

A Battery
2ND BN (HERC) 51ST ARTILLERY
Launching
Area



The Unofficial SF-88 Newsletter

News and Happenings at SF-88 – April & May 2025

Upcoming May Events

- May 3rd Open House: Scout Troop 834 out of San Ramon (the scout troop that meets in another old Nike Site!)**
- May 16th: Grace Valley School - 15 6th graders at the 1:15 tour**

On March 15th the Park Service held a Volunteer luncheon at the General's Residence.

Ranger Vassar along with SF-88 volunteers, Dave Kreuzinger along with wife Janet, Al Beerbaum, along with wife Jessica and Al Kellogg.

Myself Greg Brown and wife Theresa were there too.

Superintendent Dave Smith stopped by our table and talked to Al Kellogg about his Nike Site artwork drawings.





NPS Volunteer Luncheon March 15 2025



Battery Townsley and SF-88 Volunteers, NPS Volunteer Luncheon March 15 2025



We all went home after a good breakfast not knowing that on probably that same Saturday night, trouble was on the way to SF-88.....

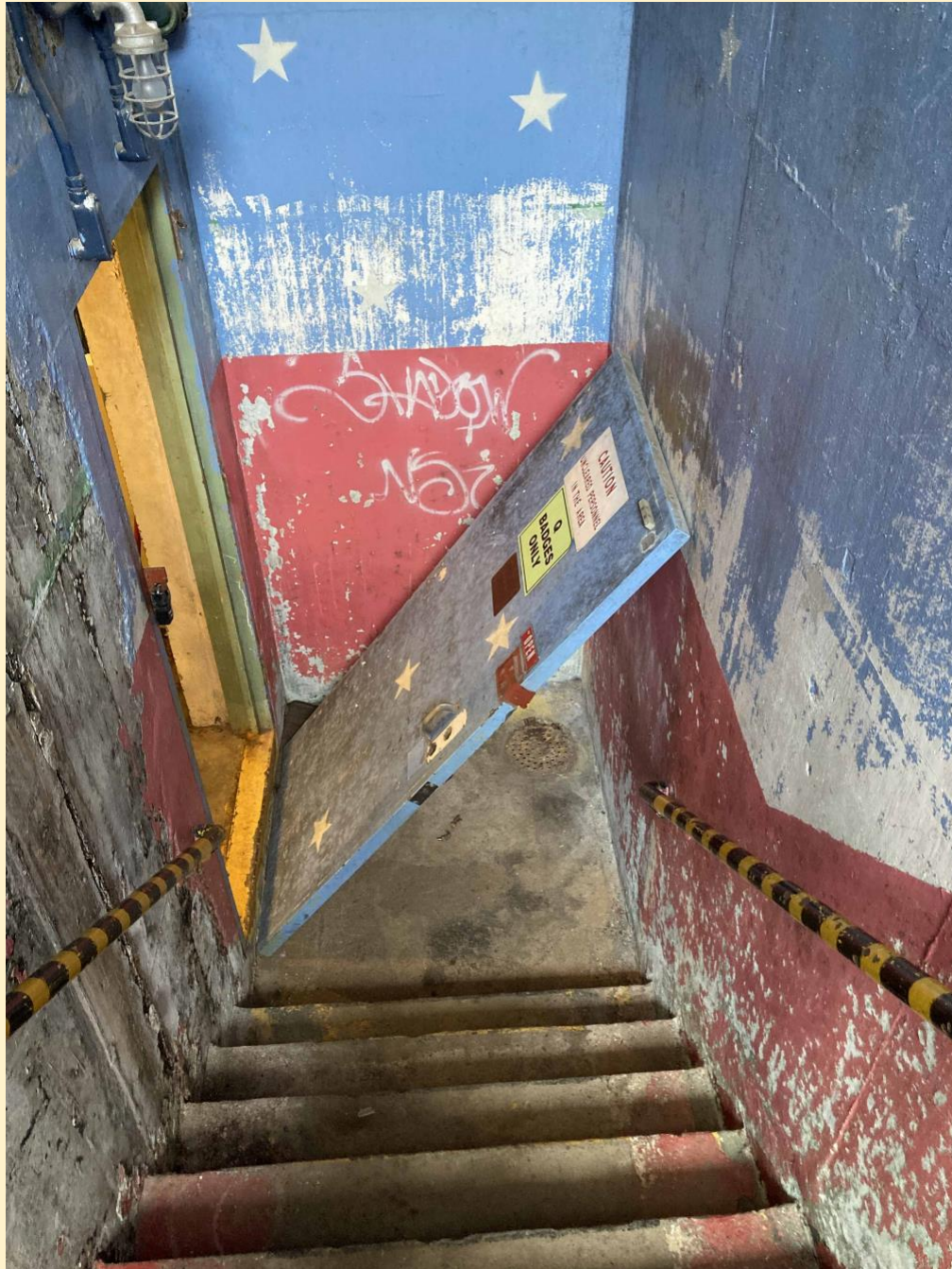


The Vandals that have been destroying Battery Alexander just above us, had decided to pay us a visit.....

Using battery powered grinders, they made a hole in the chain link fence and came through.



Then cut the door hinges.....



And then proceeded to destroy as much as they could. Items were stolen, however the damage done was far greater than the items removed.





SF-88 B Magazine Vandalism March 19

AP

California national park site vandalized with hazardous chemicals, hate speech

Alene Tchekmedyan - Los Angeles Times (TNS) Mar 29, 2025 Updated 20 hrs ago



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00:00

01:15

Authorities are investigating a break-in at a historic Nike missile site in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area outside San Francisco.



Sometime between the evening of March 15 and the morning of March 19, someone vandalized the SF-88 Nike Missile Site magazine in the Marin Headlands, which is known for its scenic views and hiking trails, according to the National Park Service.

The vandal or vandals spray-painted hate speech throughout the building and spilled gallons of hazardous chemicals, the park service said in a [news release](#). It's unclear how many people were involved, but officials said whoever participated may have sustained chemical burns.

According to the park service, the SF-88 site was one of almost 300 Nike missile sites built by the U.S. Army during the Cold War and is the most fully restored one in the country.

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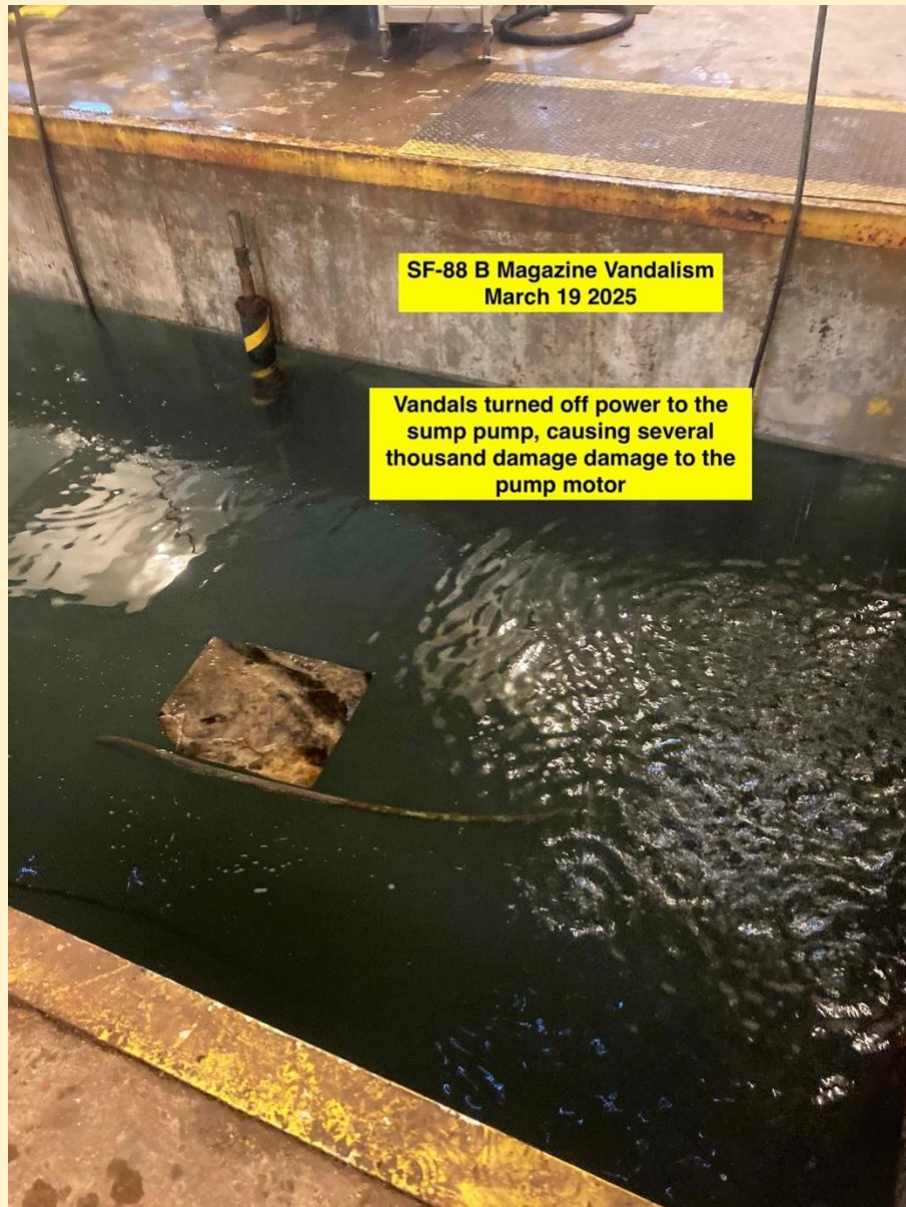
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News articles seem to stress the “Hazardous Materials” that the vandals dumped. This was highly exaggerated.

Most of the bottles that were thrown on the floor and into the gasoline tanks of our lawn mowers were cleaning solutions, “Simple Green” “409 Cleaner” and “Dawn Detergent”.

**The only hazardous chemical was a gallon jug of muriatic acid, which is used for cleaning swimming pools or concrete.
Later water tests of the water in the sump proved to be not toxic.**



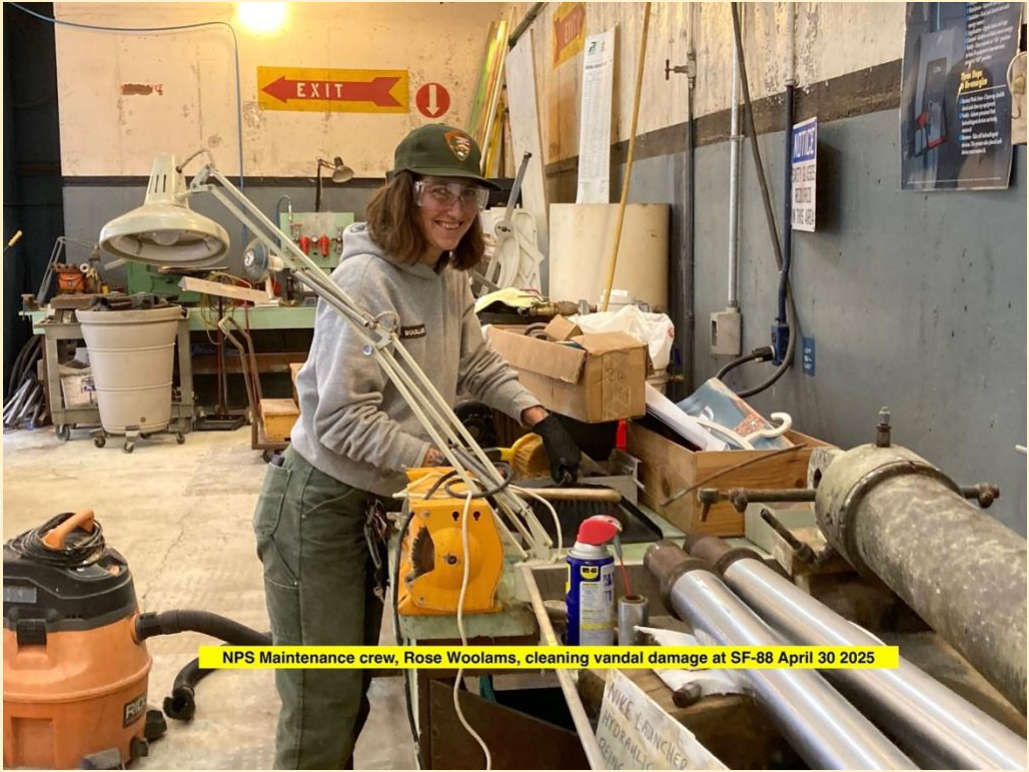
The NPS Maintenance Crew came and removed the offensive graffiti. They also removed the damaged items and took them away for disposal, and repaired the chain link fence that was cut open.

NPS SF-88 Volunteers are welding new hinges to the door at SF-88 B Magazine



**Vandalism repair, B Magazine door.
SF-88 April 16 2025**

Vandalism repair, B Magazine door. SF-88 April 16 2025



NPS Superintendent Dave Smith came by to visit on April 16th . He told us how much he appreciated what we do at SF-88 and how security will be enhanced at the Headlands.

In the below picture, he is chatting with Snappy, our mascot.

Our mission continues at SF-88, thanks to the support of NPS Staff and Ranger Vassar Terry.



Memorial Day is on March 26th.

In honor of our veterans, and those family members who are in service to our country, whom of which NPS Superintendent Dave Smith's Son, who is serving in the US Army and Ranger Vassar whose father served in the US Air Force along with the SF-88 Volunteers many of whom have served in the Armed Forces.

The Nike Missile Battery is not just about the missiles that provide a deterrent to any would be conquerors, but the men and women and their contributions to the local community. A million-dollar payroll that was circulated in the community and community service by Nike personnel.

So, when you look at those big threatening Nike Missiles, think of the men, and women, who manned and maintained these missiles and provided the air defense of our nation.



In whose hands does our security lie ?



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Chuck Dyson Nike Photograph Collection, c. 1970-71, GOGA 18483.006

What makes for an outstanding Missile unit ?

A combination of inspired leadership, loyal obedience, hard work and detailed training in maintenance procedures to provide system reliability and safety.

Life on site is an endless cycle of training under simulated wartime conditions, so that in the event of a real attack, actions become virtually automatic.

Responses must be rapid in these days when enemy aircraft, carrying nuclear weapons, might approach our cities at supersonic speeds.

The time available to react to a surprise attack is so short that each Missileman must know his job thoroughly so that it is second nature to him.



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Bell Telephone Laboratories NIKE Hercules Photos, 1959 GCGA 1844.014



Although these news articles are from the Los Angeles area Nike sites, this story can apply to the San Francisco sites as well.

STAR & MISSILE

SAN PEDRO, CALIF., FRIDAY, JAN. 14, 1966

Missilemen Combine to Give Children a Merry Christmas

Missilemen of the 4th Battalion (Herc) 65th Artillery combined efforts during the Christmas season to bring a little more happiness into the lives of 70 children from the Children's Baptist Home of Southern California, in Inglewood.

With the direction of Chaplain (Capt.) Stanley G. Felgar, the men of the battalion raised \$96 plus numerous serviceable sporting equipment for the children, who are wards of the Los Angeles County Courts.

Fifteen men of the battalion were invited by the home to attend a dinner in their honor. Following the dinner Lieutenant Colonel John L. Armstrong, battalion commander, presented a football to the Rev. John S. Winter, director of the Home, as a symbol of the total gifts from the men of the 65th Artillery. Also included at the dinner was the serving of cakes prepared by each of the mess halls of the command.

Highlighting the special event, was a musical presentation by the "AWOL's," a combo group from Battery B, who presented a program of Rock & Roll and Christmas Carol singing.

The home, which was begun in 1931, serves 70 boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14. These children were taken from their parents by the courts due to neglect, brutality, starvation, and broken homes.

DREAM COMES TRUE

**MISSILEMEN NAME CHATSWORTH BOY
HONORARY FIRST SERGEANT OF SITE**

By SP4 CHARLES W. TELESKO

"I'd like to see a soldier," was the expressed desire of an eleven-year-old Chatsworth boy. A desire which would have little meaning to most young boys, but to Billy Mason, stricken with muscular dystrophy and confined to a wheel chair, it was a desire which seemingly would never come true.

Last week, Billy Mason, became Honorary First Sergeant Billy Mason, of the Chatsworth Nike Guided Missile Site of the 4th Missile Battalion, 65th Artillery.

The surprise, which left Billy almost speechless, occurred when First Sergeant William S. Howell and Specialist Five Donald Boyce heard of the young boy's request. Immediate action was then taken and a new name was added to the battery's roster.

He was invited to the site and upon his arrival, Billy, in the uniform of a Nike missileman, was promoted to the rank of first sergeant in a ceremony conducted in the office of Captain Masayoshi Riusaki, battery commander.

First on the agenda for the new first sergeant was an inspection tour of the site. This tour took Billy through the battery's supply room, barracks, motor pool, and mess hall, where he ate lunch and was presented with a cake welcoming him as a new member of the battery. Later the same day, he witnessed demonstrations by security dog teams, as well as drills at the launching and radar areas of the site.

Yes, Billy got his wish to see a soldier, and for Billy, whose father died recently leaving his mother to raise five children by herself, it means friends; friends to take him to rodeos, baseball game and local events. As for the missilemen of the Chatsworth Nike Site . . . They have a new first sergeant.



WEAPON CHECK—First Sergeant Mason checks over weapons in the Battery C's supply room to see that they are in top working condition. First Sergeant Howell points out several features of the rifle to Billy.



INSPECTOR OF BARRACKS—Honorary First Sergeant Billy Mason notes a pair of unshined shoes while inspecting the barracks of Battery C, 4th Missile Battalion, 65th Artillery. Billy is assisted by First Sergeant Howell.



IT'S OFFICIAL—Billy Mason is promoted to the super grade of Honorary First Sergeant (E-8) by Captain Masayoshi Riusaki, Battery commander, and First Sergeant William S. Howell.



THE

Serving Fort MacArthur and the 47th Artillery Brigade (AD)**STAR & MISSILE**

"Operation Cooperation" Helps Boy Scouts at Camp

The 4th Missile Battalion, 65th Artillery, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John L. Armstrong, took another giant step forward in its program of "Operation Cooperation" this week, when the San Fernando Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America cited twenty-two of its men for outstanding work they did at its Jubilee Scout Ranch last month.

The missilemen, led by First Lieutenant Wade E. Hahn, and Battalion Chaplain Hal D. Caruth, converged upon the scout camp in Pear Valley June 25-27. Work was begun immediately on roofing several huts, clearing a large area of chaparral, and digging a 200 foot trench for laying water pipes.

"It was the most productive work party we have ever had in camp," stated Richard J. Aus, field director of the Valley Council. "If all our military personnel are as fine as the twenty-two enlisted men and two officers from the 4th Missile Battalion, it gives us much faith in the future."



JUDGES ponder over choice for Chatsworth Jaycee Distinguished Service Award, to be presented on Jan. 20, at the Chatsworth Community Center Jaycee Banquet. Judges (seated l-r) Brother John McLaughlin, director of Rancho San Antonio ; Dr. Gjertrud Smith, principal of Chatsworth High School; Bruce Pegg, (Chamber of Commerce president; and (standing left) Capt. Earl Nelson of the 4th Missile Battalion confer with Jaycee D. S. A. chairman Donald Mannas on award. Award will go to Ross K. Dunton, pres. of the Chatsworth Coordinating Council and pres of the SFV Speech and Hearing Center, for his outstanding contributions to the community. For further information on the banquet call 349-8273.

At the Historic Nike Missile SF-88 Museum, we host tours for the public, Veterans and active-duty military personnel from all over the country, and the world.

This Un-Official Newsletter is published as a means to communicate the news of the site between volunteers and staff.

Please let me know any news or upcoming events at SF-88, questions or comments, or if something needs repair.

Together, we all help to tell the story of our Nation's First-Generation Missile Defense System.

Greg Brown NPS-SF-88 Volunteer

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If you wish to not receive the Unofficial SF-88 Newsletter, please let me know and I will remove you from the mailing list.

