



**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 removed 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.

<p><b>Location</b>                  Launcher Area:                  Sandy Hook peninsula,                  (Monmouth County), NJ                  Control Area:                  Sandy Hook peninsula,                  (Monmouth County), NJ</p> <p><b>Dates of Operation</b>                  1955-1974</p> <p><b>Weapons Systems                  &amp; Missile Load</b>                  Nike Ajax / 40                  Nike Hercules / 24</p> <p><b>Missile Magazines</b>                  4 Magazines (double site),                  4 type "B".</p>	<p><b>Radar Types</b>                  ACQR, LOPAR, ABAR,                  HIPAR.</p> <p><b>Unit Information</b>                  Army -                  HHB/526th (1955-1958)                  C/526th (1955-1958)                  HHB/4/71st (1958-1964)                  CIA/71st (1958-1964)                  HHB/3/51st (1964-1968)                  C/3/51st (1964-1974)                  HQ 52nd Artillery Brigade                  (1968-1974)</p> <p>National Guard -                  HQ 254th Artillery Group                  (1959-1963)</p> <p><b>Present Status</b>                  Located within the confines                  of the Sandy Hook unit of                  the Gateway National                  Recreation Area (National                  Park Service), Nike site NY-                  56 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.</p>
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