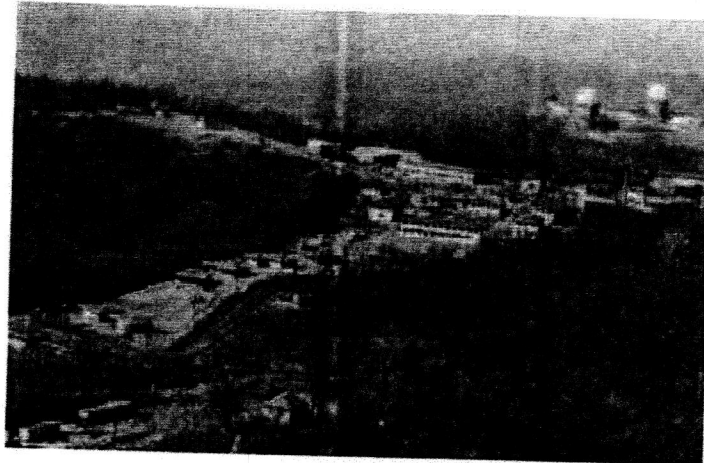




Nike Site NY-55DC
Army Air Defense Command Post
Highlands, NJ



During 1948 the fledgling United States Air Force established an early warning radar site at Highlands, New Jersey, one of the highest points on the east coast of the United States. The site had already been in use by the Army as a Coast Artillery battery that was inactivated shortly after the end of the Second World War.

The Army returned to the site during 1960, with a new air defense related mission. The blast and fallout resistant Missile Master facility which became operational at the Highlands base in that year contained a complex and costly, semi-automated system capable of tracking hostile aircraft and assigning Nike missile batteries in New York and New Jersey to engage them. Later, the Highlands site also assumed control of the Nike missile batteries located in the Philadelphia Defense Area.

The Highlands base also served as the headquarters for various Army air defense units in the region. Although the Air Force closed its Long Range Radar site during 1966, the Army's facility remained operational through 1974 when the last Nike missile batteries in the region were inactivated.

Location
 Army Air Defense Base:
 Highlands,
 (Monmouth County), NJ

Dates of Operation
 1960-1974.

Radar Systems:
 & Equipment
 ABAR-69 with FPA-15
 FSG-1 Missile Master
 TSQ-51 Missile Mentor

Unit Information
 Army -
 HQ 19th Artillery Group
 (1961-1968)
 HHB/3/51st (1964-1968)
 HQ 52nd Artillery Brigade
 (1968-1971)
 HQ 16th ADA Group (1971-
 1974)
 HHB/1/51st (1972-1973)

Present Status
 Virtually all traces of the
 historic Highlands Air Force
 Station and the Army's Air
 Defense Command Post
 have been obliterated. The
 Army's Missile Master
 building was demolished
 along with all other Cold
 War era buildings and
 structures. Regrettably, it
 appears that no attempt was
 made to document this
 highly significant Cold War
 site prior to demolition.

The Monmouth County Park
 System, which incorporated
 the site into its Hartshorne
 Woods Park, has plans to
 restore the impressive World
 War Two era Coast Artillery
 gun batteries left untouched
 by the wreckers and may
 eventually open them to the
 public.

ARSENAL NOTES!

19 WEAPON CAPABLE SITES 1959-1961

270 AJAX
 180 HERC

18 W/C BATTERY SITES 1961-1963

250 AJAX
 180 HERC

NOTE! ALL AJAX MISSILES REMOVED
 BY END OF 1963. CONVERSION TO
 HERCULES SITES COMPLETED.

10 W/C BATTERY SITES 1963-1966

180 HERC

NOTE! NEW YORK RING BAINS OPERATIONAL

CONTROL OVER PHILADELPHIA RING. (1964?)
[Next Site](#) | [Previous Site](#) | [Site List](#) | [Home](#)

15 W/C SITES 1966-1968

294 HERCS

12 W/C SITES 1968-1971

252 HERCS

9 W/C SITES 1971-1974

180 HERCS

NOTE AJAX TO HERCULES CONVERSION

670 AJAX MISSILES BEFORE CONVERSION

270 AJAX MISSILES AFTER CONVERSION.