

Nike



Radar Site Tour - Sandy Hook - Joe Foster - September 13

Almost 40 members and guests enjoyed the visit to the Nike site on Sandy Hook. The day was sunny and warm. After an initial explanation of the larger defense network, we were broken into four groups. Each group went to a different location.

The site originally hosted Nike Ajax missiles that used a conventional warhead and were designed to take down one plane. These were replaced with Hercules missiles with nuclear warheads that could



down a squadron of attacking planes. Several types of radar were used to track incoming planes and others to track the missiles. The larger defense network would send tracking information to the vans on site to assign targets. Care was taken to insure that missiles were not clustered on the same target. Ajax missiles were liquid fueled; Hercules were solid fueled.

The volunteers who manned the site had all served in the missile units. Target tracking was done in one van and missile tracking was done in another. The vans (buildings) were attached in some cases and contained the cabinets with the computers inside (the old tubes had been replaced with circuit boards). We saw where the operators sat and the controls used to coordinate locking the targets and firing the missiles.

The volunteers had to gather some of the equipment from other areas and updated them to make this look like a working site. Unfortunately at one time the site was broken into and parts, wire, etc was stolen. Work is underway to fix up the vans (getting internal lights to work and similar things). *(Jim Powers and guest Moe Nagrod)*



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Photos by Jim Powers and Marty Torbert