Nike Battery NY-79/80 was constructed near the borders of Morris and Essex Counties during 1954-1955. The control area was located atop Riker Hill in Livingston in order to obtain good radar coverage of the region. The launcher area was constructed about two miles away, on a portion of the former Castellazzo farm in East Hanover.

This double Nike site was operational with both Ajax and Hercules missiles. Regular Army units left during 1963, when the New Jersey Army National Guard took control of the base. Nike Battery NY-79/80 remained operational until the inactivation of the nationwide Nike air defense system in 1974.

Location
Launcher Area:
East Hanover
(Morris County), NJ
Control Area:
Riker Hill, Livingston
(Essex County), NJ
Dates of Operation
1955-1974

Radar Types
ACOR, LOPAR, ABAR, HIPAR

Unit Information
Army -
C/463rd (1955-1958)
C/265th (1958-1960)
G/57th (1965-1963)

National Guard -
H/71/12th (1953-1971)
B/71/12th (1953-1971)
H/12/58th (1971-1974)
B/1/254th (1971-1974)

Weapons Systems & Missile Load
Nike Ajax / 60
Nike Hercules / 18

Missile Magazines
5 Magazines (double site)
2 type "B" and 4 type "C"

Present Status
Although the East Hanover Launcher Area was mostly demolished, the Control Area atop Riker Hill remains partially intact. Here, a number of the Army's original barracks and other buildings have been adapted to serve as studios for local artists. The former Family Housing Area adjacent to the demolished East Hanover Launcher Area remained mostly intact through the spring of 2004 when its 32 abandoned homes and the last of its two original barracks were demolished to make room for a housing development.

[Article]
Read the article, Air Defense of Morris County
By Donald E. Bender (1997).

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Note: SEE B.F. 84 US 29.40 Acres a. (255)

This site was mentioned on page 329 of the book "Promisedeome" by Harlan Coben (2006).