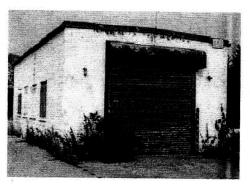


Nike Battery NY-56 Fort Hancock, NJ



Located on New Jersey's Sandy Hook peninsula, Fort Hancock was the site of the nation's first artillery proving ground. It was also the site of numerous seacoast fortifications dating from both the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Although the coastal defenses were temoved during the late 1940s, antiaircraft gun batteries soon replaced them. These gun defenses were later replaced by Nike missiles.

The Fort Hancock Nike site, Nike Battery NY-56, was activated during 1955. This four magazine double site could track and engage two targets simultaneously and was in operation through 1974. Historic Fort Hancock, including its Cold War era Nike facility, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Location Launcher Area: Sandy Hook peninsula, (Monmouth County), NJ Control Area. Sandy Hook peninsula, (Monmouth County), NJ

Dates of Operation 1955-1974

Weapons Systems & Missile Load Nike Ajax / 40 Nike Hercules / 24

Missile Magazines 4 Magazines (double site). 4 type "B". Radar Types ACQR, LOPAR, ABAR, HIPAR.

Unit Information Army -HHB/526th (1955-1958) C/526th (1955-1958) HHB/4/71st (1958-1964) C/4/71st (1958-1964) HHB/3/51st (1964-1968) C/3/51st (1964-1974) HQ 52nd Artillery Brigade (1968-1974)

National Guard -HQ 254th Artillery Group (1959-1963)

Present Status
Located within the confines
of the Sandy Hook unit of
the Gateway National
Recreation Area (National
Park Service), Nike site NY56 remains mostly intact.
Most of the site's original
buildings and structures
(including missile magazines
and radar towers) are intact,
although to date no official
efforts have been made to
either preserve or restore
this historic Cold War era
installation.

Next Site | Previous Site | Site List | Home