearing Target...

The Nike Strikes...

Broken Plane Falls...

The missile batteries will supplement, not replace the 90 mm. antiaircraft guns now spaced unobtrusively about the metropolitan area and tied in with the latest warning system of the whole northeastern United States.

**THE 86 MM.** crews take turns sharpening their aim with practice firings off Montauk at the extreme outer end

of Long Island, where they can bang away at low targets.

Since Col. Alfred K. Davidson, Jr., district engineer of the Corps of Engineers, 40 Lafayette St., has an excellent working knowledge of the launching sites for the permanent Nike installations hereabout, his and pieces have gotten into print about locations and proposed operations.

**TO WRAP UP** into one neat package all that has appeared would only be making it easier for Soviet intelligence, so no mention will be made here of specific sites in the New York area nor their number.

**(The second article on guided missile defense of New York will be published Tuesday).**

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**PLEASE NOTE DATE**



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D. C.

HOLD FOR RELEASE  
UNTIL 6 PM (EDT)  
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1955

NO. 443-55 Exhibit C-1  
LI 5-6700 Ext. 71252

F A C T S H E E T

NIKE SURFACE TO AIR GUIDED MISSILE

Many details of the NIKE system cannot be revealed at this time. Within present limits of military security, this fact sheet tells what NIKE is and what it does.

1. BACKGROUND:

1. NIKE, named after the goddess of victory of Greek mythology, is the end product of ten years of guided missile research, development and engineering. It is the Army's first supersonic antiaircraft guided missile designed to intercept and destroy the enemy target regardless of the evasive action. It is the first guided missile system to defend American cities against aerial attack.

2. The NIKE project was initiated in 1945. Initial firing tests started in the fall of 1946. The first NIKE battery to become operational was installed at Fort Meade, Maryland, in December, 1953.

3. NIKE was developed by a service-industry team composed of the Army, Western Electric Company, Bell Telephone Laboratories, and Douglas Aircraft Company. Current mass production of the control equipment is accomplished largely by Western Electric. The missile and component parts of the NIKE system are produced by Douglas, Western Electric, and suppliers and sub-contractors in more than 20 states.

II. DEPLOYMENT:

4. NIKE guided missile installations are deployed throughout the United States as an inner ring of defense for industrial, highly populated, and strategic areas.

5. Constructed emplacements, including underground launchers, are utilized, but the system itself is mobile. While the land requirement for each individual site is relatively small, positioning of the site is comparatively rigid. Only the absolute land interests necessary to emplace, operate and administer the weapon system and to afford safety protection is acquired. Each battery

MORE

requires from 40 to 50 acres; approximately 6 - 8 acres for the control area and the remainder for the launcher area. Certain specialized requirements exist. Among these is the need for unobstructed line of sight between both areas.

### III. ORGANIZATION:

6. The Antiaircraft Artillery Missile Battalion is organized with a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and four antiaircraft missile batteries. The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery is charged with command, administration, operations, maintenance, supply and communications. Each missile battery consists of two platoons, the battery control platoon and the launching platoon.

7. Each battery is authorized six officers, two warrant officers and 101 enlisted men.

### IV. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

8. Essentially, the NIKE system consists of two parts: An expendable missile, and ground-based launching and control equipment.

21  
9. The NIKE is a liquid-fueled supersonic antiaircraft missile, approximately 20 feet long and about one foot in diameter, with two sets of fins for guidance and steering. The missile and booster weigh slightly more than one ton.

10. When launched, the missile is attached to a booster half the length of the missile. The booster accelerates the missile to supersonic speed, separates from the missile in a matter of a few seconds, and falls into a pre-determined booster disposal area. The Army is testing a self-destroying booster which will eliminate the need for a booster disposal area.

11. Speed, range, altitude and lethality of NIKE are classified. Its kill potential has far exceeded expectations, and it greatly increases protection against attacking modern types of aircraft. Research work continues to improve its capabilities.

12. NIKE is normally fired from an almost vertical position. It can meet an attack from any direction.

13. Each battery is ready to fire at a moment's notice. Each is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. NIKE is never fired from its operational site except in event of attack. The personnel go to established NIKE firing ranges for regular annual practices.



V. THE NIKE SYSTEM:

14. The ground control equipment consists of a number of major components. These include three radars, a computer, automatic plotting boards, remote control launching racks, and power generators.

15. One of the three radars is an acquisition or search radar which detects the approach of distant aircraft. The second is a tracking radar which picks up and tracks the target as it approaches and feeds information regarding its location and movement into the computer. The third radar tracks the missile throughout its flight and reports its movement to the computer. On the basis of those data, directions are sent to the missile telling it where to go to hit the target.

16. The computer, radars, and associated control equipment are located at the Battery Control area. The remotely controlled launching equipment is at the Battery Launcher Area.

VI. TYPICAL ENGAGEMENT:

22 17. In a typical engagement warning of the approach of a hostile aircraft will come from the early warning system operated by the Air Force.

18. The acquisition radar continuously searches the sky for approaching aircraft. When the target is acquired, the information is relayed to battery control.

19. While the target is still many miles distant, the target tracking radar takes over the designated target. Using information from the target tracking radar, the computer begins recording the path of the hostile aircraft. In the meantime, the missile tracking radar is trained on a missile.

20. At the appropriate moment, the missile is launched. From that instant onward, the target and missile tracking radars work in unison, one locked on the target the other on the missile.

21. On the basis of data from these radars, guidance is provided the missile to intercept and destroy the target. Any evasive action taken by the target is immediately detected and corrective information is given to the missile.

## VII. SAFETY:

22. A NIKE guided missile installation constitutes no danger to the area nor to the personnel of the unit itself. It is as safe as a gas station, as important to the security of the community as the police and fire departments.

23. The warhead is constructed to explode only in flight. It has a self-destructive feature so that it will not crash and explode.

24. Safety precautions are taken for storage of explosives and volatile fuels. Assembled missiles are stored underground. Fueling areas are surrounded by high earthen revetments.

## VIII. LAND ACQUISITION POLICIES:

25. NIKE sites are located on federal, state, county, or municipally owned property wherever possible, to keep purchases of private property to a minimum.

26. Site determination is based on tactical and technical suitability, the least disruption of civilian economy, and economy to the government.

27. If the land is not privately owned, the first step is to determine availability of the site through meetings with the governmental body. If the land is privately owned, determination is made as to its availability and the effect of its acquisition on the balance of the property or the immediate neighborhood.

28. Following preliminary investigations, the property owner is advised that the Army is considering the use of the land for a guided missile site. He is requested to permit surveys that will determine the suitability of the site.

29. Appraisals are made by independent realtors of the community, retained under contract to assure fair value to the owner. Acquisition is authorized by the Department of Defense and the Armed Services Committees of Congress.

## IX. TRAINING OF PERSONNEL:

30. Training of all NIKE guided missile personnel consists of three phases: Initial training at Fort Bliss, Texas; on-the-job training at the operational missile sites; and annual service practices at regular NIKE target ranges.

31. The 1st Guided Missile Brigade and the Antiaircraft and Guided Missile School at Fort Bliss, give both officers and enlisted men specialized courses of technical instruction, in which they are first trained as specialists who are familiar with the entire NIKE system and specialize in operating one item of equipment. Then they are trained as a package and moved to on-site locations. This training period covers approximately one year for some specialists.

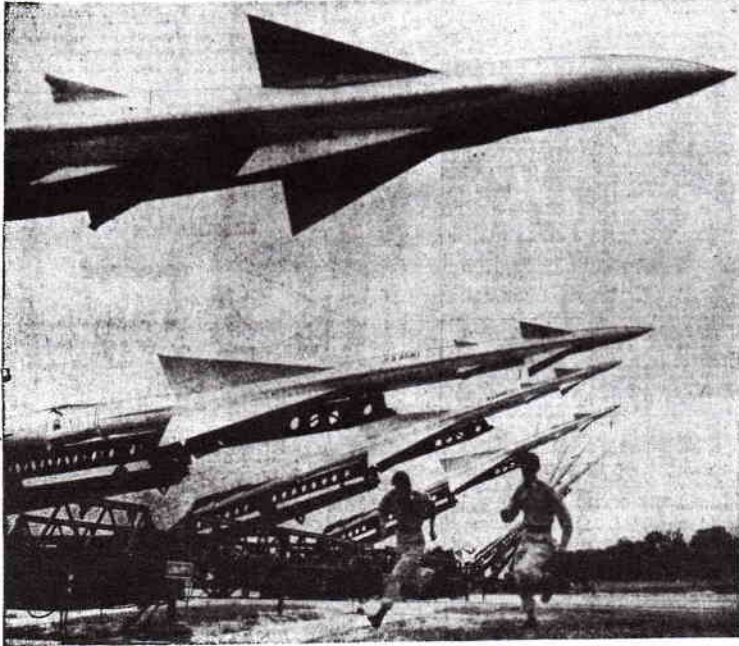
32. During the time the men are at their 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week on-site positions in permanent NIKE installations, they receive constant training in maintenance, repair, and operation of the weapons system.

33. Since NIKE guided missiles are never fired from their on-site positions except in event of enemy attack, each battery is given annual practices at permanent NIKE ranges located elsewhere in the United States.

E N D



# Nike, Washington's Last-Ditch Defense, Is Battle-Ready If Atom Attack Comes



This is what newsmen saw yesterday when the Army took the wraps off the Nike installation manned by the 71st Antiaircraft Artillery Missile Battalion at Lorton, Va. Many details of the operations of Nikes were disclosed but others, for security reasons, were withheld.

By John G. Norris  
Staff Reporter

LORTON, Va., May 17.—The young battery commander's voice came hoarsely out of the bull-horn, "battle stations, battle stations, report of enemy planes."

A siren screeched and crewmen disappeared below ground. In a matter of seconds, pencil-thin, white missiles mounted on launchers came up from their underground chambers on elevators and pointed at the skies.

A mile away in line of sight, three radar antennas revolved constantly, searching for the intruders and prepared to guide the deadly Nikes to blow them to bits. That's the way Washington's last ditch defense against atomic destruction from the air—unveiled publicly for the first time here today—would work when and if the real thing comes.

Several dozen newsmen and photographers were shown this closely guarded and hitherto secret Nike battery—first of the underground guided missile bases that now ring 16 major American cities.

Gathered from Washington and other cities, they were given a briefing on the workings of the supersonic missile system. The newsmen then were taken on a tour of the 47-acre site, adjoining the District of Columbia reformatory, and allowed to look and shoot off flash bulbs in the underground firing and storage chamber and elsewhere at the base.

MOST of the data and views of the equipment had been released by the Army before, and this reporter and others have been allowed to visit the Nike installation at White Sands Proving Ground, in New Mexico, and write about it under wraps. Today, however, newsmen were shown everything but the interior of the radar sheds and allowed to tell about and photograph whatever they saw.

This site—typical of the score of batteries ringing Washington and Baltimore—and others over the country—is part of a billion dollar "backyard" defense against enemy bombers being installed.

The base cost about one million dollars, not counting the weapons and electronics control mechanism which probably total at least that amount again. That's about the national average, though other sites in the Washington-Baltimore area are costing about \$500,000 apiece, according to Brig. Gen. Raleigh R. Hendrix, commander of the 2d Antiaircraft Region, with headquarters at Fort Meade, Md.

Actually, there are two sites, seven-tenths of a mile apart. The first is the control point from which three radar systems (1) search and locate the approaching bombers, (2) track and "lock on" the enemy bomber, and (3) guide the Nike missiles to the target and fire them.

The other is the launching site composed of two subterranean chambers, in which the "birds" are stored ready for raising on elevators to four launching racks on the surface.

A THIRD underground firing site will be added to each battery soon. Crews conduct daily drills, but do not actually fire the Nikes at the close-in bases. Part of Battery C of the 71st AAA Missile Battalion here, commanded by First Lieut. James R. Thompson, leaves for Red Canyon, N. Mex., later this month for its annual 10 days target practice.

Others of the six officers and 133 men of the battery will remain to keep it operational seven days a week, 24 hours a day while they're away and go to the range later. Crews eat, sleep and live at both sites, always ready for a "red" alert, if early warning systems elsewhere flash a report of unidentified planes approaching.

The Nike, a foot-thick and 20 feet long, weighs about a ton. It is launched by a "jet assist" booster, which then drops off, and the "bird" pursues its target at speeds, unofficially reported at 1200 mph, by burning a mixture of nitric acid and jet engine fuel. Unofficial reports put the Nike's range about 25 miles and its ceiling at some 50,000 feet.

How good is it?

General Hendrix said he could not tell the percentage of kills, but added: "I can tell you that the weapon has a tremendous kill potential. It is capable of outmaneuvering and destroying any type of aircraft presently known and foreseeable for the immediate future. Moreover,



A Lorton Nike looking for trouble

the range and altitude of Nike gives us the capability to destroy enemy aircraft before they reach a distance from one of our cities from which they could launch their bomb loads."



This is Nike (NIKE-key), Greek goddess of victory, for whom the last-ditch A-attack weapon was named.

## It's Our 'Backyard' Defense

By a Staff Correspondent

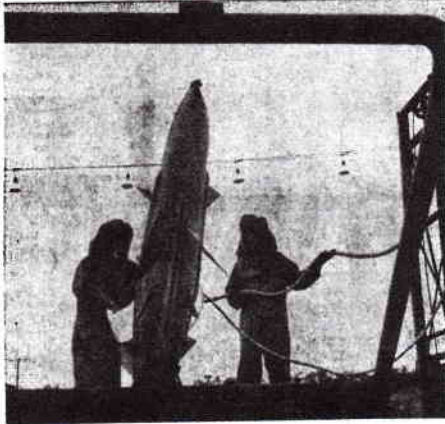
LORTON, Va., May 17.—The Army opened the gates of its heretofore secret Nike base here in an effort to win friends for the not so popular "backyard" guided missile air defense network.

With full approval of top Defense Department officials, today's showing for the press will be followed up by visits of the city fathers and "other influential citizens" of Washington and other Maryland and Virginia communities. Similar press and public tours will be arranged at other Nike bases over the country.

Maj. Gen. Gilman C. Hodget, chief of Army Information, told newsmen that the Army needs "public understanding of the why and wherefore" of this "unique" weapon "being installed literally in the 'backyards' of householders all over the Nation."

Brig. Gen. Raleigh R. Hendrix, commander of the Nike defenses of the Washington-Baltimore area, took newsmen on a tour of the spruced up, landscaped Nike site, much more attractive than the normal Army base.

"If we want the people to feel and see that the Army is doing everything possible to maintain high standards," he said, "that the Nike site is not dangerous, but as safe as a gas station, as important to security and as much a part of the local community as the police and fire departments, and that the physical appearance of our sites eventually will blend with the adjoining civilian areas in such a manner that property values will not be affected."



Two soldiers wear rubber suits, boots and helmets to protect themselves as they fill the fuel tank of a Nike at Lorton.

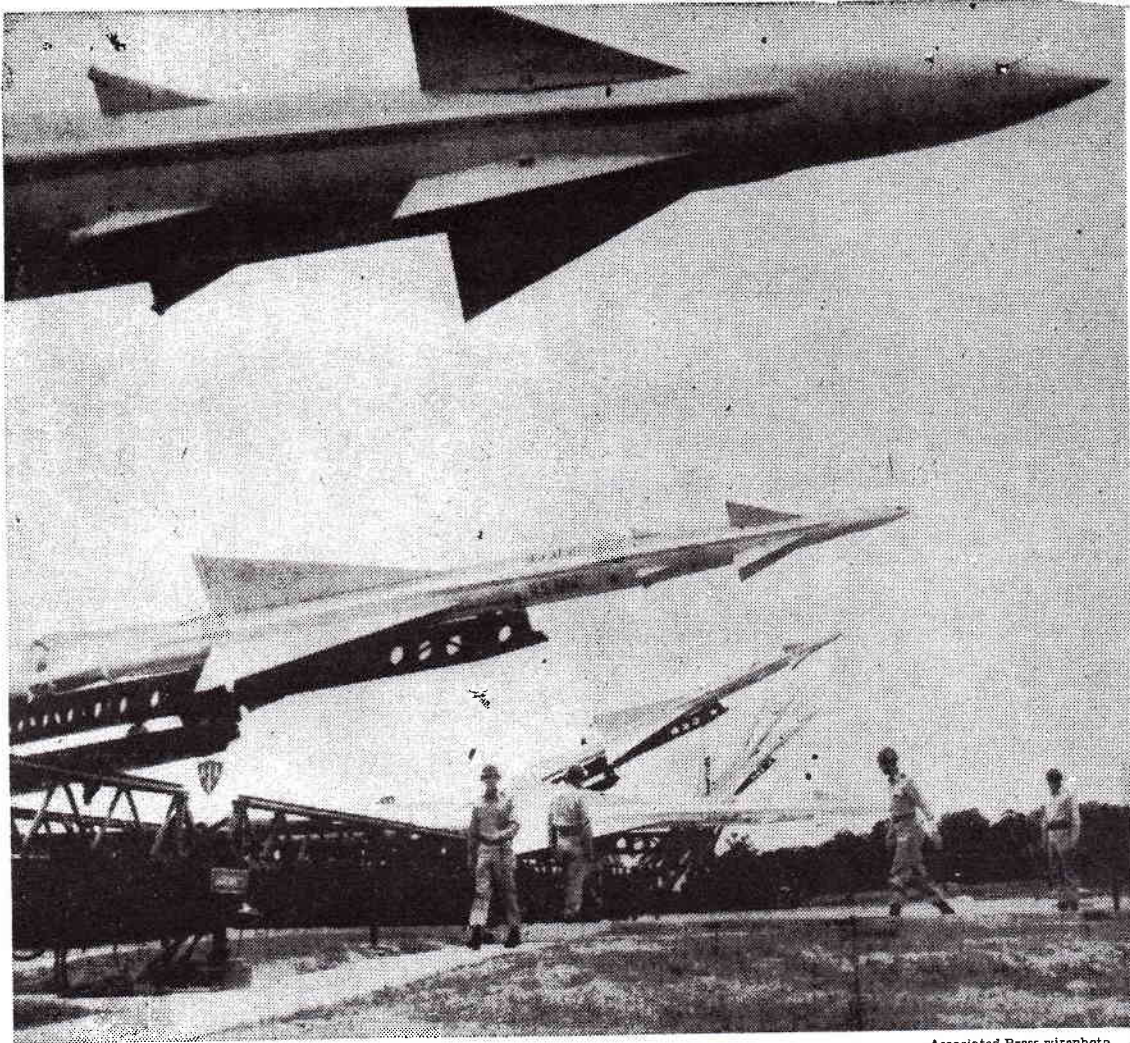


Pfc. Robert Ramsey gets a bath from Corp. Earl Danley to remove Nike fuel (nitric acid) that splashed on him during the fueling operation pictured above.

Barracks and mess hall at the Lorton installation have a honey loach, with curtains on windows, tablecloths and fresh-cut flowers on tables. From left are Pvt. Raymond O. Holter, Pvt. Donald G. Kyle, M. Seryk, Alfredo P. Ruiz and Corp. Alvin R.







Associated Press wirephoto

On guard—Army battery of Nike guided missiles at Lorton, Va., sixteen miles south of Washington.

## The Army Shows One of Its 'Backyard' Defenses <sup>NYHT</sup> <sup>17 MAY 55</sup>

WASHINGTON, May 17 (AP). —The Army displayed to the public today a unit of its eventual billion-dollar system of "backyard" defenses against enemy bombers, a Nike anti-aircraft guided missile battery. Typical of others now in place

around at least fifteen northern and coastal area cities, the battery is located on rolling farmland at Lorton, Va., sixteen miles south of the nation's capital. A similar battery is spotted at Fort Meade, Md., the same dis-

tance north of Washington. Newsmen, taken by the Army to the Lorton site, were shown a setup consisting, actually, of two sites. One is the control point from which three radar systems locate approaching bombers, "lock on"

to the aircraft and fire the target-seeking missiles, the other is the launching site composed of twelve ramps surfacing from subterranean bunkers for firing. It is a self-contained community for 100 men of the battery.

2 THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1955  
 'SAFE' AND HARMONIOUS

# The Army Hopes We'll Like Nike

By STAN FELDER (See pictures on Page 42.)

In an effort to show that "backyard" Nike anti-aircraft sites are "as safe as gas stations" and as "important to a community as the police and fire department," the Army yesterday took the press on a tour of a "typical" Nike installation near Lorton.

Somehow, it didn't remind you of a gas station at all.

## TWO SECTIONS

The installation, 20 miles from downtown Washington, is divided into compact sections, exactly one air-mile apart. The first and largest site, is called Base Headquarters; the other is the launching area itself.

The show started at 10 a. m. in the "Day Room" of one of the three buildings at Headquarters.

Brig. Gen. R. R. Hendrix, commanding general of all anti-aircraft installations in this region, welcomed the press and then said that:

- The surface-to-air missile is the only one operational today and in the hands of combat troops.
- Improvements are being made on the system, tho the Army is satisfied with what it has.
- Nike is capable of out-maneuvering and destroying any type aircraft presently known and foreseeable for the immediate future.

## 'KNOTTY PROBLEM'

Gen. Hendrix said that in community public relations the Nike "has touched off some knotty problem" in acquiring real estate.

Everything is being done to make Nike attractive when and if it "settles down in your backyard," he said.

He said Nike buildings are being built to conform to the atmosphere of the community.

The nearest community to this one is the Lorton Reformatory, a half-mile away.

## FIRST PHASE

After leaving the Day Room, reporters climbed a small walkway

up to the "first phase" of the firing of Nike.

At Headquarters there are two radar systems which plot the course of the missile and the target.

This information is relayed to a third radar outfit at the launching site. The three radar installations form "a triangle" sighting on the target.

First a captain pointed across the field directly in front of the reporters. "That's initial radar," he said. A soldier standing in front of it waved a red flag.

Then he pointed to a second radar

unit. Another soldier waved his flag.

## HOW'S THAT?

Then a voice shouted over a loud speaker: "Battle Stations." Nothing happened. So another voice began . . . "vix vec 100 to vix left."

Another voice answered, "May I fire the missile, sir?"

"Yes."

And that, said the captain, is what happens here.

Nikes are stored underground at the launching site to save space. They are in a pit 24 feet deep and 48 feet wide. It has one elevator and the Nikes are loaded onto it, one by one. They are rolled across a steel platform to the launchers and then raised vertically to firing position.

## INTO THE PIT

The reporters rode down into the pit, which has walls of solid concrete. It has its own lighting and ventilating system. Across it were six Nikes on platforms ready to be rolled onto the elevator.

Unofficially, it took about eight minutes from alert time until the Nike was ready to go.

The Nike is a two-stage missile propelled by nitric acid and a high grade kerosene. It is 20 feet long and weighs a ton.

Each Nike installation cost Uncle Sam \$1,000,000—considerably more than the finest and safest gas station would.



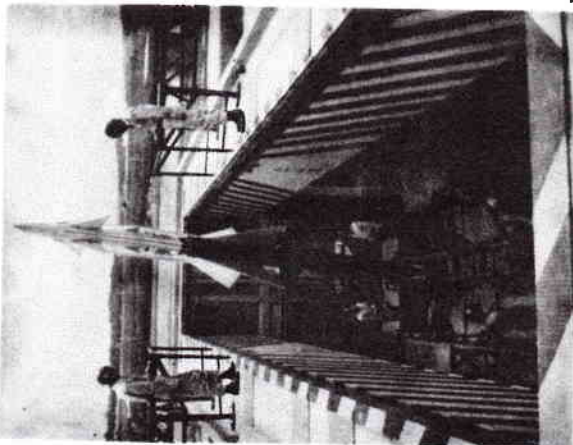


# They Didn't Want That Guided Missile

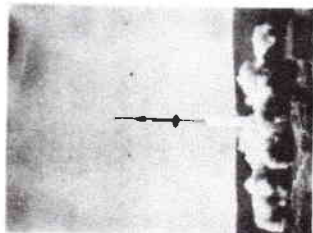
By CRAIG THOMPSON

Even though it was for their own protection, anguished citizens howled when launching sites were set up around our cities for that fearsome destroyer called Nike. Here's why they changed their minds.

A Nike ground-to-air guided missile is observed later being positioned at a launching site outside Washington. Eventually the Army expects to ring all major U. S. cities with Nike batteries.



TO the student Greeks, Nike was a winged woman whom they worshiped as the goddess of victory. Nike was the goddess of triumph, the United States Army has conferred her name on a new missile. Nike was the goddess of victory, the United States Army has conferred her name on a new missile. Nike was the goddess of triumph, the United States Army has conferred her name on a new missile.



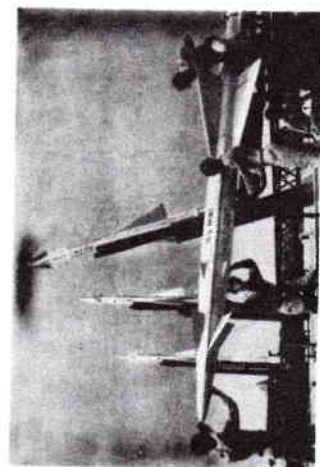
One of the rocket-powered vehicles is launched off from a firing range in the New Mexico desert.

The Saturday Evening Post's Dept.

The idea became the impetus for a committee to study the possibility of developing a missile that would be able to intercept an incoming aircraft. The general belief was that a missile would be developed that would be able to intercept an incoming aircraft.

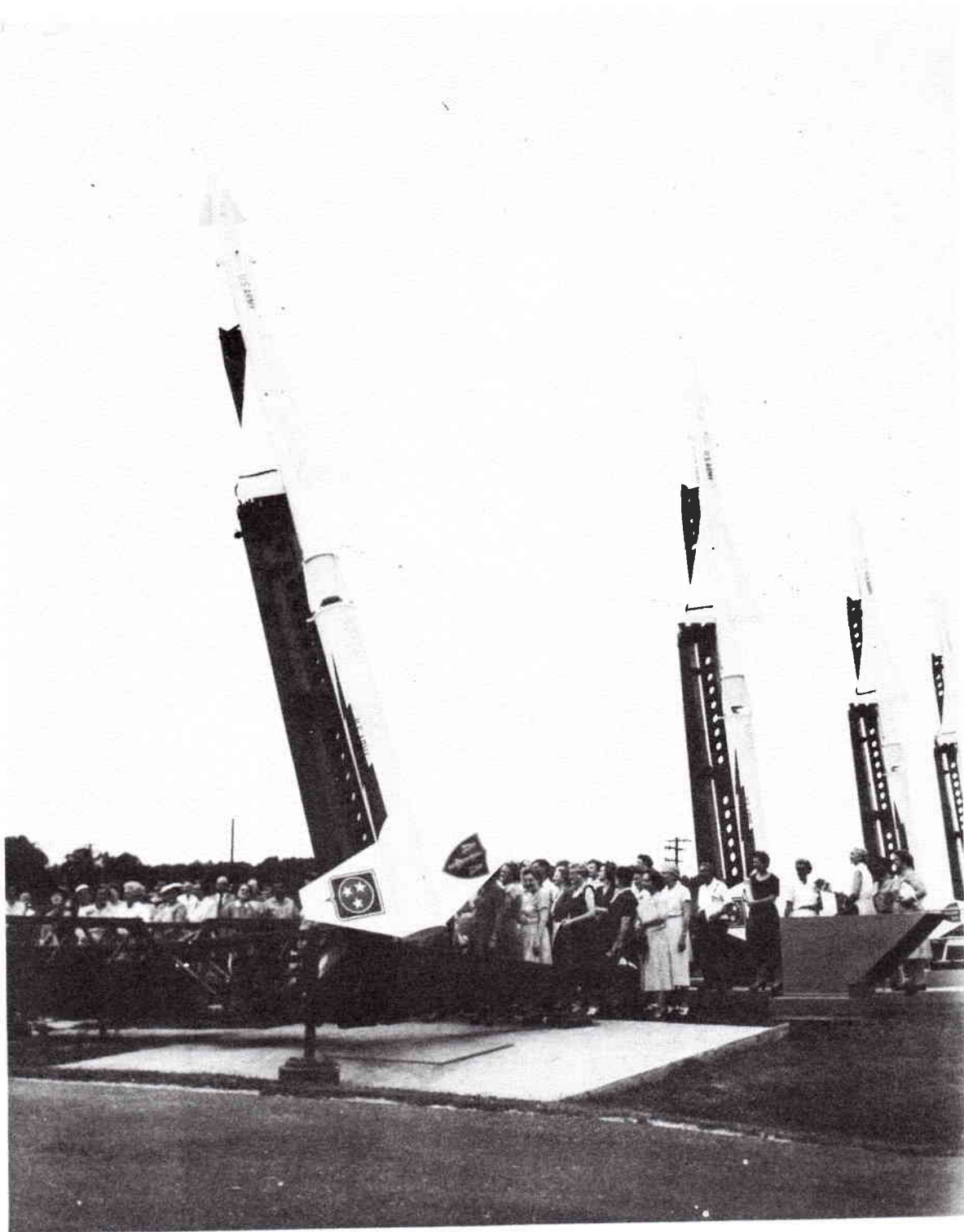
proposal. After five months of inquiry and consultation, the committee reported that they thought it could be possible to develop a missile that would be able to intercept an incoming aircraft.

in the fact that Nike's electronic apparatus is an assembly of more than 1,000,000 parts—these vary in size from a few inches to a few feet. From these components, various electronic systems are developed.



Men of the Upper Merion, Md., launching site service one of their missiles. Each Nike missile costs approximately \$2 million and represents an investment of \$2,000,000.

29









# Newsweek

June 11, 1956

NATIONAL DEFENSE:

## Can the Nike Do It?

*Army Secretary Wilber M. Brucker says the Army's anti-aircraft missile, the Nike, "does a great job" as part of the nation's defense system.*

*To the Air Force, the Nike is "pretty much of a fizzle."*

*Which of these statements is closer to the truth?*

*In the event of a surprise attack on the U.S., the answer to this question could be a matter of life or death for millions of Americans.*

*Last week, Richard J. Davis of Newsweek's Washington bureau went looking for that answer. Here is his report:*

Stationed near the small town of Lorton, in Virginia's populous Fairfax County some 15 miles due southwest of the Pentagon, are the 100-odd men of Battery C of the 71st Army Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion.

These men are typical of the Nike crews on duty 24 hours a day in the 22 major target defense areas throughout the nation: They are almost all highly trained specialists, and they are proud of the Nike and their jobs.

"I'd a whole lot rather be shooting the Nike than having it shot at me," says Chief Warrant Officer Eugene Estes. "I'd like a chance to shoot the Nike at anyone who's got so much to say against it."

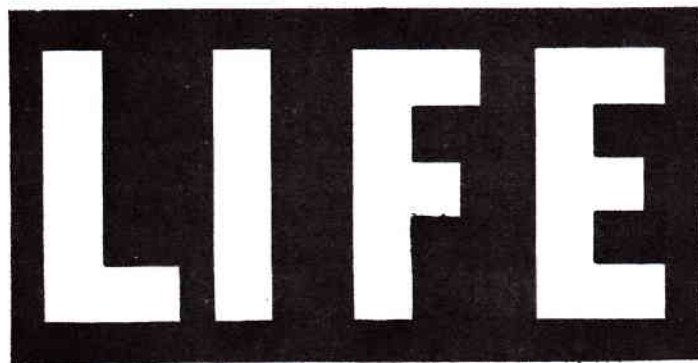
**Opinions Differ:** Estes got his respect for the Nike after being in on about 25 actual firings at Fort Bliss, Texas, where all Nike technicians are trained. (The missiles are never fired from their on-site positions, for fear of damage to life or property, and all Nike men go to Bliss for actual practice on the firing range.)

Estes, 39, who comes from Davenport, Iowa, got to be an "integrated fire-control maintenance supervisor"—this means he is in charge of maintaining the radar system—after a 40-week course at Fort Bliss. Up to a year of special training is not unknown for the Nike men.

\* \* \* \* \*

There is no clear-cut answer to the questions in the Nike controversy.

But one hard, solid fact emerges above them all: No matter what the Nike is or isn't, it's the only land-based operational anti-aircraft missile that the U.S. has.



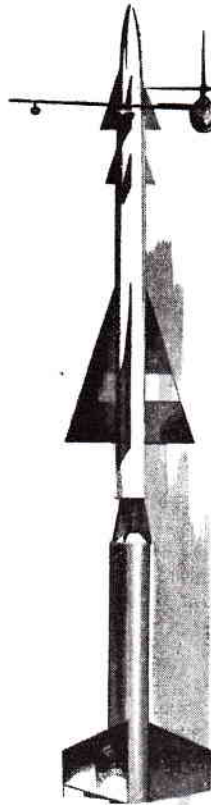
JUNE 4, 1956

## A CASE IN POINT, THE NIKE BATTLE

The specific controversy last week was concerned with the Army's anti-aircraft missile—the Nike. The Air Force belittled it because it has a range of only 25 miles, too short to prevent a high altitude supersonic plane from releasing its bombs on the target. Last week the Army defended the Nike with a series of public tests at Red Canyon, N. Mex. In two days of shooting the Army fired eight Nikes. Though only one drone was completely destroyed, the Army credited the other seven Nikes with hits. Some merely pierced shrapnel holes in their lightweight targets. But, said the Army, these would have demolished an enemy plane whose size and weight would make it more vulnerable to concussion from the exploding warhead.

In answer to the Air Force criticism Army officers point to improvements in the newer Nike B (chart at left) and to the fact that, perfect or not, the Nike is at least in place, and is already guarding 18 U.S. industrial cities.

# The SEEING ARROWS of our aerial defense



From the soaring vision of Du Mont came the cathode-ray tube which made possible developments leading to all our new guided missiles of air, land and sea. In our national defense, these "seeing arrows" may someday save millions of lives...

Flying pilotless at supersonic speeds, the now famous Nike and other new missiles can seek out and destroy any present-day attacking aircraft! How? By electronic response to radar direction and by other wonderful televisual and computing circuits.

*And do you know about the new "seeing shields" which direct these "seeing arrows"? The latest supersensitive radar can picture the size, number, changing speeds, heights and directions of a possible aerial invader from 200 miles and more away! And it screens our hemisphere today!*

There is Du Mont research behind all U. S. radar. And Du Mont cathode-ray tubes for radar have been called "the best," in a postwar report by one of the leading government laboratories of national defense.

Continuing Du Mont research and development in all phases of televisual electronics results in products of the finest precision and reliability. These products... used in national defense, science, industry and in the home... now benefit our lives in countless ways!



...to equipment... norm.  
installed in aircraft. It is designed  
for use with the RCA AN/AIC-10  
airborne intercommunication system  
which is widely used by the U.S. Air  
Force. (Continued on page 76)



The Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories offer an opportunity for advancement and career growth. Our employment opportunities are at 750 Bloomfield Avenue, Clifton, N. J., welcomes inquiries.

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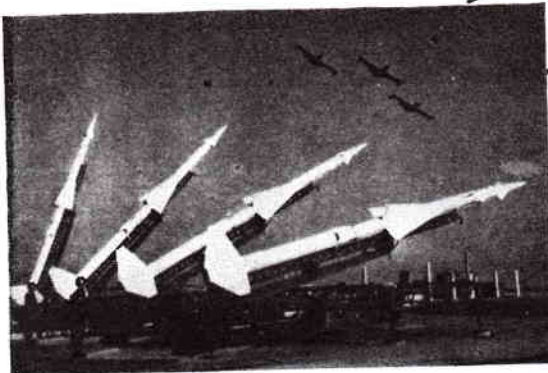
Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Inc. Executive Offices, 750 Bloomfield Avenue, Clifton, N. J.



*Why* **DOUGLAS** *Came to* **NORTH CAROLINA**



Business Leader and Businessman Governor. Famed aircraft builder Donald W. Douglas (left) finds a fellow industrialist in North Carolina's Governor Luther H. Hodges.



NIKE-AJAX Missiles built by North Carolina's new Douglas Aircraft Company Charlotte Division.

Douglas Aircraft established a Defense Division plant in North Carolina in 1955 to produce, with Western Electric, the latest design NIKE guided missiles.

*"We of Douglas found numerous economic and site advantages in our move to Charlotte . . ."*  
 Donald W. Douglas, President  
 Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc.

- ① Present plant work force of 1000 filled from over 20,000 applicants.
- ② New employees adapted quickly to operations requiring high skills with amazingly low turnover.
- ③ The universities of North Carolina provide a continuing source of engineering and administrative talent as well as advanced research facilities.
- ④ "Many southern boys who are trained at excellent engineering schools have wanted to return home . . . we are doing very well here in attracting engineers to our plant," said Sheldon P. Smith, General Manager Charlotte Division, Douglas Aircraft Company.
- ⑤ A favorable industrial climate for the long range future stimulated by a businesslike state administration.
- ⑥ A friendly community welcome from a progressive people of enlightened interests in education, recreation, medicine, the church and cultural arts.

*"We moved 40 families from California to North Carolina," says Mr. Smith, "completely across the country. After 18 months not a single one has even mentioned a possible transfer back West. We think that is simply amazing."*

North Carolina's new tax structure just enacted is one of the most modern in the nation. If you would like to know more about dynamic, forward-marching North Carolina, you are invited to communicate with its Businessman Governor, Luther H. Hodges, in Raleigh.

There's a place for your plant, too, in **NORTH CAROLINA**



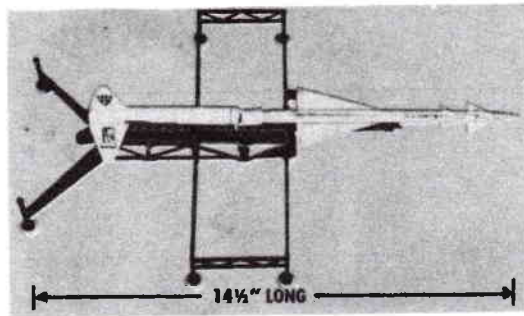
ONLY RENWAL BLUEPRINT  
THESE SELLING

EXHIBIT G

# RENWAL BLUEPRINT MODEL KITS

3 Years of Research and Development . . . Now Introducing a  
Distinctively New Line of Kits . . . So Realistic in Design, So Excit-  
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NEW! LIFE LIKE FOR EASY,

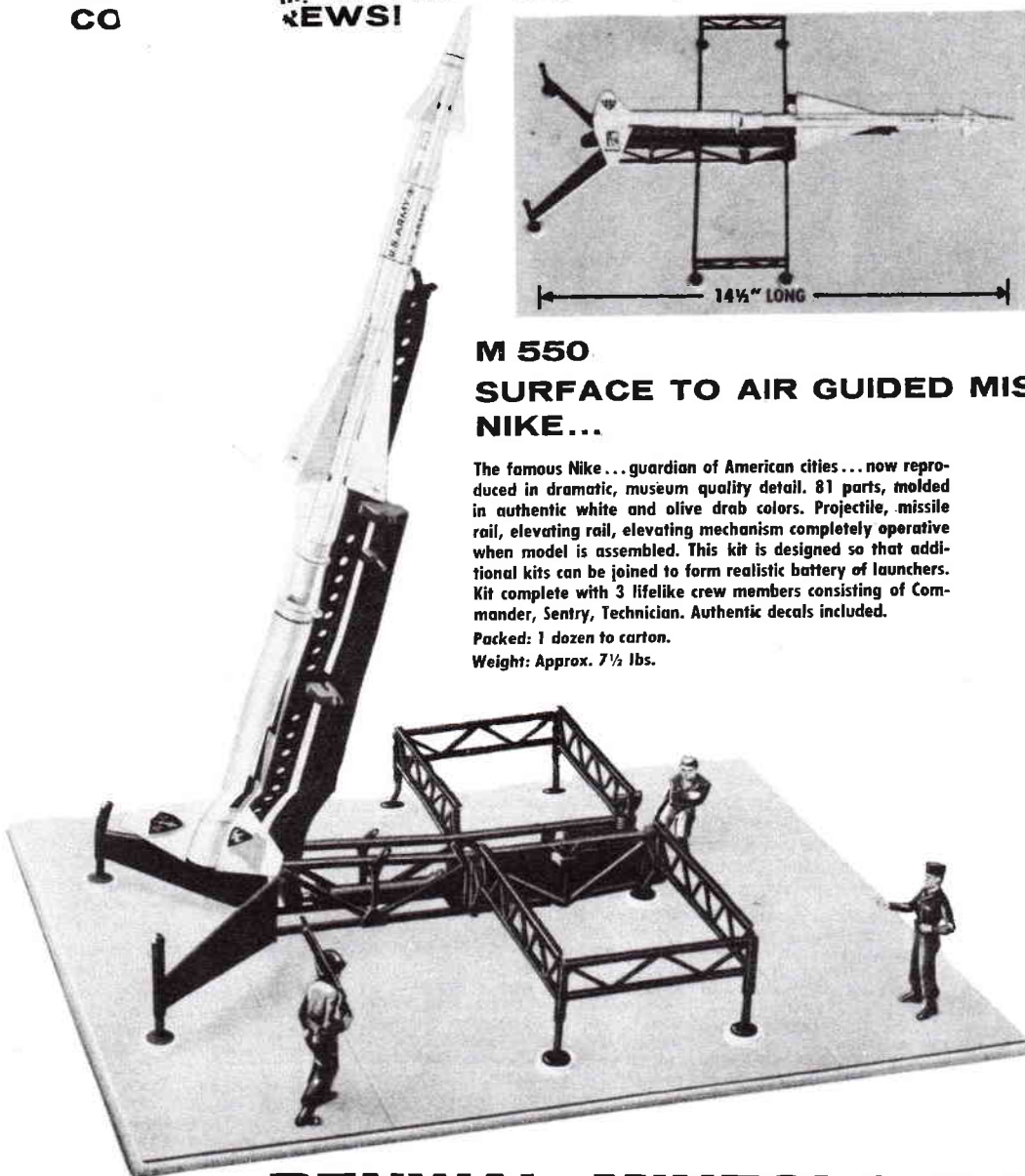
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## M 550 SURFACE TO AIR GUIDED MISSILE NIKE...

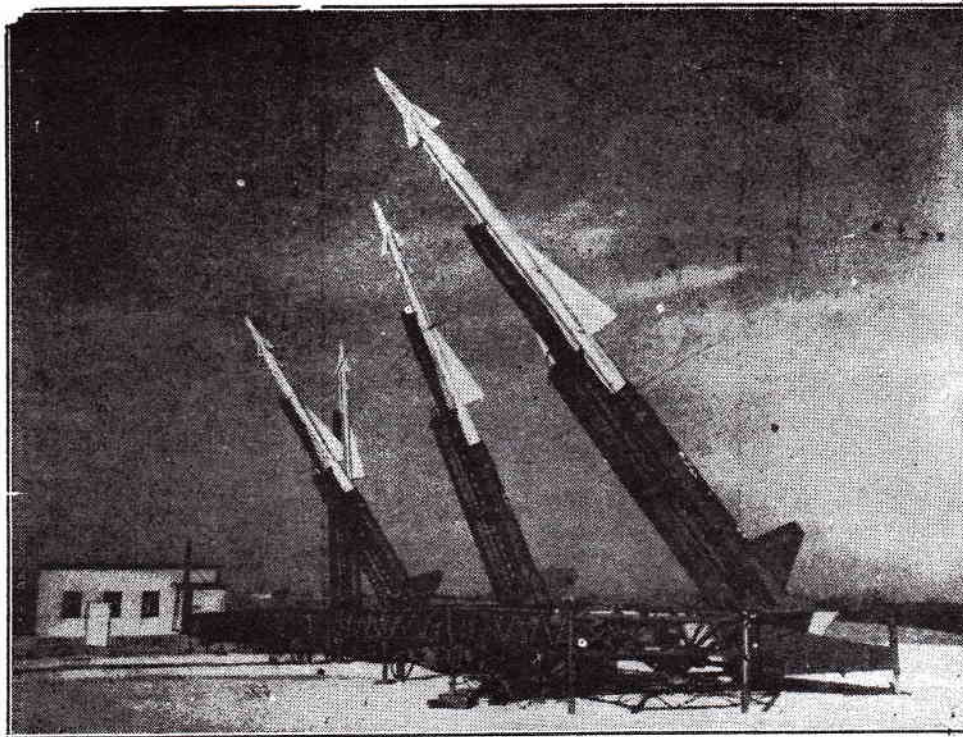
The famous Nike . . . guardian of American cities . . . now reproduced in dramatic, museum quality detail. 81 parts, molded in authentic white and olive drab colors. Projectile, missile rail, elevating rail, elevating mechanism completely operative when model is assembled. This kit is designed so that additional kits can be joined to form realistic battery of launchers. Kit complete with 3 lifelike crew members consisting of Commander, Sentry, Technician. Authentic decals included.

Packed: 1 dozen to carton.  
Weight: Approx. 7 1/2 lbs.



**RENWAL, MINEOLA, N. Y.**

DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1954



(U. S. Army Photos)

A battery of four ghostly-white Nikes being raised to firing position at a launching station near Lorton, Va., one of 16 such installations now forming a protective ring around Washington, D. C.

# Put Your Nike Somewhere Else, Suburbs Tell Army

By JESS STEARN

Over often-misguided protests, the Army is building a ring of 35 to 40 guided-missile installations around New York City to protect this industrial area against atomic attack.

The report that Nike—as the Army fondly terms its guided-missile—is coming into some suburbs has been enough, in all too many cases, to touch off widespread community resistance.

There have been all kinds of objections, none having a thing to do with national defense.

Nike (rhymes with Mikey), was named for the Greek goddess of victory, but she's had rough going in getting established around New York.

"Most people," an Army spokesman related, "are willing to accept the necessity of Nike, but are torn between patriotism and their pocketbooks."

"They feel somebody's got to pick up with the... if th...

by Nike station would make in tax ratables. Some also didn't like the idea of Nike getting in the way of a planned expressway.

Prohibitive cost of the Hempstead real estate and the proposed highway construction, coupled with another change in tactical concept, last week caused the Army to announce it was moving... out on the island.

## FEAR, DEPRESSION AROUND

Gen...

at distances up to 30 miles.

However, until such time as engaged in repelling an actual attack, only inert missiles are used by installations for training purposes. "We are sure," an Army spokesman declared drily, "that nobody will object to our firing the actual missiles if enemy planes are on the way."

It means... comfort to...

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# MISSILE SITE BATTLE ENDS

City, Army Agree on Points  
for Control and Launching

City and Army authorities yesterday reached full agreement on new locations for Nike guided missile control and launching points near Los Angeles International Airport and construction will begin by January 1.

The sites are in the locations forecast exclusively by the Examiner two months ago as the ultimate compromise anticipated in the once-bitter controversy.

The guided missile launchers will be erected on presently undeveloped, privately-owned land east of Pershing drive, between Manchester boulevard and the north edge of the airport property.

The control site, where approximately 15 Army personnel will be housed, will be constructed on the east side of the city near the intersection of Del Rey and Pershing drive, where the city and the Army have a dead-end behind Thacker avenue.

## DECISION

Announcement of the decision was made jointly by Mayor Norris Poulson; Maj. Gen. Francis M. Day, 47th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigade commander, and Maj. Gen. Ralph Cousins (ret.), president of the Los Angeles Airport Commission.

Col. Arthur H. Frye Jr., district engineer of the Corps of Engineers, says preliminary work will begin almost immediately, with actual construction of the launching ramps, necessary buildings and underground missile storage vaults to start in little more than three months.

The city property involved will be leased to the Army for \$1 a year.

Dispute over location of the sites arose when the city protested the Army's tentative plans would interfere with take-off and landing patterns at the 2,500,000-passenger-a-year airport.

CLEVELAND

MAY 9 - 1955

## 2 Suburbs Cry in Protest at Rocky River Nike Site

BY HOMER HENDRICKSON

Tempers of Fairview Park and Westlake residents were soaring at a new high last night because of an Army announcement that it would not budge from its present Rocky River Nike site — or any other in Greater Cleveland.

Edward L. Green, chairman of the Fairview Park Citizens Protest Committee, said he was rallying his forces to map new strategy to combat the Army decision.

His committee and a similar group in Westlake were at their telephones all day urging property owners to attend a protest meeting in the Fairview Park City Hall at 8 p. m. tomorrow.

### Attorney to Be Picked

The combined groups will decide on an attorney (an expert in governmental procedures) to take their fight to Washington, Green said.

He explained that his committee was especially incensed over parts of a letter written by Assistant Army Secretary Chester R. Davis to Congressman William E. Minshall, and forwarded by the congressman Friday to the mayors of Fairview Park, Rocky River and Westlake.

"Davis made no mention of our protests in his letter," Green noted. "He merely said that another move would be tactically unsuitable, would be expensive to the government and would result in a loss of the support of the civic officials of Rocky River."

### Pleasing Only Gibson

"He apparently isn't worried about the loss of the support of Fairview Park and Westlake, and is interested in pleasing only Mayor Gibson (J. Frank Gibson and Rocky River)."

"It is amazing that Gibson can tell the Army that if they don't put the Nike base where he wants it they can take it out of Rocky River, and the Army follows his directions."

The original Rocky River Nike site, north of Center Road, was moved after protests were lodged with various congressional representatives by the suburb's city officials and prop-

erty owners. Part of the new site borders on Fairview Park, and another portion straddles the Rocky River-Westlake boundary.

### Minshall Still in Doghouse

Green also indicated that Congressman Minshall was far from being out of his suburb's doghouse.

"He tried to explain his part in getting the site moved merely by saying that he had acted as a carrier pigeon in forwarding Rocky River's protests to the Army," said the protest chairman. "Perhaps this is true, but we feel that he could have presented our protests with as much enthusiasm as he did theirs."

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Louis T. Heath, Nike chief here, said that with all Nike sites definitely set he hoped to start construction on the first of eight bases in Greater Cleveland about Aug. 15.

### Willowick, Lakefront First

Completion date for the entire multimillion-dollar project is scheduled for about nine months later, he added.

He said the first bases to be built probably would be in Willowick, in the Crile Veterans Administration Hospital area, and at Lakefront Airport.

A Corps of Engineers real estate report outlining the Greater Cleveland project will be sent to Washington this week for approval of the secretary of the Army and a special congressional committee.

Based on experience of other cities where Nike bases are being built, it will be July 15 before approval of the project is given, said Heath. Acquisition of private property and construction on some of the bases will get under way about a month later, he added.

*This Los Angeles Examiner  
Del Rey  
point  
Jacque  
sets dead-end behind  
Thacker avenue.*



ARMY MISSILES ROCKETS

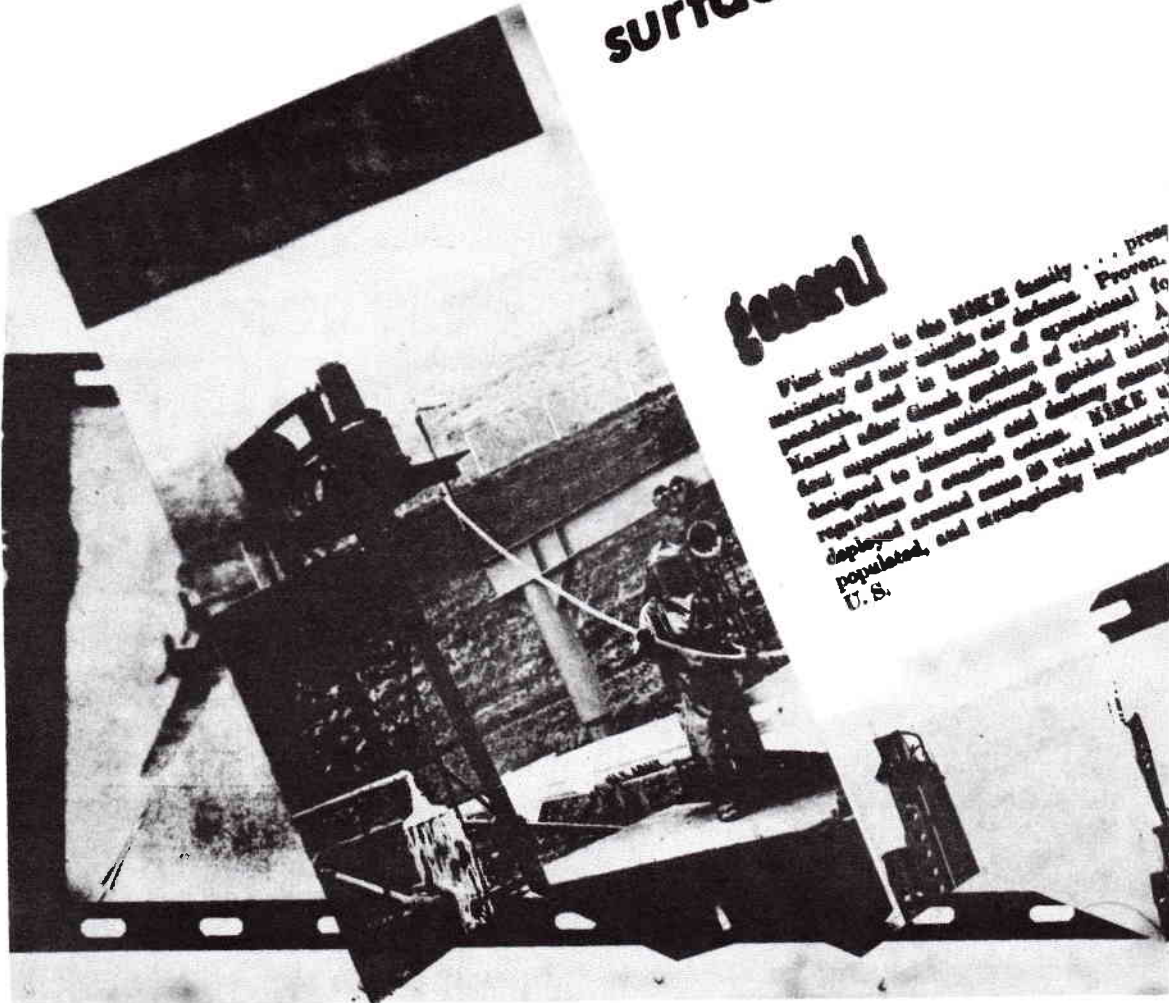
DA Pam 355-13, May 58

# NIKE-AJAX

characteristics

surface-to-air

37



## General

First system in the NIKE family . . . provides  
 primary of our missile air defense. Proven,  
 portable, and is ready for operational use  
 almost after launch guidance of victory. A  
 first automatic attainment guided missile  
 designed to intercept and destroy enemy  
 regardless of altitude. NIKE is  
 deployed around areas of vital industry,  
 populated, and strategically important  
 U. S.

"Package training" provides the skilled crews



Army Antiaircraft Command—

# Sentry of the Skies

Lieutenant General S. R. Mickelsen

A battery commander checks sitting of a Nike radar set, typical of those maintained throughout the country.

DURING any holiday season, a te-  
distinctive band of soldi-  
may seem strangely alone  
look watchfully toward  
sky.

They are in  
County, Cal.  
sagebrush.  
They  
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Already a predominant weapon in the Army's antiaircraft  
defense of continental United States

# MISSILES GUARD THE VITAL CENTERS

Lieutenant General S. R. Mickelsen

Nike,  
the world's most experience-proven guided missile,  
is the mainstay of

**ARMY ANTI AIR —**

Lieutenant General S. R. Mickelsen

ON 10 OCTOBER the U. S. Army marked the fortieth anniversary of its antiaircraft artillery arm. For the millions of residents

ment. The last few years particularly have brought to the world public a certain knowledge that rocket missiles are the principal

ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST, Oct 55

EXHIBIT I-2

# MANNING OUR NIKE SITES

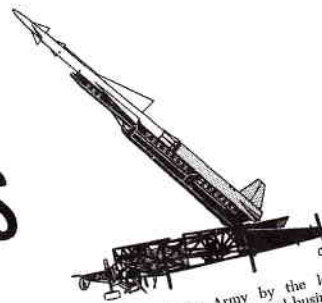


Major Edward J. Rumpf

ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST, Mar 56

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ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST, Dec 56



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men to go all around.  
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citizenry. Often, the local busi-  
man, the home-owner, and the  
official, through neighborhood  
tact with members of the  
artillery unit, di-  
the p-

ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST,

# THE NATION'S SHIELD

Nov, 57



## Seattle AAA Unit Judged Army's Top NIKE Battalion

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — In the first organized competition ever held among NIKE guided missile units which guard America's "target" centers from air attack, Seattle's 28th AAA Battalion was judged the best.

The U.S. Army Air Defense Command here, guardian of the nationwide ground-to-air missile defense system, points out in its recent announcement that a complicated scoring system was used in the selection, based upon exacting judging of such operational efficiencies as assembly of missiles, fire-control operations, rehearsing operations, time, and systems checks, as well as target hits. Simply measuring "kills" is an insufficient basis for comparison because the deadly accuracy of the electronically-controlled NIKE missile system makes for a surfeit of hits.

The winning 28th scored 8400 points of a possible 12,000. The competition was not a fact-of-face tourney. It was conducted throughout 1956 as nearly two score Army AAA battalions protecting the major population and industrial centers of the U.S. around the clock seven days a week were airlifted to the Red Canyon Range in New Mexico for their annual firing practices.

The missile is never fired for practice from sites in the heavily urban areas it is defending.

Army troops have been firing NIKEs since 1953, but last year was the first time practice firings were conducted under uniform standards which would permit competitive judging.

Batteries are now supplied with the original NIKE AJAX NIKE HERCULES, an improved model with greater destructive power, range, speed and altitude, will be in the hands of the Army units in the relatively near future. It can be supplied with either an atomic or non-atomic warhead.

## Electronic System Coordinating Firing Of Army Missiles

WASHINGTON — The Missile Master, the Army's electronic system for coordinating and controlling the firing of Nike missiles, is a vital support system for the two missiles, and other Army advanced weapons as they become available, in giving the nation all-altitude defense against aerial attack.

The Missile Master collects information on the location of aircraft and their identity, presents it on electronic displays, and distributes this data to the missile firing batteries.

Each battery receives a continuous flow of fresh information on all aircraft, approaching or within the defense area, and on cooperating batteries' activities. Thus each battery commander is provided all the information needed to make proper target selections.

Operators observe the activities of all batteries in the system and are able to direct a specific fire unit to a particular target, or to prevent firing on friendly planes.



MISSILE MINUTEMEN—Heading for action positions at this Nike site are Army National Guardsmen from the Washington, D. C. area. Like Guardsmen all over the country, they are training to take operational control of many Nike units, thus releasing soldiers of the active Army for other duties.

## Army National Guardsmen Training To Operate Local Nike Missile Sites

WASHINGTON — When more than 400,000 men of the Army National Guard answer to roll call on Muster Day, February 22, some of them will for the first time be calling out "Here" at Nike guided missile sites throughout the country.

A part of this largest component of the nation's Ready Reserve forces is now training to participate in the active defense of the United States against an enemy attacking from the air.

Some of the National Guardsmen are attending the Army's missile school at Fort Bliss, Tex. Others are receiving on-the-missile training at Nike installations in key cities and industrial centers.

Eventually these Guardsmen will take over the Nike sites from the active Army and man them on a 24-hour basis. Although the Guardsmen are predominantly citizen-soldiers, their sites will be on constant alert as part of the air defense system.

The National Guard, upon taking over a Nike site, will operate like a volunteer fire department. An operational nucleus of full-time technicians will keep the site in constant readiness while the remainder of the unit's men pursue their civilian vocations. They will participate in year-round drills and summer field training, but will be ready to move to the Nike site at a moment's notice.

The units participating in the "on-site" missile program were former antiaircraft gun batteries that have been engaged in the air defense systems since 1954.

Their missions were essentially the same as they will be with the

## Army Nike Units Show Increasing Efficiency in Year

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Army Nike battalions guarding U.S. cities from air attack are doing so with markedly increasing efficiency and killing accuracy, results of the 1957 competition for the Commander's Missile Battalion Trophy of the Army Air Defense Command show.

The current champion — the 28th AAA Battalion of Seattle — merged after a sea-saw competition that forced it to earn 3 out of a possible 12,000 points, and to hit 11 targets in 12 engagements.

Three other battalions also scored 11 out of 12 hits, whereas the 1956 champion won its pre-eminence with but 10 hits, and an overall point score of 8,400.

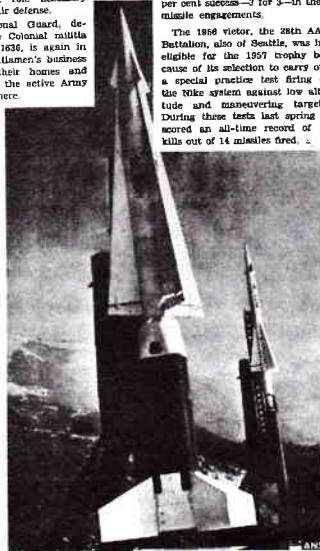
The score is not determined on "kills" alone, but on efficiency and effectiveness of all operations of the battalion during its annual firing at Red Canyon Range in New Mexico, when the soldiers have their only opportunity to actually trigger the Nike-Ajax surface-to-air missile.

Other "11-for-12" battalions were the 75th of Andrews Air Force Base, Md., second-place winner; the 751st of Coventry, R.I., and the 551st of Van Nuys, Calif. The third place winner, the 514th Battalion of Quincy, Mass., won its standing on points.

Accuracy of the Nike system is indicated by the fact that 69 firing units (batteries) scored 100 per cent success — 3 for 3 — in their missile engagements.

The 1956 victor, the 28th AAA Battalion, also of Seattle, was ineligible for the 1957 trophy because of its selection to carry out a special practice test firing of the Nike system against low altitude and maneuvering targets.

During these tests last spring it scored an all-time record of 13 kills out of 14 missiles fired.



## Proven Capabilities of HERCULES

The recent test firings of NIKE HERCULES at Eglin Air Force Base demonstrated the capabilities of the NIKE HERCULES Air Defense Guided Missile System, now operational in several U.S. metropolitan areas across the country. Among these are:

**TREMENDOUS RELIABILITY:** By firing in rapid succession six missiles against six targets with 100 per cent success and all intended targets destroyed.

**INDIVIDUAL SELECTIVITY:** Can, in a non-nuclear war, select and destroy with a conventional high explosive warhead, individual high-speed jet bombers flying in a high-speed formation.

**SPEEDY REACTION:** Destroying with its high explosive warhead, small, unmanned jet aircraft as well as a nuclear weapon carrying, high-altitude jet bomber normally to be expected as targets.

**CLIMATIC VERSATILITY:** Instantaneous readiness to fire under all conditions of weather and climate, with an electronic reliability far greater than the most modern television set.

**EMPLACEMENT FREEDOM:** Requires no elaborately prepared sites, but can be emplaced anywhere.

**VERSATILE REACTION:** Can select and destroy individual targets flying in different directions, at different speeds and different altitudes.

**OPERATIONAL EASE:** Is being manned by the average U.S. soldier, recently trained for his job.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ARMY NEWS SERVICE  
News Release No. 25 - 58

24 January 1958

HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL 28 January 1958

WASHINGTON, (ANS) -- The Army revealed today that its new NIKE HERCULES missile system will become operational in four selected areas of the United States in June of this year. First to establish NIKE defenses are New York, Washington-Baltimore, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

The HERCULES systems will be located at converted NIKE AJAX sites operated by elements of the U. S. Army Air Defense Command.

Construction of the HERCULES systems at these first four NIKE-protected areas is the beginning of a nationwide conversion of the Army's surface-to-air missile sites to the dual capability of firing both NIKE AJAX and NIKE HERCULES missiles.

- 30 -



THE U. S. ARMY — A KEY TO PEACE





EXHIBIT J

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) 014.13 (14 Mar 58) CINFO

31 March 1958

SUBJECT: Community Relations in Action Report No. 6 -- Successful  
Community Relations in an Army Air Defense Unit

TO: Heads of Technical Staff  
Commanders in Chief  
US Army, Europe  
US Army, Pacific  
Commanding Generals  
US Army, Alaska  
US Army, Caribbean  
US Army, Japan, and United Nations  
Command and Eighth Army (Rear)  
Eighth US Army  
US Army Air Defense Command  
US Continental Army Command  
Zone of Interior Armies  
Military District of Washington, US Army  
Superintendent, US Military Academy

ATTN: Information Officer

1. Inclosed for the information and guidance of all commanders and information officers is a composite report of a successful community relations program conducted by Nike units of the US Army Air Defense Command. This report demonstrates the principles of good community relations and contains ideas that may be adapted with success by other commands.

2. If assistance or advice is desired in establishing such a community relations program, you may write direct to the Chief of Information, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., ATTN: Community Relations Branch.

3. Action with respect to class II installations and activities will be taken by heads of the Army staff agencies.

By Order of Wilber M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army:

HERBERT M. JONES  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
Community Relations in  
Action Report No 6

(See page 2 for copies furnished)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Office of the Chief of Information  
Civil Liaison Division  
Washington 25, D. C.

Community Relations in Action Report No. 6

SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN AN ARMY AIR DEFENSE UNIT  
A "type" case study, distilled from experiences in several  
Nike-defended areas within the continental United States.

GENERAL

Nike guided missile units of the Army's Air Defense Command are deployed in tactical positions around more than 18 metropolitan areas. Unlike other Army units, which are usually on long-established Army posts, some distance from large cities, these 100-man missile batteries may be located in the heart of the residential community....or on a hill on the edge of town.

41 They have a unique place in the Army's community relations program. First, they are the only Army units so closely integrated into the communities they are assigned to defend. Second, they are the only Army troops within the continental United States on a full wartime, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year basis. And third, although they are armed with deadly, supersonic guided air defense missiles, their sites are open to the public for conducted tours on a regular basis.

The United States Army Air Defense Command long ago recognized the sensitive position community relations-wise of its Army troops. It started a program to insure that its units contributed to good relations for the Army-civilian community and has been most successful.

Inclosure Nr. 1

Some few Nike battery commanders knew instinctively what problems they would face living and working in the midst of the civilian community. These natural leaders knew how to integrate their men into the community so effectively that the community would help the Army unit perform its mission.

It is believed that the experiences of several units, compiled as a "type" battery level (or company or detachment or any other small size Army unit) community relations program, may help other commanders with their own programs; boost the morale of their troops; build their prestige and improve their living and working conditions; and make life better for the Army and for the civilian community.

42 This is the composite case of Bravo Battery, 999th AAA Missile Battalion, assigned to the defenses of Anytown, U.S.A. The battery is on a temporary site on Camp Smith, awaiting the completion of its permanent site in the defenses of Anytown.

#### BEFORE

About a month before the battery is scheduled to occupy its new position, Captain Jones, the battery commander, and his officers take the following actions:

a. Personally instruct all of the men on the move, the new area, the people, the facilities which will be available, the reception they will probably get, and their responsibilities toward the people and the community.

b. Calls on the following people near the new site, informing them of the units arrival, and other specific information as indicated.



(1) Mayor of the city. Captain Jones asks the mayor's cooperation, informs him of the benefits the battery will bring to the town, and obtains the names of other influential government and business and labor officials that he should meet. These will probably include those in following paragraphs.

(2) Leading Protestant, Catholic and Jewish ministers.

(3) Leading business men, heads of merchants associations, credit associations, etc.

(4) The presidents of local clubs....Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc.

(5) The police chief and the sheriff.

(6) Housing authorities or persons who might be influential in obtaining suitable family housing for the married men.

48 (7) President of Chamber of Commerce. This organization should be asked at this time to help arrange a welcoming ceremony for the battery, and a plan for subsequent anniversaries of the units arrival.

(8) Presidents of local influential womens clubs or the local chapter of the General Federation of Womens Clubs.

(9) Retired Officer groups if they exist in the area.

(10) Reserve component organizations, and veterans organizations.

c. Captain Jones covers the following points with these people, as appropriate:

(1) The fact that his battery is moving into this location for the air defense of the area and that it will be operational 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

(2) The high caliber of the Army men who will be living and working in the community. The complexity of the missile field requires men of greater intelligence, men who are more mature and serious. A Nike battery therefore has a higher percentage of high-ranking noncommissioned officers, married men with families, and career soldiers than most other Army units. The Army and the community both benefit from a fast, smooth integration of such respected families into the normal life of the city.

(3) The urgent need for the use of the community's recreational, educational and social facilities by the men of the battery.

(4) What the battery can offer the community:

(a) A monthly payroll of about \$25,000, the greater portion of which will be spent in the local community.

44  
(b) An open house program, beginning as soon as the site is fully operational and presentable. This would first be held as a special tribute to the community, and then should be on a regular weekly visit basis.

(c) An increased level of air defense for the community and a feeling of closer participation in the defense of the country. Also, the presence of the battery gives the community an excellent source of unclassified information about the Army, its missile programs, its people, etc.

(d) The benefits of soldier participation in the community's youth program (Little League, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys Clubs, etc), athletic and recreation programs, community services (disaster relief, etc), religious activities, social and welfare activities, etc. An Army unit can be an important asset to any civilian community.

AFTER

Captain Jones did a fine job of his pre-move community relations. The occupation of the site went off smoothly and now the unit is operational in the air defense of this area. What's next? PERFORMANCE!

a. Personal Behavior of Troops. First impressions are deep and lasting. And frequently little, unimportant things can either make or break good relations. So first things come first, and Captain Jones stressed these points:

45 (1) Our vehicles must go through the civilian community often. If they are driven too fast, recklessly, noisily, without proper regard for the rights of other motorists and pedestrians, the Army and its personnel are blamed....and rightly so. Drive carefully and courteously, obey all laws, be considerate!

(2) Be sure your conduct is above reproach at all times. You are always in the public eye, so be worthy of the people's trust and confidence. Only exemplary conduct can dispel the convictions some people have that soldiers look for bars and loose women in each town.

(3) Each new man reporting in to the battery will be taught his responsibilities to the Army, to his associates, to the civilian community and to himself.

(4) The merchants in town are eager to "play ball" with you. But the first man who takes unfair advantage of them will degrade the Army and sell us all "down the river." We are respected, valued customers - lets keep it that way!



b. Performance of Services for Community. Many things can be done, within the regulations, for service to the community. Captain Jones set these community service policies for his Nike battery:

(1) After the first big "ANYTOWN DAY AT BRAVO BATTERY" the tours of the site will be on a regular weekly basis. Standard design ARADCOM Nike road signs will be erected showing the way to the site and giving the days and hours the site is open for visitors.

(2) Officially name the site ANYTOWN BATTERY SITE with a suitable ceremony.

(3) The officers and senior non-coms of the battery will all be part of the Speakers Program operated by battalion or group, especially for engagements in the battery's area. We will let the organizations know, through personal contacts or letters, the speakers we have available, on what subjects, time, etc.

46  
(4) Bravo Battery will have a display and exhibit program to include:

(a) A scale model site of the two-area Nike battery, portable for display inside.

(b) A display missile on erector and/or trailer for exterior display. This missile will be illuminated for night display.

(c) A marching unit or drill team and a ceremonial firing squad.

(5) Bravo Battery will plan now to insure that the Mayor and other influential citizens of Anytown are invited to an "Operation Understanding"

trip to the Red Canyon Nike Firing Range when the battery conducts its next annual firing practice.

(6) The battery, in coordination with battalion or group, will encourage assistance to Anytown in the following areas:

(a) Youth activities, such as Little League, Boy Scouts, etc. This may include help in preparing physical arrangements (baseball diamonds, etc) and/or provision of referees, coaches, leaders, etc.

(b) Participation in Authorized Fund Drives.

(c) Preparations for disaster relief operations, use of fire equipment and personnel, etc.

(d) Assistance on a voluntary basis to selected community improvement projects.

47  
(e) Technical assistance of qualified Army personnel to high school science clubs, rocket societies, etc. Only fully qualified Army men will be permitted to assist in this field, and the Army advisors will emphasize the rigid safety measures necessary.

c. Relations with News Media. Captain Jones knew that good community relations include good performance, and letting the people know about it. That means good working relations with the news media are essential. Here is Captain Jones' successful system:

(1) As part of his pre-move calls, he contacted the editor and reporters for the local newspapers and established his unit and its men as a good source of Army news and features. He also called on the managers of local radio and television stations, and the editors of any magazines in the area.

(2) A special press tour, before the public tour, was arranged and conducted at the old temporary site before the move. Immediately after the move, another press tour established a "Before and After" pattern and acquainted the reporters with the equipment.

(3) He continues to feed news, features and photographs to the media on a regular basis. On selected occasions such as national holidays, or following publication of editorial or news comment about the Army, the battery commander writes letters to the editor. These are dignified, brief and point out the Army position, if known, on the specific issues.

d. Examples of Results Achieved. Here are just a few of the ways that the planned program of good community relations for Bravo Battery paid off:

(1) The welcoming ceremony was highly successful. It was covered enthusiastically on radio and television and in newspapers. The men could feel the sincerity of the people and the event was set up as an annual affair.

48  
(2) The real estate board cooperated fully and quickly located suitable housing for the married officers and men, keeping in mind the rent or purchase price within the means of the military.

(3) Regular television appearances were offered to the battalion or group on Army subjects. Using Signal Corps films releasable to the public, a weekly half hour program was presented. Bravo Battery led the way in providing talent and ideas for this Group program.

(4) Merchants gladly extended credit to members of the battery; many offered discounts on purchases; free or reduced price admission was given for many events....theater, movies, sports contests, etc.



(5) Speakers became much in demand for all service clubs, luncheon groups, chamber of commerce, business men's groups, etc.

(6) Industries of the area invited men of the battery on return tours of their plants.

(7) Fewer and fewer incidents were reported....the men responded to the friendship, trust, confidence of the people and lived up to their responsibilities. The complaints which were received were handled quickly, without fanfare, and with little emphasis by the civilian press and public.

(8) It was soon apparent that the unit and its officers and men were integrated into the life of the community and were considered as valued, important and respected members.

49  
CONCLUSION

Good community relations are essential to an effective, efficient air defense. But experience has proved over and over that good community relations do not just happen....they must be cultivated by alert commanders with the full cooperation of every officer and enlisted man.

END

Inclosure Nr. 1

Prepared by:  
Community Relations Branch  
Civil Liaison Division  
Office of the Chief of Information  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D. C.

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**PLEASE NOTE DATE**



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**  
Washington 25, D. C.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1957

No. 147-57 Exhibit K

**DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
FOR AIR DEFENSE ANNOUNCED**

Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson today made the following announcement.

"The Department of Defense has begun deployment of nuclear weapons within the United States for air defense purposes.

"Nuclear air defense weapons now have been developed which provide by far the most effective form of defense against air attack. It is essential to our national security that we incorporate these new weapons into our air defense system. This is being done.

"The first of these nuclear weapons to be introduced into our air defense system is an air-to-air rocket launched from interceptor-type aircraft. The rocket is now available in the Air Defense Command.

"Nuclear capability will also be incorporated into our surface-to-air defense systems, including Nike-Hercules and Talos.

"Such weapons can destroy aircraft within a considerable distance from the point of burst. Because of their great power, the employment of such weapons for air defense purposes will greatly enhance the effectiveness of interceptor squadrons and ground based air defense units in stopping enemy bombers short of our cities and other strategic targets. These weapons provide a further deterrent to aggression against the free world.

"The precise schedule under which these air defense weapons systems will be deployed at individual bases or installations will not be announced for reasons of military security, nor will such installations be identified.

"Elaborate precautions have been taken in the design and handling of these air defense weapons to minimize harmful effects resulting from accidents either on the ground or in the air. Atomic weapons tests conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission have confirmed that the possibility of any nuclear explosion occurring as a result of an accident involving either impact or fire is virtually non-existent.

"As stored and carried these weapons emit no harmful radiation and present no radiation hazard to persons living near or passing by locations where they are deployed. Many personnel already work in the vicinity of nuclear weapons daily.

"The Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy has been informed of all phases of the development of these weapons and their planned deployment."

51



# U. S. Air Defense Armed With Nuclear Warheads

## Jets Equipped With Rockets and Ground Units With Missiles to Protect Vital Areas—Wilson Minimizes Danger

FEB 21 1957

By JACK RAYMOND

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20—The industrial areas, seaports, major Defense Department announced today it was distributing nuclear weapons within the United States to strengthen the nation's air defenses.

Atomic rockets have been distributed so that jet interceptors planes can use them in guarding cities and other possible enemy targets. Nuclear warheads for use in modern guided missiles have been deployed for the same purpose.

The action was long suspected but not heretofore confirmed.

Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense, made the announcement. He said the schedule of deployment and the sites would be kept secret.

Presumably the main sites are located where they can protect

communications points and military and scientific installations. The Pentagon emphasized that the gradual incorporation of nuclear weapons into the air defense system had been planned for a long time and bore no relation to the current international situation.

"Deployment of these weapons does not mean that the Government has any specific expectation of air attacks," a "fact sheet" accompanying the announcement said.

Mr. Wilson sought in his announcement to quiet the possible fears of people who reside or believe they reside near the sites of the new weapons. He said:

"Elaborate precautions have

would be employed at altitudes where the effect of blast, heat and radiation on the ground would be small, it was said.

"However, should an enemy bomber penetrate our outer defense, it would be of paramount importance that the bomber be destroyed before bomb release," the "fact sheet" went on.

Test Is Revealed

The Defense Department said that a high altitude test of a nuclear device to augment the air defense system was conducted April 8, 1955, at the test site of the Atomic Energy Commission in Yucca Flat, Nevada.

The Defense Department reported that "no damage from blast, heat or radiation occurred to property or individuals from the test" and that even if a person had been exposed "he would have received less than a hundredth of a dose received in a standard X-ray."

While stressing the new nuclear weapons, the Defense Department said that the Continental Air Command would continue to use conventional weapons as well.

One of the reasons for today's announcement, it was indicated, was to counteract publicity of United States plans for equipping atomic laser aircraft. The Government was said to be anxious

to dispel the notion that it hesitated to use atomic weapons for defense of its own cities.

He said the new weapons were "essential to our national security" and would include an air-to-air rocket, which he did not identify, and the previously disclosed surface-to-air systems, Nike-Hercules and Talos.

The Nike-Hercules missile, advanced version of the original Nike, developed by the Army, are said to have a range of nearly 100 miles. The missile is guided by ground radar controls.

The Talos has a range similar to that of Nike-Hercules but has a self-contained guiding apparatus.

The Defense Department described a high-altitude burst as "an intense flash of light followed by the appearance of a white cloud."

The mushroom-shaped cloud commonly associated with nuclear detonations did not form, it pointed out. The mushroom stem results from the action of the explosion on surface materials.

# Atomic Warheads

LIKE IT OR NOT, Chicagans now have—or soon will have—atomic warheads on their doorstep. Distribution of nuclear warheads for rockets to defend U.S. cities was announced Wednesday in Washington.

This does not come as a complete surprise. It could have been foreseen when the Nike batteries began building up around Chicago and tests of "small nuclear devices" were undertaken in Nevada.

Secretary of Defense Wilson says elaborate precautions have been taken to insure that such weapons cannot be accidentally exploded. There is no radiation hazard from stored weapons.

Atomic warheads are designed to increase the effectiveness of both the ground-to-air rockets and the air-to-air rockets carried by jet interceptors. Both would help insure the destruction of attacking bombers before they could release their lethal loads over the city.

The ordinary citizen has almost no say in matters of national defense such as this, and hasn't access to the facts on which to base a decision if he did have a say. But we suspect the knowledge that we are living in close quarters with the deadly atom will be received with mixed emotions.

It is comforting, to be sure, to know that our air defenses are stronger than ever. But it is somewhat less than comforting to be reminded so forcefully of possible atom war right over our heads.

We might almost echo the words of the little girl who got a pin cushion for Christmas: It's just what we wanted, but not very much.

# Atomic Defense

EXHIBIT L-1

Nothing could better demonstrate the extent to which defense planning has crossed the nuclear bridge than the announcement that air defense facilities will be equipped with live nuclear weapons. From a defense standpoint the plan makes sense. Presumably it is necessary to have nuclear warheads on rockets and missiles in order to destroy incoming enemy nuclear weapons. Although there is no particular threat or emergency at this time, the ability of an enemy to hit the United States with nuclear weapons is one of the modern facts of life. The use of nuclear weapons for home defense purposes involves considerably less miscalculation than, say, the psychologically objectionable disclosure that the United States is equipping atomic missile task forces at bases ringing the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, the announcement raises some rather vexing questions. One has to do with the technical question of custody of nuclear weapons. By law nuclear weapons can be employed only at the direction of the President, and the Atomic Energy Commission has been understood to retain physical control. Is it now proposed to weaken these restraints or to wink at them in the case of air defense because of the minute warning that could be expected? If so, perhaps Congress had better have a look at the arrangement.

Another question concerns the hazards that may be involved. The Defense Department has given assurance that there will be no increased danger from radiation, and it minimizes the danger of accidental explosion in a crash or fire. Understandably, if the weapons had to be used against low-flying enemy bombers there probably would be damage, and this would have to be measured against the damage the enemy weapons themselves would have done. But suppose the Defense Department is wrong about the danger in accidents. These are not small weapons, and a blunder could cause an explosion the size of that at Hiroshima. Presumably live warheads will not be used on training missions, but what about trigger-happiness on actual patrols? What would happen if, as in the instance of the Navy attack bombers which accidentally shot up a Coast Guard lighthouse on a training mission the other day, interceptors armed with nuclear weapons mistook a target during an actual scramble?

FEB 22 1957

# AIR DEFENSE GETS ATOMIC WEAPONS

Continued From Page 1

been taken in the design and handling of these air defense weapons to minimize harmful effects resulting from accidents either on the ground or in the air.

"Atomic weapons tests conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission have confirmed that the possibility of any nuclear explosion occurring as a result of an accident involving either impact or fire is vitally nonexistent."

Mr. Wilson said the stored weapons "emit no harmful radiation and present no radiation hazard" to persons living or working near by.

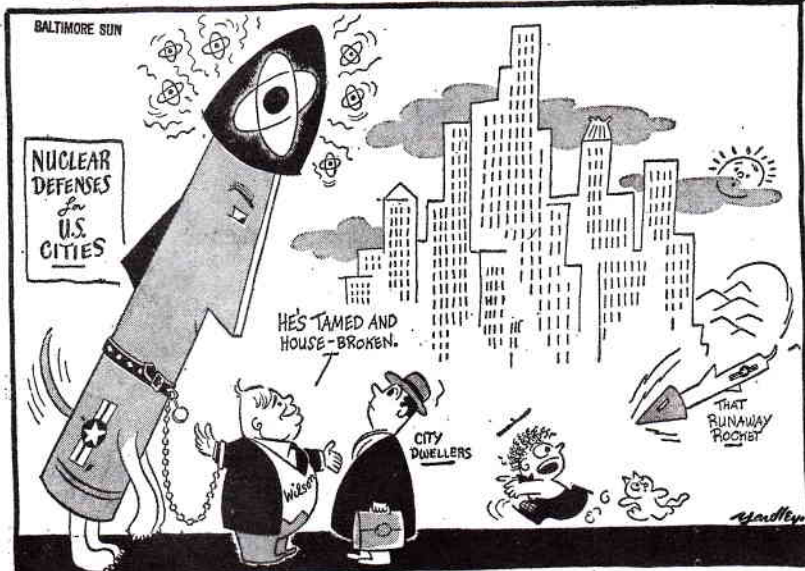
The Pentagon said that even under war conditions the radiation fall-out hazard would not be significant.

The air defense system, it was noted, is designed to intercept and destroy enemy aircraft as far from urban centers as possible. In addition, the weapons

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1957

"You Must Think Of Him As Your Friend And Protector"

FEB 23 1957



# U.S. ARMY'S ATOMIC NIKE HERCULES ... TO GUARD AMERICA'S SKIES

Long range, immensely powerful  
anti-aircraft missiles  
take up stations  
protecting key population  
centers.

First batteries of the new Army NIKE-HERCULES will soon move into position encircling New York, Washington—Baltimore, Chicago and Philadelphia. Others will follow, to defend populated, strategic and industrial areas all over the Free World against supersonic enemy attack.

The new Army missile is almost 1000 mph faster than Nike-Ajax. This phenomenal speed and its long range allow it to intercept and destroy enemy bombers with its atomic warhead at safe distances from the areas being guarded.

NIKE-HERCULES and its supporting equipment are already being mass-produced by Douglas, a tribute to the vision and forward planning of the U.S. Army. Developed under Army direction by a team composed of Bell Telephone Laboratories, Western Electric and Douglas Aircraft, it represents another major missile

achievement by Army  
Ordnance and American  
industries.



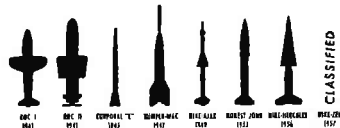
DEPEND ON

**DOUGLAS**  
FIRST IN  
MISSILES



## SEVENTEEN YEARS OF DOUGLAS MISSILES

For nearly two decades Douglas and the U.S. Army have been working together to develop and produce missile systems and their supporting equipment. In this period Douglas has produced 19,000 missiles... more than any other U.S. company. They include Army, Navy and Air Force missiles of all four types—surface to surface, surface to air, air to air and air to surface systems. Much of the development in the missile field has been based on information derived from the units pictured here. Missile fields in which Douglas has widely experienced management personnel, scientists, engineers and technicians on staff include aerodynamics, propulsion, fuels, automatic guidance, auxiliary power, metallurgy, instrumentation, cryogenics, heat transfer, warheads, communications, support equipment, and the development of test, operational, maintenance and service procedures.



Army Missiles by Douglas





**8 NIKES EXPLODE  
AT JERSEY BASE;  
7 DEAD, 3 MISSING**

**24 Nonatomic Warheads Are  
Scattered Over 2 Miles at  
Middletown Missile Base**

**CAUSE IS UNDETERMINED**

**Army Hunts for Fragments,  
but Sees No New Danger  
—Blow Damage is Wide**  
MAY 23 1958

MIDDLETOWN, N. J., May 23.—Eight Nike Ajax guided missiles exploded on the ground today at an Army missile launching base here, forty-five miles from New York City. Seven persons were killed, three were reported missing and three were injured.

All the injuries took place at the scene of the explosion, which scattered twenty-four nonatomic warheads over a two-mile area.

Much damage was done by blast and fire to missile launching pits, near-by buildings, automobiles and trucks. House windows in a wide area were shattered.

According to Mayor Frank Blaisdell of Middletown, pieces of missiles "flew all over the place, landing in the street."

The preliminary investigation reveals that the explosion occurred at the launch pad area of the base.

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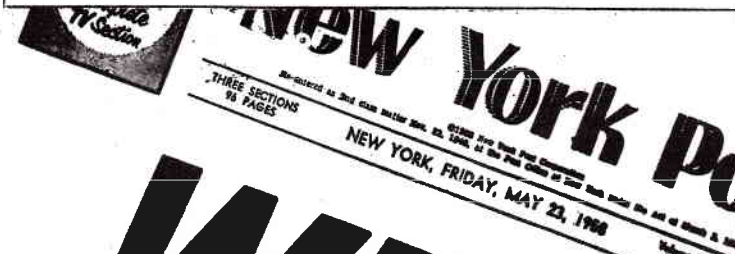
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**9 Killed at Nike Base  
As 8 Missiles Blow Up**



**24 Warheads  
Showered Over  
New Jersey**

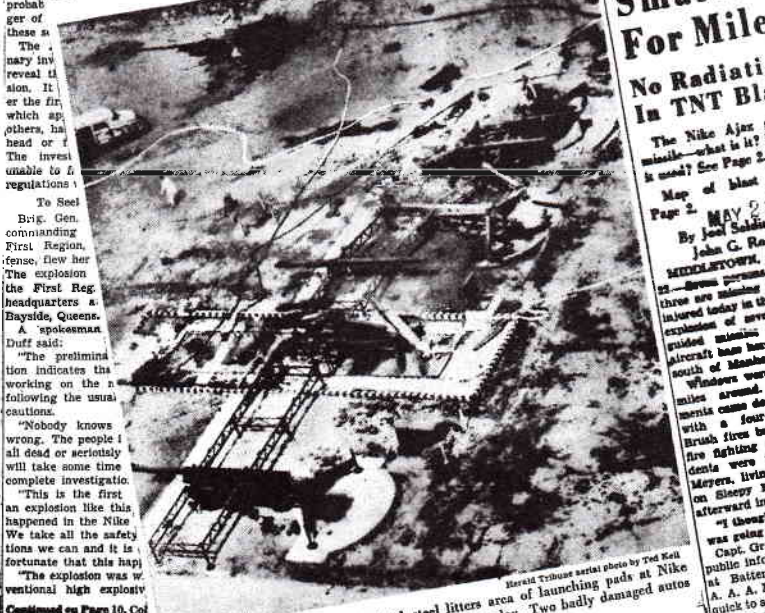
By Jack Lott  
MIDDLETOWN, N. J., May 23 (INS)—Eight powerful Ajax missiles exploded at a New Jersey Nike launching base today, killing nine men, injuring three and showering 24 live but non-atomic warheads over a wide area.

A tenth man was missing and presumed dead. The Army said one of the missiles went off at about 1:20 p. m. while a crew of five civilian technicians and six Army personnel was installing a new type of arming mechanism to insure greater accuracy.

Four minutes later, seven other missiles on the launching pad blew up at once with an earth-shaking roar that could be heard 10 miles away. Windows were shattered within a one-mile radius.

24 Warheads Sought

**7 Nike Missiles Explode  
At N. J. Base; 7 Dead;  
Area Like a Battlefield**



**Halt All Work  
On Nike Ajax;  
Blast Probed**

By Henry Machirella and Sidney Kline  
Jolted by the explosion of eight supposedly accident-proof Nike Ajax guided missiles, with consequent death to 10 persons and injuries to three, the Army yesterday suspended modification work on the rockets throughout the nation.

Modification, completed without incident on hundreds of missiles, will not be resumed until the cause of Thursday's blast on a launching site in Middletown Township, N. J., 45 miles from New York City, has been established, the Army said. Yesterday, scores of military and civilian experts scoured the scene of the disaster to learn why it had occurred.

Installing Trigger Device  
On Thursday, authorities disclosed that the explosions took place while ordnance men were installing a supposedly improved trigger device on one of the Nikes. Whether the blast resulted from mechanical or from human failure still was to be determined. Yesterday's suspension of modification work affected Nike installations protecting 30 major cities.



Brig. Gen. Charles B. Duff  
Tries to reassure residents

**Windows  
Smashed  
For Mile  
No Radiation  
In TNT Blast**

The Nike Ajax missile—what is it? How is it used? See Page 2. Map of blast.

MIDDLETOWN, N. J., May 23.—Seven persons were injured today in the explosion of seven guided missiles. Aircraft have been south of Middletown. Windows were shattered for miles around. The explosion came down with a force of 100 tons. Fire fighting efforts were hampered by the fact that the explosion occurred in a wooded area. The explosion occurred at the launch pad area of the base.

Continued on Page 10, Col

Herein Tribune aerial photo by Ted Kell  
Steel littered area of launching pads at Nike base. Two badly damaged autos.



# ARMY STOPS WORK ON NIKE TRIGGERS, BLAST INQUIRY ON

Modification Projects Are Suspended at U. S. Bases After 10 Die in Jersey

Damage Claims Facilitated—Federal Aides Worried Over Effect on Europe

Text of the Army's statement is printed on Page 12.

By JACK RAYMOND, Staff Writer  
 WASHINGTON, May 23.—The Army announced today the suspension of its trigger modifications of Nike anti-aircraft missiles throughout the country. Such missile installations guard twenty-three major United States communities. Their warheads contain TNT, not nuclear materials. The suspension came as a result of the explosion yesterday at a Nike-Ajax base near Middletown, N. J., in which ten persons were killed and considerable damage done to the surrounding area.

Hugh Milton, 2d, Acting Secretary of the Army, ordered a full investigation to determine the cause of the tragedy and to insure against such disasters in the future.

In New Jersey, the Army opened its inquiry as a three-man board and a score of ordnance experts visited the Nike-Ajax launching base near Middletown, Brig. Gen. Charles B. Duff, acting commander of the First Region, Army Air Defense Command, told Gov. Robert E. Meyner that added precautions would be taken immediately.

The Army said that claims procedures had been outlined by Mr. Milton to Mayor Frank P. Blaisdell of Middletown Township and Gov. Robert E. Meyner, apparently by telephone from the Pentagon.

Claims Handlers Fly In  
 Officers on the staff of the Judge Advocate General flew to the Nike base this morning to facilitate the handling of claims from residents of the area whose property may have been damaged.

A team from the Army Corps of Engineers is also at the site to estimate the extent of the damage, the Army announced. It said a team of safety experts had gone there yesterday within hours after the explosion.

Until the detailed report from the ordnance experts is received, Continued on Page 12, Column 4

# ARMY STOPS WORK ON NIKE TRIGGERS

Continued From Page 1

"only speculation is possible" about the cause of the accident, the Army said.

It reviewed the damage as eight missiles destroyed, extensive damage to launchers and launching equipment, the destruction of two pick-up trucks and the destruction of a civilian automobile near the launching site.

Outside the Nike base, the Army said, the damage appears to be limited to "broken windows and minor breakage."

Parts of missiles were said to have been found three miles from the site. One warhead was reported found three miles from the site, and one booster, which contains the launching fuel, was discovered half a mile from the site, it was said.

The Army statement said that there were reports that the blast had been felt as far away as fifteen miles.

Condolences Expressed

Mr. Milton expressed the Army's condolences to the families of the ten persons whose names were recorded for television. He said "each of these men was accepting the hazards of defense against an air attack for the mutual protection of all of us, and they deserve our humble gratitude."

Defense and State Department officials said privately they were worried about the propaganda impact in Europe.

They called attention to the agitation that already had occurred in connection with United States nuclear-armed bombers and the plans to install intermediate range ballistic missiles in Britain and the Continent that would have nuclear capability. Nike bases are being built in Europe now, particularly in Germany.

While the existing Nike-Ajax version of this missile, a twenty-foot-long weapon about one foot in diameter, does not carry atomic warheads, future versions will have that capability. One of these is the Nike-Hercules, a twenty-seven-foot weapon with a remote-control launching system. It is scheduled to replace the Nike-Ajax missile on United States sites shortly.

Missile in Two Parts  
 A Nike missile consists of two parts, an expendable missile and ground-based launching and control equipment. It is powered with liquid fuel. The missile, which has two sets of fins for guidance and steering, together with the booster, weighs slightly more than a ton.

Its estimated range is twenty-five miles. It is fired from a nearly vertical position in order to meet attack from any direction.

The first Nike missile base was established at Fort Meade in Maryland in December, 1953.

An Army statement in 1953 said the Nike installation constitutes no danger to the area nor to the personnel of the unit itself.

"It is as safe a gas station, as important to the security as the police and fire departments," the announcement went on. "The warhead is constructed to explode only in flight. It has a self-destructive feature so that it will not crash and explode."

"Safety precautions are taken for storage of explosives and volatile fuels. Assembled missile sites are stored underground. Fueling areas are surrounded by high earthen revetments."

WASHINGTON STAR

MAY 23 1958

# Atom Mishap With Hercules Is Discounted

By L. EDGAR PRINA, Star Staff Writer

The Army gave assurances today that the chances of an accidental nuclear explosion of one of its new atomic-tipped Nike Hercules missiles are "virtually non-existent."

The big Hercules weapon is joining the air defenses of the Washington-Baltimore Government and industrial complex next month. It will augment the ring of 20 Nike Ajax bases, such as those atorton, Va., and Fort Meade, Md.

In reply to a question following the explosion of eight Nike Ajax missiles at a New Jersey launching site yesterday, the Army said:

"Elaborate precautions have been taken in the design and handling of Nike Hercules to minimize harmful effects resulting from accidents whether on the ground or in the air."

"Atomic weapons tests conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission have confirmed that the possibility of any nuclear explosion occurring as a result of an accident involving either impact or fire is virtually nonexistent."

TNT Warhead Involved  
 The Ajax type missile, involved in the blast which killed seven persons, injured three and left three unaccounted for, carries a conventional high explosive (TNT) warhead. The Hercules can be equipped with either a nuclear or conventional explosive.

Last February, in reply to public expressions of concern over hazards involved in moving nuclear weapons, the AEC and Defense Department issued a joint statement asserting that the possibility of an accidental atomic explosion while transporting or storing such weapons "is so remote as to be negligible."

The Army gave somewhat similar assurances on its Ajax missiles about three years ago when they first became part of the Nation's air defense system. It said then that the guided missile installations were "safe as gas stations."

Elaborate safety measures are built into the Nike sites and the crews intensively trained. Explosive and volatile fuels that propel the rockets are stored underground.

The explosion of the Nikes in New Jersey, the first such accident of its kind, apparently came as new armng devices were being placed on the missiles.

Ajax Fired 3 Years Ago  
 Three years ago, a Nike Ajax was accidentally fired from a Fort Meade launching pad.

# CHICAGO AREA MISSILES SAFE, ARMY ASSERTS

BY JOHN H. THOMPSON

A spokesman for the army's 45th artillery brigade (air defense), which is deployed to protect the Chicago-Gary industrial area, said yesterday that its Nike-Ajax guided missiles are "quite safe," although armed, fueled, and ready to fly.

Comments on Explosion  
 Lt. Col. Herbert L. Lossen, brigade executive officer, added that if the "war birds" were not safe, the brigade would not allow thousands of civilian visitors to walk thru its various missile sites.

"We have had no accidents and we don't intend to have any," said Col. Lossen. "There should be no hazard to anyone, unless somebody goof."

He was commenting on the fatal explosion of three Nike missiles at the Middletown, N. J., base yesterday.

Nike-Ajax missiles have a conventional artillery warhead. Beginning late next month they are to be replaced here with the more powerful Nike-Hercules, which has a nuclear warhead. Both are fueled with a mixture of kerosene and fuming nitric acid.

Each missile and launcher, said Col. Lossen, is subject to a variety of safety tests. These include testing the launcher for static electricity.

Describes Precautions

Before a missile is ready to fire, he explained, a "squib," the contact for ignition, is inserted. Since an accident some years ago near Baltimore, he said, this is never done on site unless there is an emergency, such as a possible attack.

Col. Lossen said that fueling of missiles is never done near the launching pits, but only inside high earthen barriers—and then by trained men wearing protective clothing.

EXHIBIT M-2

# Nike Missiles To Tighten Safety Rules Army Suspends

NY HER-TRIB

Missile Changes

Middletown residents are "apprehensive," despite acknowledging the necessity of the Nike base—

Page 4

Resident near 9500

bases around New York are philosophical; few register protests—Page 4

MAY 24 1958

By Joel Seldin

MIDDLETOWN, N. J., May 23.

—An Army board today began investigating the explosion here yesterday of eight Nike Ajax guided missiles in which ten men were killed and three injured. A spokesman said the board, concerned with the fears of civilians living near Nike bases "very likely" would recommend stricter safety precautions in handling the missiles.

In Washington, the Army announced that modification work on the Ajax had been suspended throughout the country. It was this modification of the missile's arming device that caused the explosion of a missile at Battery B of the 526th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Missile Battalion, in the Chapel Hill section near here. Seven more missiles exploded in the resulting blast and fire.

Work Is Suspended

The Washington announcement, by Acting Army Secretary Hugh M. Milton, said the suspension was ordered by the Army Ordnance Missile Command, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala. It will remain in effect until the cause of the accident here is determined.

Secretary Milton said that the modification had been completed successfully "on hundreds of other missiles in other areas without incident." Nike bases now ring some thirty United States cities, industrial areas and military bases. The

See NIKE—Pg. 4, Col. 2

affair.

4 Nike Victims

To Get Military Burial Today

MAY 23 1958

Special to the Herald Tribune

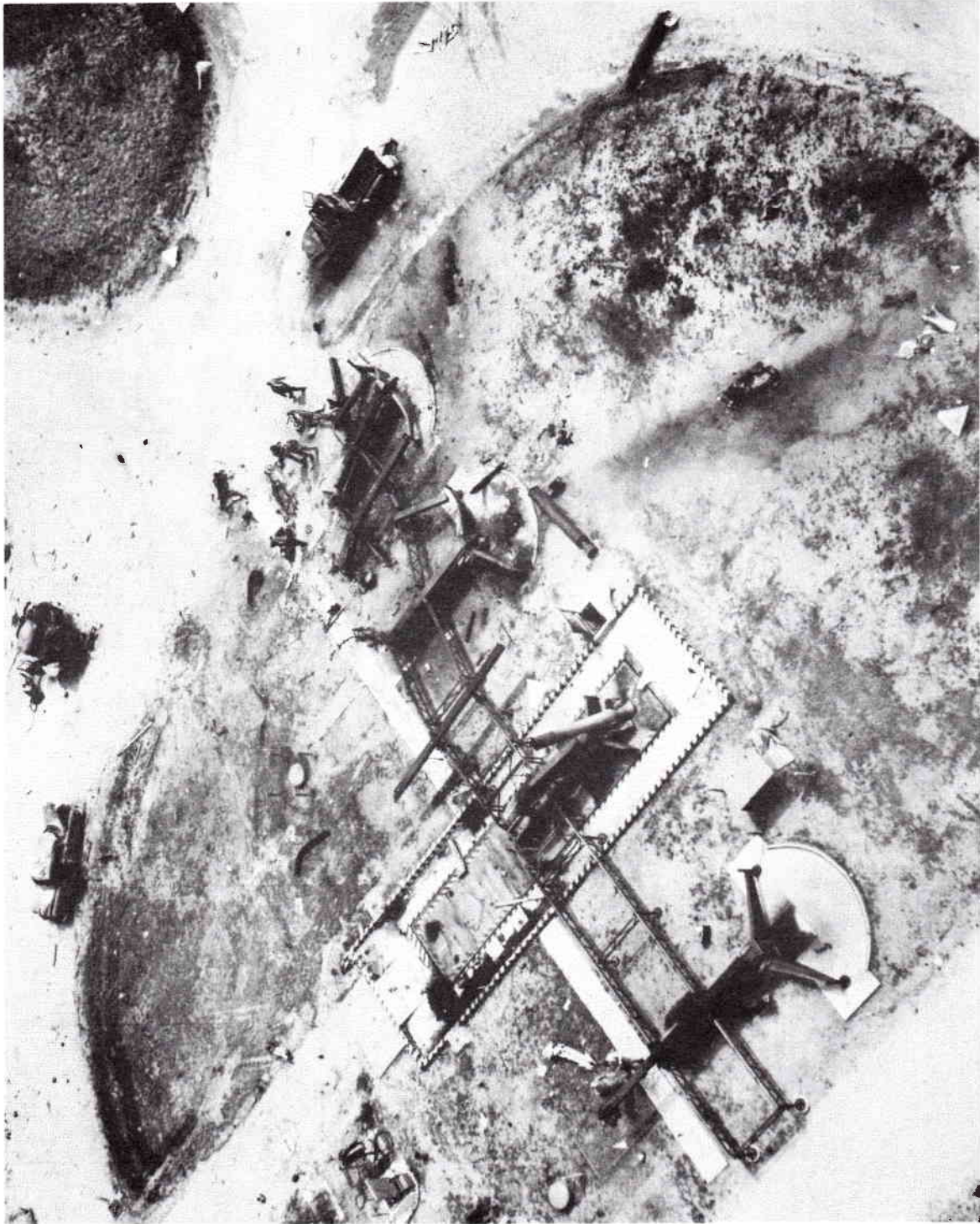
BEVERLY, N. J., May 27.—

Four of the ten fatalities in last Thursday's Nike explosion at Middletown, N. J., will be buried in a common grave in the National Cemetery here at 11:30 a. m. tomorrow, with full military honors.

Those to be interred here are Sgt. Jerome W. Mould; Specialist 3-C Walter E. Berry; Lee H. Parker and Joseph Brokas, civilian technicians assigned to the Army.

Two other soldiers and four civilians killed in the blast have been released to their families for private burial services, the Army announced.





# NEWS RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D. C.

May 23, 1958

No. 515-58 Exhibit N

LI 5-6700 Ext. 71252

FOR THE PRESS:

The explosion at the Nike site at Leonardo, New Jersey, on May 22 apparently occurred while modification work on the missiles was being accomplished.

These modifications are one of a series of steps to improve the performance of the Nike-Ajax missile. The modifications have been completed on hundreds of other missiles in other areas without incident.

This type of modification work has now been suspended throughout the Army by direction of the Army Ordnance Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, until the cause of the explosion has been determined.

Without detailed information from Ordnance representatives who are now at the site, only speculation is possible concerning the cause of the explosion.

The damage of equipment at the site is as follows: Eight missiles were destroyed, extensive damage was done to the launchers and launching equipment; two pick-up trucks were totally destroyed and a civilian automobile in the area of the launching section was destroyed.

Outside the Nike site damage appears to have been limited to broken windows and minor breakage. Parts of missiles were reported as being found as far away as three miles. One warhead was reported being found three miles from the Nike site, and one booster was reported being found one-half mile away from the site. The blast was reported to have been felt as far away as 15 miles.

Acting Secretary of the Army Hugh M. Milton II announced that the fullest investigation is now under way to determine the cause of the tragedy and to insure against such disasters in the future.

He said he has consulted with Mayor Blaisdell of Middletown Township, New Jersey, in regard to damage in the area of the missile



site and with Governor Robert B. Meyner, of New Jersey.

He explained the procedures for settling claims and said that complete cooperation is assured between local and State governments and the Department of the Army.

8  
E N D

MIDDLETOWN NIKE

A CASE STUDY IN ARMY PUBLIC RELATIONS

Excerpts from John DALY's newscast, 1915 hours, 23 May 58, ABC:

\* \* \* \* \*

"The mystery of that NIKE missile blast at MIDDLETOWN, New Jersey, is still unsolved tonight. Under growing civilian demands for an explanation, the Army today plunged into a full-scale investigation. Missile experts spent the day searching through the wreckage for the cause of the blast that killed 10 persons. It happened while an Ordnance team was installing a new type of arming device on the NIKE. Similar modification work at other bases has now been halted, according to Acting Army Secretary Hugh MILTON in Washington:

9 'The blast apparently occurred while modification on the missile was being accomplished.

'This type of modification has been suspended throughout the entire Army until the cause of this particular explosion has been determined. This action has been taken despite the fact that hundreds of missiles in this area and elsewhere in the continental United States have been modified with success.

'We are taking steps to insure that every safety and security provision will be taken to the end that such a thing will not occur in the future.

'On behalf of the Secretary of the Army and of the Chief of Staff Maxwell TAYLOR, I want to extend condolences to the families of those soldiers and those civilian employees of the Army who lost their lives or were injured in this tragic accident . . . .'"

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**PLEASE NOTE DATE**



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D. C.

July 3, 1958

No. 648-58 Exhibit P

FOR THE PRESS:

The Army today issued the following report:

On May 22, 1958 an explosion occurred at Battery B of the 526th AAA (NIKE) Missile Battalion at Middletown, New Jersey. It resulted in six enlisted men of Battery B of the 526th AAA (NIKE) Missile Battalion, and four Department of Army Ordnance civilians being killed. One warrant officer, since returned to duty, of Battery B of the 526th AAA (NIKE) Missile Battalion, and one Department of the Army Ordnance civilian were seriously injured. The launching equipment of one of the three sections was damaged and eight missiles were destroyed or partially destroyed.

At the time of the explosion, three separate activities were taking place in the vicinity of the explosion. The battery personnel were checking missiles in preparation for going on a higher state of alert; a launcher was being repaired by an Ordnance repair team composed of civilian personnel; and a team composed of Ordnance civilian personnel and enlisted men from the NIKE battery was performing an authorized modification on a group of missiles. The Board concluded that the first two operations definitely were not the cause of the explosion. Thorough study of all evidence revealed that, although the explosion appeared to have been initiated in the area where the modification was being performed, there was no evidence that the modified part could have caused the accident.

The circumstances have been examined and weighed by a Board of officers. After careful consideration of all the evidence, the Board concluded that the most probable cause of the explosion was the rupturing of a detonating cap. Corrective actions have been taken to prevent a recurrence. Further, there was no evidence of gross carelessness, smoking, inattention to the operations, or any other possible cause such as sabotage.

Safety regulations and requirements have been reviewed and tightened. The procedure which may have caused the accident has been corrected and eliminated. The Middletown incident was the first explosion since AJAX missiles became operational almost five years ago.

It was found that all serious damage resulting from the explosion was confined to the area immediately adjacent to the



point of the explosion and within the battery boundaries. No injuries were inflicted on personnel outside the battery area, and damage outside the battery was limited. Debris from the explosion was found at some distance from the battery, but there are no reports of damage resulting from it.

Immediately after the explosion occurred, the Army promptly sent teams to Middletown, to assist in processing all claims for damages to property resulting from the explosion.

The battery remained operative in spite of the explosion. It can take its place in the defense of the New York City area at any time. Army Engineers are rapidly repairing the damage and will return the site to its original condition in a short time.

E N D

AR 360-55  
C 1

**PUBLIC INFORMATION  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

CHANGES }  
No. 1 }  
HEADQUARTERS,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 18 February 1958

AR 360-55, 23 January 1957, is changed as follows:

14. (Added) **Accidents.** *a.* In the case of accidents incident to an activity under control of the Army, which occur in civilian communities and result in civilian death, critical injury, or extensive property damage, prompt action will be taken, within the limitation of funds locally available, to assist the persons injured or the next of kin of persons killed; to assure the community of the Army's concern and interest in such cases; and to report casualties as required by AR 385-40 and AR 600-67.

*b.* The commanding officer of the installation nearest the scene of the accident will accomplish the following:

- (1) Insure that the emergency assistance outlined in *a*, below is provided as needed.
- (2) Give newsmen such information on the accident as is releasable in accordance with AR 360-5.
- (3) Offer his personal condolences where practicable to the next of kin of the deceased or seriously injured civilians, and when considered advisable or warranted, concern should be expressed to the survivors and civilians sustaining property damage.
- (4) Release at once a formal statement of regret to the community through the mayor or a comparable official.
- (5) Insure that the reports required by AR 385-40 and AR 600-67 are promptly submitted.

*c.* In providing assistance, Army personnel will be careful not to interfere with the functions of the civilian authorities, and relief or welfare agencies recognized by the community. The Army will offer assistance and cooperate with these agencies in the best interests of those concerned. Such assistance, within the limitation of funds locally available, will include—

- (1) Emergency medical care as needed and within the provisions of AR 40-108.
- (2) Onpost temporary housing at guest or other nonappropriated fund facilities for survivors, if required.
- (3) Coordination with welfare agencies for emergency financial aid, food, shelter, clothing, and temporary or permanent care.
- (4) Information and assistance on the presentation of a claim

AR 360-55  
C 1

against the Government for personal injury, death, or property damage in accordance with AR 25-20. No information will be released, under the authority of these regulations, which might be the specific basis for a claim against the Government.

(5) Necessary local transportation for survivors or the next of kin of the persons killed.

*d.* Local news media, civilian authorities, and other appropriate civilian organizations will be informed of Army policies pertaining to accidents.

*e.* In oversea commands the actions taken regarding Army accidents in civilian communities will be in accord with the spirit and intent of the foregoing but must be adapted to local custom and procedure.

1 AG 014.13 (30 Jan 58) CINFOJ

By Order of *Walter M. Bruckner*, Secretary of the Army:

*MAXWELL D. TAYLOR*,  
*General, United States Army,*  
*Chief of Staff.*

Official:  
*HERBERT M. JONES*,  
*Major General, United States Army,*  
*The Adjutant General.*

**Distribution:**

*Active Army: C.*

To be distributed on a need-to-know basis to all installations, activities located off an installation, and to all units and headquarters down to and including divisions, and units and headquarters of comparable size.

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# THE COURIER

Middletown Township's Own Weekly

EXHIBIT R

29

Middletown, N. J. - Thursday, May 29, 1958

S

## Sympathy, Not Protest Marks Public Meeting on Nike Blast

An expression of sympathy for the lives lost in the Chapel Hill explosion Thursday led off the questions from the floor at what had been billed as a protest meeting between the Chapel Hill Civic Association, the Army and municipal government.

Miss Mary Sullivan, Route 35, returned a round of applause from Chapel Hill residents attending the meeting when she said "As a member of a family that has lived in Middletown for many years, I want to express my sympathy to you, General Duff, for the loss of life of Army personnel and to express my confidence in the Nike installation. I think it is time we forgot hysteria."

Brig. Gen. Charles Duff was the first speaker at the meeting, which was called by Frank Erker, president of the Chapel Hill Association which represents 75 families living in the immediate area of the Nike base. He spoke at length in explaining as far as the facts now known made possible the cause and results of the explosion, and promised that as soon as the investigation at the base was completed and a report compiled it would be made available to this community.

Mayor Frank Blaisdell told the meeting that an open hearing for all township residents would be held when the Army report was complete, probably at Central School.

In sharp contrast to the Middletown reaction pictured by the nation's press was the actual expressions of those who live nearest the site at Monday's meeting.

One young housewife, commenting on both the safety factor and real estate values said "We have just bought a home 1000 yards behind the Nike base, and are delighted to be that close. We feel it's just that much more protection."

Also receiving applause from those attending the meeting were James Maloney, Kings Highway, with his statement that "We should get down on our knees and thank those who defend us so we can attend a meeting such as this, and Mrs. R. O. Thatcher, Chapel Hill rd. Mrs. Thatcher read an editorial from the New York Times which said that whether a war was hot or cold, defense was necessary even when it involved tragedy in peaceful communities such as Middletown.

The audience stood with heads bowed for a silent minute in tribute to the military and civilian personnel who were killed Thursday. General Duff closed the meeting by saying that he wanted to thank Middletown "for the wonderful spirit shown and for the people who have stood up and been counted" as not afraid of future explosions or planning to sell out and leave the area. Chapel Hill residents, after hearing General Duff and Phillip Thayer, assistant director of the North Carolina Laboratory of Bell Telephone Laboratories, concentrated their questions on what the explosion will do to property values in the immediate area, whether or not Hercules missiles with atomic warheads would be used at the Chapel Hill site and what safety measures were being taken to assure that another such explosion would not happen.

General Duff, the Bell Telephone representative, whose firm with Western Electric, of which it is a subsidiary designed the Nike and Mayor Frank Blaisdell answered all questions.

On the devaluation of property Mayor Blaisdell assured residents that the reassessment now being taken throughout the township for tax values would take into consideration a property's nearness to the Nike base. General Duff said that to his knowledge, and certainly not in the immediate future, no Hercules installation would be made in the township.

One safety measure which will be followed not only at the Chapel Hill base but at all Nike sites throughout the country was explained by General Duff. He said that a far greater number of missiles was above ground than would normally be on the launching racks, when Thursday's tragic explosion occurred, and that from now on only one Nike missile at a time would be "topside" when any modifications or adjustments were being made.

### "MISQUOTED" SAYS MAYOR

"Absolutely misquoted," was Mayor Frank Blaisdell's explanation of some of the more hysterical stories that appeared in the press after last Thursday's Chapel Hill Nike explosion.

Speaking at the meeting of the Chapel Hill Civic Association Monday night, Blaisdell complimented the local press for its cooperation but lamented the "regrettable coverage" given by some papers which pictured Middletown as a frightened and fighting mad community.

RED BANK REGISTER, Red Bank, N.J.  
27 May 58

## Residents Take Blast In Stride

MIDDLETOWN—Harried Army officials who expected an angry protest from Chapel Hill residents who experienced the world's first accidental Nike missile blast last Thursday received a pleasant surprise Monday night.

Instead, the missile base neighbors whose houses had been damaged by the explosion offered the officers a vote of faith and confidence that left them visibly moved.

Brig. Gen. Charles B. Duff, 52d brigade commander, came to a meeting of the Chapel Hill Community association in township hall to explain the blast and what is being done to find its cause and prevent recurrence.

Instead of delivering an outburst against the base, its neighbors said that they were thankful there were such installations to defend the nation.

Gen. Duff explained in detail what is known of the blast, and said every precaution will be taken to avoid the "one-in-a-million chance" of recurrence.

He introduced Philip Thayer, assistant director of North Carolina Laboratories, Bell Telephone company, who explained the safety checks and double checks which make the missile foolproof in normal operation.

Gen. Duff stressed the fact that although the accident was "the worst conceivable" because of an unusual concentration of missiles in a small area during a modification work, no one off the base or outside the immediate area of operation was injured.

### Immediate Steps

He said steps already are being taken that will prevent a blast of the same magnitude.

When Gen. Duff had spoken, Miss Mary Sullivan of Rt. 35 rose and, in a few words, set the tone of the citizens' reaction.

"Let's forget the hysteria and have confidence in the U. S. Army and its competent officers," she said. "Now we should express our sympathy to those who suffered the loss, and be glad we have the protection the base gives us."

Amid general applause, Gen. Duff stepped from behind the speaker's table to shake her hand.

Several residents expressed concern over the effect of the base and the explosion on property values in the area. But James Maloney, King's Hwy., said property values were of secondary importance.

"Let's thank God," he said, "that we have such defenders so that we may come to open meetings like this."

Said one resident who lives 1,000 feet from the launcher area, "I'm one of the nearest to it and I'm glad I feel safer for it."

Gen. Duff also answered questions of the Chapel Hill group members. He said that although no conversion to the larger Hercules missile, which is armed with atomic warheads, is planned for the site here, such accidents could not occur with nuclear weapons because of their more specialized firing requirements.

### "Can't Compare"

He said he could not state what the damage would be if an atom warhead exploded at the site, but said it would not begin to compare with the damage that would be wrought by the dropping of an nuclear weapon in the area.

Mayor Frank F. Blaisdell, who helped arrange the meeting, relayed a request from government investigators that any piece of missile or debris found by a citizen be reported. He said every bit of available evidence is needed by the teams probing the blast.

The mayor, who at a meeting Friday asked for calm appraisal of the accident and its effects, said Monday he had been misquoted in two metropolitan area newspapers as "fighting mad" and demanding action.

Gen. Duff reported that claims teams, which will be in session here throughout the week, arrived 24 hours after the blast and have received 19 claims totaling \$2,200. They are for damage to private property and range from \$850 for a destroyed truck, to \$3 for a broken window.

The brigade commander thanked residents for the "splendid spirit" displayed at the meeting.

At a hastily-called township committee meeting Friday, local officials voted to take no action in the matter pending receipt of further facts on the blast.

The Monday meeting was closed with a minute of silent prayer for the victims of the accident.

Gen. Duff, in talking to reporters later, gave high praise to Sgt. Joseph W. McKenzie, who waited out the blast in a shielded panel room of the storage pit, then ran to the adjoining launcher rack to help lower the unexploded missiles to safe storage underground.

He also commended Lt. Robert F. Daly, base commander, who ran from the missile assembly building 200 feet away, after calling for outside help, and ordered the remaining missiles lowered in to the 20-foot-deep pits.

RED BANK REGISTER

RED BANK N.J.

27 May 58

63



GUIDELINES FOR  
DISASTROUS ACCIDENTS

1. The following is furnished as a general procedural guideline for both commanders and information officers in the eventuality of disastrous occurrences:

a. Get a rapid initial estimate of the extent of damage to civilian populace, apparent cause of accident, and likelihood of continued danger.

b. Dispatch Information Team to disaster area if one is not available there.

c. Insure that emergency assistance is provided -- medical, housing, food, and transportation. Coordinate this assistance with local civilian authorities, relief or welfare agencies recognized by the community. (This is a G-3 function; Information Team should publicize.)

d. Expedite sending all available information to higher Headquarters, including CINFO, Department of the Army.

e. Suggest that the Senior Commander contact local authorities to express Army's regrets and assure that all possible assistance will be provided by the Army.

f. Promptly offer personal condolences, where practicable, to next of kin of the deceased or seriously injured civilians.

g. Notify The Judge Advocate General and urge the prompt handling of claims on a cash and receipt basis.

h. Provide news media full cooperation, consistent with security. Emphasize that there will be no "news blackout". Commander should make himself available to the press for interviews as needed.

i. If warranted, arrange through CINFO, Department of the Army, for appropriate Department of the Army official to record statement for radio and TV voicing official sympathy.

j. Arrange for Senior Commander to visit scene, invite Governor of State or other State official to accompany him.

k. Request public information augmentation from next higher headquarters and CINFO, Department of the Army, if and as needed.

l. If indicated, have appropriate Commander attend any community meetings to present Army position in straightforward, sympathetic manner. Appropriate local citizens who recognize the fact that a certain amount of danger is inherent in the requirement to maintain a defensive readiness should always be encouraged to make themselves heard at such meetings.

ADD LOCAL MODIFICATIONS

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64

REFERENCES

AR 260-55 and Change 1, 12 Feb 1958  
CIRC 360-4 -- 15 July 1958  
AR 385-40  
AR 600-67  
AR 360-5

ADD OTHER PERTINENT DIRECTIVES AND REGULATIONS

5

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CLEVELAND PRESS 24 May 58  
 No Other Choice + CD

Despite the natural fears which the New Jersey Nike explosion has generated here and in other cities ringed by these weapons, it must be realistically assumed that these conditions will remain unchanged:

1. Nike sites will stay where they are, since this weapon is a major defense for cities like Cleveland against air attack.

2. Nike missiles will continue to be kept with loaded warheads, since they are useless unless they're ready for instant use.

Thus any action in the wake of the New Jersey disaster must be directed simply at making the sites as safe as possible.

The city is well-advised to explore with

the Army, as it is doing, just how great the risks are.

And the Army certainly will profit by whatever bitter experience there may have been in the New Jersey explosion.

Meanwhile, residents of Cleveland and other great metropolitan centers must remember that they now live in the front lines.

They must accept the presence of front-line weapons, armed and ready to go at a moment's notice.

The hope, of course, is that the risks of a repetition of the New Jersey blast are as remote as the Army hopefully claims.

But folks must remember, too, that whatever these risks may be, there is no choice at the moment but to accept them as one of the unfortunate by-products of living in a tense and uneasy world.

PAGE 12

24 May 58

## THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

*Where The Spirit Of The Lord Is, There Is Liberty*

INDIANAPOLIS NEWSPAPERS, INC.

307 North Pennsylvania Street

Indianapolis 6, Ind.

EUGENE C. PULLIAM, Publisher

*"Let the people know the facts and the country will be saved."*—Abraham Lincoln

### Which Will It Be? CD

Explosion of eight Nike-Ajax missiles at a New Jersey base was a deplorable accident. Investigators ought by all means to find out what caused the blast and the resulting deaths so that precautions can be taken against similar tragedies elsewhere. At the same time, however, the hysterical outbursts of New Jersey residents indicate that another kind of examination is needed, also.

Certainly it is dangerous to have a missile base in a thickly populated area. So is it dangerous to have oil refineries, as a spectacular explosion and fire at Signal Hill in California demonstrated on the same day that witnessed the New Jersey tragedy. For that matter there is the perpetual possibility of tragedy in a natural gas storage tank, in a gasoline filling station and in many other appurtenances of metropolitan living.

The danger is more spectacular, although perhaps no more real, in the average national defense installation. The safety record in the hundreds of anti-aircraft missile bases throughout the United States is outstandingly good. It was almost inevitable that somewhere, some time, there would be a human or mechanical failure to cause such an accident as that which rocked the Leonardo area in New Jersey.

We assume that the exact location of the New Jersey base was a compromise between what might have been the ideal site for anti-aircraft defense of the area and the local use and population of property. Whatever the basis of selection, it must have been a reasonably good one, for the explosion hurt no one who was not on the base. Yet the uproar which followed in the community was to a large extent a protest against the very existence of the base itself.

The protests remind us of a blunt-spoken Navy air base commander we once knew. Answering a telephone call, he found himself listening to the irate harangue of a matron who lived near the base and was disturbed by the noise of Navy jets coming and going. The commander patiently explained that silencers had not yet been perfected for jets, then said, "Madam, it might make the occasional noise easier to bear if when you look out your window, you try to imagine that the planes you see are marked with a Red star."

Like the Navy jets, the Nike-Ajax missiles are there to keep the Soviet emblem of the Red star from bringing the horrors of full destruction to American cities. Some measure of discomfort and danger goes along with national defense. Missiles are not children's playthings, and the men who handle them are not perfect. But we are far safer having them than we would be not having them.

The cowardice which refuses to take the necessary risks of self-defense is a prelude to craven surrender. We Americans need to re-learn the lesson our history teaches: that the survival of the nation depends upon the willingness of its people to take personal risks for the sake of survival.

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 WASHINGTON, D. C.



# Atom-Carrying Hercules Missile Joins L.A. Defense

*Messal*  
Rocket Shown Here Initially; Replaces Others

BY TED SELL

The first Nike Hercules antiaircraft missile in the Los Angeles air defense chain — a missile capable of hurling an atomic warhead into the sky to destroy bombers — was unveiled yesterday on a mountainside above Chatsworth.

It was the first public showing in the nation for the new "second-generation" Hercules missile.

Eventually, all Nike batteries around the Los Angeles area will be equipped with the new super Nike missile. The Chatsworth site is the first completed of five in a current conversion program.

#### Can Beat Planes

Brig. Gen. W. A. Perry, commander of the 47th Artillery Brigade, said the new Hercules missile "threatens whole formations of aircraft" with its nuclear warhead and can "outperform" any known enemy planes.

Still a third version of the Nike, the Zeus, will be intended to combat intercontinental ballistic missiles. The Zeus, however, is still in the research and development stage.

In the conversion program, Los Angeles batteries will continue to stock both Nike Hercules and Nike Ajax—which have only explosive warheads, not atomic ones. The two can be fired from the same launchers.

Lt. Col. Charles J. Stauffer, commander of the 53rd Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, whose "C" Battery (means the Chatsworth site), said that personnel had been retrained at Ft. Bliss to launch the Hercules.

#### Stored Underground

The missile uses the same firing system as the Ajax. Main construction changes required in the conversion program were larger underground magazines—missiles are lifted to firing position on a concrete blind pad by elevators from the magazines under the pad.

Army officials refused to disclose whether atomic warheads are on hand at the launching site. But they emphasized that all studies which have been made to date indicate that the atomic warheads can be stored in near-absolute safety.

#### Seven Feet Longer

The new missile is seven feet longer (40 feet with booster) than the Ajax and has a diameter of 32 inches, compared with 12 inches for the Ajax. Where the Ajax is a slim and graceful needle with triangular wings jut-

Please Turn to Pg. 8, Col. 1

## The New Nike

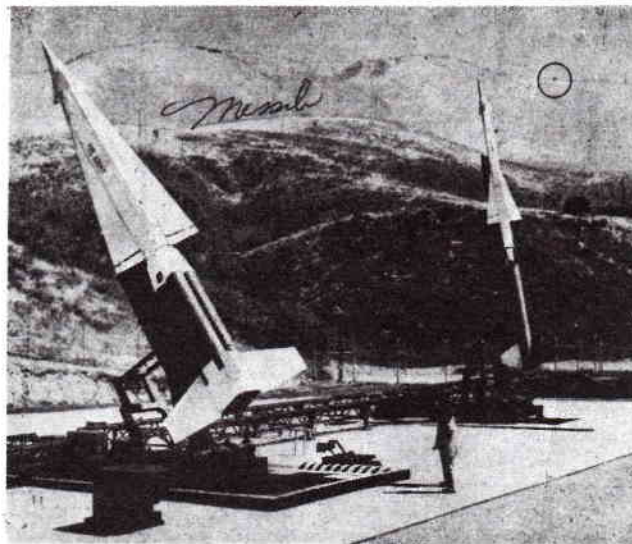
SEP - 6 1958  
WASHINGTON POST

The Army's installation of the new Nike Hercules ground-to-air defense missile around Washington and other potential target areas will afford vastly improved protection against aircraft and aerodynamic, cruise-type missiles. The speedier, longer-range successor to Nike Ajax still offers no defense, however, against ballistic missiles fired from distant land, sea or airborne launchers.

For this reason, the considerable outlay required to effect the conversion from Ajax to Hercules has been criticized by some as an unwarranted investment in obsolescence, since the Soviet Union is believed to be on the verge of having one or more ballistic missile systems that could threaten this continent. To be sure, it would be more comforting to know that American strategic targets, particularly the strategic air bases and command centers like Washington, were either better dispersed, refashioned on a mobile basis on both land and sea, or, at the least, protected by the third generation Nike, the forthcoming Zeus model which will be an antimissile missile. But Zeus is not ready. Further dispersal will be slow to achieve, and mobility as a defense also calls for weapons systems, like the Navy Polaris submarines, which are yet two years or more away.

In the meantime, Nike Hercules confronts a potential enemy with the need to employ his most advanced weapons—or his older weapons in far greater number to insure adequate survival—in any surprise strategic blow. Nike Hercules thus reduces substantially the prospect of a successful knockout attack and, in consequence, the prospect of any assault whatever, since a nuclear Pearl Harbor that failed would mean devastation for the attacker. Although far from being fully satisfactory, Nike Hercules is well worth the expense.

Classified Advertising Number, MAdison 9-441. A. Times SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 30, 1958

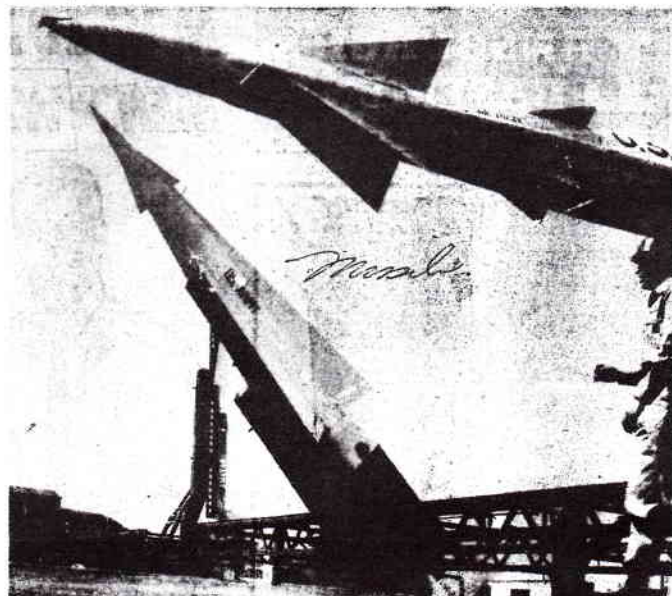


FIRST SHOWING—A Nike Hercules missile, left, capable of carrying an atomic warhead, rests on a

mountainside near Chatsworth beside an older Ajax. Circled is radar center that controls the launchings.  
Times photo

SEPTEMBER 5, 1958

WASHINGTON NEWS



## Nike Is Spiked

UPI PHOTO

The farther missile here is a Nike-Hercules, now supplementing the Nike-Ajax missiles (foreground) in our defense perimeter. This battery is at Davidsonville, Md.

3653 P-9