United States Department of the Interior

Section number _____

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	SUPPLEMENTARY L	ISTING RECORD
NRIS Reference Numb	er: 04000785	Date of Listing: July 27, 2004
Property Name: Nike Missile Site HM-69		
County: Dade		State: Florida
Multiple Name		
	gares .	A.W.
Signature of the Keeper		July 27, 2004 Date of Action
الله فتنها والله الأنام والهال فاشتر شها الهوا الإنام المراه المراه المراه المراه المراه المراه المراه المراه		
Amended Items in Non	nination:	
Section 8. Statement of		nce.
Section 8. Statement of Engineering is hereby a	<u>f Significance</u> dded as an area of significa	nce. notified of this amendment.

Page _____

(Rev. 10-90)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED 2280

1 4 2000

MALRESISSER CONTROLS

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete

1. Name of Property
historic name Nike Missile Site HM-69
other names/site number "Hole in the Donut," "Everglades Nike Site," "Missile Base," "A Battery," "A-2-52," "Dan Beard Research Center" 2. Location
street & numberEverglades National Park - 40001 State Road 9336 not for publication city or townHomestead vicinity _x stateFlorida code _FL county _Miami-Dade code025 zip code33034
3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that thisX nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally _X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official U.S. Certifying official State or Federal agency and bureau 5/7/2004 Date State or Federal agency and bureau
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official Date
Florida Division of Historial Resources, Bureau of Historia Presentation State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification	
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register	Jeniel J-Vi 7/27/04
other (explain):	_
Signa 5. Classification	ature of Keeper Date of Action
	Category of Property (Check only one box)
<pre> private public-local public-Statex public-Federal</pre>	building(s) _x district site structure object
Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed property)	erties in the count)
Contributing Noncontributing 10 1 buildings 0 sites 3 structures 1 objects 22 5 Total	
Number of contributing resources previous Register 0	ously listed in the National
	ing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part N/A

6. Function	or Use	
DEFENSE	ctions cories from instructions) : Military Facility : Air Facility	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION: Research Facility OTHER: Park Storage OTHER: Hurricane Equipment Shelters OTHER: Research Administrative Offices OTHER: Aviation Operations OTHER: Cultural Resources Storage & Management
	·	OTHER: Natural Resources Management OTHER: Museum Storage
7. Descripti	on	OTHER: Soil Storage Area
(Enter categ No acade	1 Classification ories from instructions) mic style escription (Describe the hi one or more continuation s	Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation: concrete block walls: concrete block roof: metal, shingle other: earthen berms Estoric and current condition of the sheets.)
8. Statement	of Significance	
	ational Register Criteria lifying the property for N	(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the National Register listing)
<u>x</u> A		th events that have made a significant patterns of our history.
В	Property is associated wi our past.	th the lives of persons significant in
<u>x</u> C	period, or method of cons master, or possesses high	stinctive characteristics of a type, struction or represents the work of a a artistic values, or represents a shable entity whose components lack
D	Property has yielded, or in prehistory or history.	is likely to yield information important

Criteria Cons	iderations (Mark "X" in all	the boxes that apply.)				
A	owned by a religious instit	tution or used for religious purposes				
В	C a birthplace or a grave. D a cemetery.					
c						
D						
Е						
F						
<u>x</u> G	less than 50 years of age of past 50 years.	or achieved significance within the				
Military (American Deference Program Cuban Missile Cuban-American	ries from instructions) ense & Nike Missile Crisis	Period of Significance 1964 - 1979 Significant Dates 1964 HM-69 constructed 1979 HM-69 closed				
	Criterion B is marked above)					
Architect/Buil Department of	lder f the Army, U.S. Army Corps	of Engineers				

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one
or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS)
<pre>preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.</pre>
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
Primary Location of Additional Data
State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
<u>x</u> Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository: Everglades National Park, National Park Service Southeast Regional Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 660 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

HM-69 is located in the Pine Island District of Everglades National Park. The HM-69 district is roughly L-shaped, with Long Pine Key Road in Section 25, Township 58 South, Range 36 East as the northern boundary. The district extends east from the border of Section 26 for 2400 feet. The district extends south from Long Pine Key Road 9400 feet across Section 36, Township 58 South, and into Section 2, Township 59 South. The southern border of the district is 1150 feet south of the southern border of Section 36, Township 58 South and includes acreage in both sections 1 and 2 of Township 59 South. The southern border, or bottom of the L, is 4300 feet across. The eastern border runs north for 4200 feet parallel to the western border, then cuts back to the west for 1700 feet before continuing north for another 5200 feet back to Long Pine Key Road (Research Road). (see attached map)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary corresponds to the boundary specified in the special use permit issued to the Department of the Army in March 1964. The typical configuration of the Nike Missile Bases included an Administration/Barracks Area and a Launch Area linked by a line of sight easement. In the case of HM-69, the boundaries included the area in between the Administration/Barracks Area and the Launch Area. These two areas were physically linked by a series of telephone poles that carried the communication lines between the two areas. Also included within the boundary is the road constructed to connect the Administration/Barracks Area and Launch Area.

11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Diana E. Welling & Jennifer Dickey, In	nterns
organization National Park Service, Southeast Regi	onal Office
date <u>March 19, 2004</u>	
street & number 100 Alabama Street, S.E.	telephone <u>(404) 562-3117</u>
city or town Atlanta state GA	zip code <u>30303</u>

Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form	1:
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating th sketch map for historic districts and properties h numerous resources.	
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the	property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for a	ny additional items)
Property Owner (Complete this item at the request	of the SHPO or FPO.)
name National Park Service	-
street & number 1201 Eye Street NW	telephone

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20005

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 1

OMB No. 1024-0018

Everglades National Park Nike Missile Site HM-69 name of property

Dade County, Florida county and State

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Like all the Nike Hercules Missile sites in the continental United States (CONUS), Homestead/Miami-69 (HM-69) consisted of two areas, the Launch Area and the Battery Control Area, linked by a paved road. The two areas were approximately one mile apart with line-of-sight visibility. The total resource count for both areas is ten contributing buildings and twelve contributing structures.

The Launch Area was where the missiles were assembled, tested, launched, and stored. Most Nike Missile sites had underground silos for missile storage, but because of the high water table in South Florida, the missiles at HM-69 were stored in above-ground concrete and steel buildings. Extant buildings at the Launch Area include the Missile Assembly and Warheading Building, Missile Shelter Buildings A, B, and C, and a Canine Kennel support building. Extant structures at the Launch Area include a chain-link fence surrounding the Launch Area, the earthen berms with concrete bunkers surrounding the three Missile Shelter Buildings, the earthen berm around the Missile Assembly & Warheading Building, the fence associated with the Canine Kennel Support Building, the Launch Area Road, Launching Pads, and a wooden power pole which was part of a series of poles that carried power and communication lines back to the Battery Control Area. Three Sentry Stands, two Sentry Boxes, the Generator Shed, the Water Pumphouse, the Water Tanks, the Launch Control Trailer, the Generator Shed, the Paint & Oil Storage Building, the Sewage Pump Station, the Sewage Treatment Plant, individual Canine Kennels, and the Ready Building are no longer standing. The borrow pond from which soil was dug for the earthen berms has been filled. (see attached site plan)

The Battery Control Area, also known as the Integrated Fire Control Area (IFC), was the administrative, residential, recreational, and target identification and tracking center for the site. Existing buildings at Battery Control include the Administrative/Barracks building (Daniel Beard Research Center), Water Pump House & Tank, Paint & Oil Storage Building, Generator Building, Garage/Warehouse, and Intercorridor Connecting Building to which radar control trailers were attached. Existing historic structures at the Battery Control Area include a Sewer Ejection System with an aboveground septic tank, a helipad, a basketball court, a picnic table, a paved driveway and parking lots, and a chain-link fence. The Sentry Box, radar towers, and radar control trailers no longer exist.

LAUNCH AREA - CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

Missile Shelter Building A – [Building 192], LCS Number 091865, ca.1964

60' x 58' x 21'6" concrete block structure with a corrugated metal, front gable roof. Metal siding with 2 metal vents that lie in each gable. Two large metal sliding doors on the South elevation have their own track that extends out approximately 19' on either side of the building. East and West elevations also have single metal doors. Concrete-paved area 60' wide extends out in front of the structure to road. A steel-edged trenched cable trough, approximately 12 inches deep and 12 inches wide, runs from the inside rear of the Shelter Building and connects to another cable trough that runs to the underground Console Room in the earthen berm. The troughs run parallel to and then under the former location of the rails that transported the missiles in and out of the Shelter Building for maintenance, training, or, if necessary, firing. The cable troughs enclosed power and communication cables that connected to the Launch Control Trailer via the Communication Trench described later in this section.

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Missile Shelter Building B - [Building 193], LCS Number 091864, ca.1964

60' x 58' x 21'6" concrete block structure with a corrugated metal, front gable roof. Metal siding with 2 metal vents that lie in each gable. Two large metal sliding doors on the South elevation have their own track that extends out approximately 19' on either side of the building. East and West elevations also have single metal doors. Concrete-paved area 60' wide extends out in front of the structure to road. A steel-edged trenched cable trough, approximately 12 inches deep and 12 inches wide, runs from the inside rear of the Shelter Building and connects to another cable trough that runs to the underground Console Room in the earthen berm. The troughs run parallel to and then under the former location of the rails that transported the missiles in and out of the Shelter Building for maintenance, training, or, if necessary, firing. The cable troughs enclosed power and communication cables that connected to the Launch Control Trailer via the Communication Trench described later in this section.

Missile Shelter Building C [Building 194], LCS Number 091863, ca. 1964

60' x 58' x 21'6" concrete block structure with a corrugated metal, front gable roof. Metal siding with 2 metal vents that lie in each gable. Two large metal sliding doors on the South elevation have their own track that extends out approximately 19' on either side of the building. East and West elevations also have single metal doors. Concrete-paved area 60' wide extends out in front of the structure to road. A steel-edged trenched cable trough, approximately 12 inches deep and 12 inches wide, runs from the inside rear of the Shelter Building and connects to another cable trough that runs to the underground Console Room in the earthen berm. The troughs run parallel to and then under the former location of the rails that transported the missiles in and out of the Shelter Building for maintenance, training, or, if necessary, firing. The cable troughs enclosed power and communication cables that connected to the Launch Control Trailer via the Communication Trench described later in this section.

Missile Assembly & Warheading Building, LCS Number 091867, ca. 1964

40' x 40' x 15.3' concrete block garage with a shed tarpaper roof. One-bay wide section on South side is several feet shorter than northern portion of structure. North and West elevations have large metal roll-up doors. The west elevation also has standard size metal door. Inside is an overhead crane that was used in assembling the missiles.

Canine Kennel Support Building and associated fence, LCS Number 100420, ca. 1964

12' x 14' x 9.9" concrete block building has tarpaper shed roof. Two-pane, awning type windows are on the East and South elevations. The door on North elevation is within chain-link fenced area measuring 30' x 33'.

LAUNCH AREA - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

Earthen Berm A, LCS Number 269924, ca. 1964

35'-wide earthen berm surrounding Missile Shelter Building A on the northeast, northwest, and southwest. A concrete bunker with a steel door is built into the berm on the northeast side. Two 24" diameter concrete igniter and initiator wells are embedded in the northwest corner of the berm near the bunker entrance.

Earthen Berm B, LCS Number 269948, ca. 1964

35'-wide earthen berm surrounding Missile Shelter Building B on the northeast, northwest, and southwest. A concrete

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bunker with a steel door is built into the berm on the northeast side. Two 24" diameter concrete igniter and initiator wells are embedded in the northwest corner of the berm near the bunker entrance.

Earthen Berm C, LCS Number 269960, ca. 1964

35'-wide earthen berm surrounding Missile Shelter Building C on the northeast, northwest, and southwest. A concrete bunker with a steel door is built into the berm on the northeast side. Two 24" diameter concrete igniter and initiator wells are embedded in the northwest corner of the berm near the bunker entrance.

Missile Assembly & Warheading Building Earthen Berm, LCS Number 091870, ca. 1964

35'-wide crescent-shaped earthen berm surrounds the paved area on the southwest side of the Missile Assembly & Warheading Building.

Communication Trench, LCS Number 270063, ca. 1964

2' x .5' steel-edged trench connecting concrete control-panel bunkers in berms to missile launch pads. The trench runs from all three launch pads (A, B, & C) to the entrance of the Launch Area where it connected with the Launch Control Trailer.

Power Pole, LCS Number 270068, ca. 1964

14' x 1' wooden power pole located north of entry gate to Launch Area with steel conduit from the ground up to insulators for cables. This is the sole remainder of a series of poles between the Launch Area and the Battery Control Area.

Launch Area Road, LCS Number 091869, ca. 1964

0.5 mile asphalt road 15' wide that connects the Launch area with the Battery Control Area (Daniel Beard Center), the original control site for the base. The Launch Area Road also connects each of the aboveground missile storage barns.

Chain-Link Fence and Warning Signs, LCS Number 276558, ca. 1964

A 10' high, chain-link fence topped with three strands of barbed wire surrounds the perimeter of the Launch Area. Posted on the fence are signs in English and Spanish with the following text: "U.S. ARMY RESTRICTED AREA, USE OF DEADLY FORCE IS AUTHORIZED, WARNING." Warning signs removed to Everglades National Park Museum Collection are also contributing.¹ The gate across the Launch Area Road is not original to the site.

LAUNCH AREA – NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

Borrow Pit, ca. 1964

A rectangular pit approximately 500' long that was formed when dirt was removed to build the earthen berms at the Launch Area. The pit, which was once filled with water, has recently been filled with dirt and is no longer discernible.

¹ EVER 307636, Everglades National Park museum collection.

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Dry Hydrant, ca. 1997

2.5' tall steel pipe dry hydrant located between the Missile Assembly and Warheading Building and Earthen Berm A inside the Loop Road.

BATTERY CONTROL & ADMINISTRATION AREA – CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

Barracks & Administration Building - [Daniel Beard Center Main Building], LCS Number 091843, ca. 1964
One-story, poured concrete frame with concrete-block infill building with a hipped metal roof (added in 1993) has a T-shaped plan with an original rear ell and a minor later rear addition. T-shape section measures 280' x 150' x 13' high. North elevation has two-over-two, double-hung, metal sash windows with metal awnings; 2 recessed entries have double metal doors and hipped-roof porches.

Interconnecting Corridor Building and associated concrete pads [Beard Center Building 190b], LCS Number 091846, ca. 1964

25' x 55' x 12' concrete block building with rectangular plan and side extension. Building 190B has a flat roof covered with tar paper. The front elevation faces North with metal doors on both the main building and the addition. West elevation has louvered wood windows with metal bars on the outside. Concrete pads, on which the radar control trailers once rested, are located on either side of the south end of the building.

Paint & Oil Storage Building [Beard Center Crash & Rescue Building], LCS Number 091847, ca. 1964 8' x 8' x 9.8' one-story, concrete block building with a shed, tar paper roof and wind sock. Front elevation faces East and has a single metal door; wood frame window is on the West elevation and has louvered panes.

Water Pump House & Tank [Beard Center Outbuilding 1], LCS Number 091845, ca. 1964

17' x 11' x 12.2' one-story building with shed, tar paper roof and a rectangular plan. The building's front elevation faces North and has a metal door at the West elevation. West elevation has metal, double-hung sash window and doorway extension. The rear tank has pipes leading into building.

Generator Building [Beard Center Outbuilding 2], LCS Number 091844, ca. 1964

25' x 25' x 10.5' one-story concrete block building with rectangular plan and a shed, tar paper roof. The front elevation faces North and has 4 bays with metal casement windows with 4 lights each. All of the windows are currently covered with wood or plastic.

BATTERY CONTROL & ADMINISTRATION AREA – CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

Paved Areas, LCS Number 270354, ca. 1964

15'-wide asphalt driveways that connect outbuildings and asphalt parking lot at Barracks & Administration building. Concrete sidewalks connect the various entrances of the Barracks & Administration building to each other and to the parking lot and driveway. Also extant are a concrete helicopter pad and adjacent concrete parking spaces.

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Basketball Court and associated fence, LCS Number 2703691, ca. 1964

5

50' x 90' outdoor asphalt basketball court with 10' chain-link fence surrounding south end. Original backboard and hoop located at the south end of the court.

Sewage Treatment Plant, LCS Number 270350, ca. 1964 Concrete block sewage pump house with flat tarpaper roof.

Picnic Table, LCS Number 207075, ca. 1964

Picnic table and benches made from concrete blocks and poured concrete slabs located on south side of Barracks & Administration building. This is the only remaining one of four original picnic tables located behind the Barracks & Administration building..

BATTERY CONTROL & ADMINISTRATION AREA – NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

General Purpose Warehouse, ca. 1964

80' x 20' x 10.5' one-story garage with side gable, tar paper roof. Front elevation faces North and has four garage door bays with metal garage doors. The rear of the garage has four windows with corrugated metal covers. The exterior siding of the building was replaced in the mid-1980s, at which time the metal garage doors were installed, both of which undermined the integrity of the building.

Helicopter Pad, ca. 1995

Concrete helicopter pad added by National Park Service east of original helicopter pad.

Chain-link Fence, ca. 1995

Fence surrounding basketball court and across the driveway at the west end of Administration/Barracks Building.

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Nike Missile site HM-69 meets National Register criteria A and C. The Nike defense system was a significant aspect of both civilian and military life in the United States during the Cold War; and HM-69 represents a critical element of the South Florida defense network that was constructed following the Cuban Missile Crisis. The site, which was one of four Nike sites constructed in South Florida in 1964, has statewide significance. Future comparisons with the remaining South Florida Nike sites may indicate national significance.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

South Florida was the location of many important Cold War events in the period 1945 - 1989. So many of the era's important events took place in the region that it was once called the "center of the Cold War" in the United States. Cold War events in Florida were usually related to the U.S. policy of containment and its application in South America, Central America and the Caribbean. From the 1950s until the end of the Cold War, South Florida played a major role in containment-justified foreign policy operations in Guatemala, Cuba, Nicaragua, and other nations.

The Everglades National Park area known as the "Hole in the Donut" contains the remains of a Cold War-era missile base. The complex stands as a reminder of the Cold War and its impact on South Florida, particularly in the wake of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

COLD WAR AND SOUTH FLORIDA HISTORY

The Cold War permeated American foreign policy from the conclusion of World War II to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. For forty-five years the United States and the USSR fought a war of words and wars by proxy. The Cold War gave rise to a massive arms race in which the two nations competed to develop bigger and better weapons of mass destruction. Although the United States and the USSR never declared war upon each other, armed confrontations in locales as diverse as Korea, Vietnam, and Cuba, raised fears of a third world war.

The conflict in Cuba placed South Florida at the heart of one of the Cold War's greatest dramas. Forces led by Fidel Castro seized control of the island nation, 90 miles from Key West, in 1959. After gaining power, Castro began to move toward the left, acting against American interests in Cuba and seeking ties with the Soviet Union. In response, President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved a plan to organize Cuban exiles for an invasion of Cuba, and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) immediately began training a small band of exiles in the Florida swamps and Central America. In January 1961, Eisenhower, in one of his last acts before leaving office, broke diplomatic ties with Cuba. The new president, John F. Kennedy, inherited both a broken relationship with Cuba and a plan for Castro's demise from the previous administration. Kennedy decided to proceed with the planned invasion, but ordered the United States' role in the affair kept secret.

On April 17, 1961, approximately 2,000 Cuban exiles backed by the United States government invaded their homeland in an attempt to overthrow Castro's regime. After a battle that lasted a mere seventy-two hours, the invaders were defeated and some 1200 men captured. The Bay of Pigs invasion was an embarrassment to the American government and its new

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president, John F. Kennedy; a contemporary *New York Times* columnist decried the botched invasion, saying that the United States "looked like fools to our friends, rascals to our enemies, and incompetents to the rest."²

The Bay of Pigs fiasco was followed by rising tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. In May 1961, Kennedy requested an increase in defense spending from Congress; three months later, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev ordered construction of the Berlin Wall. In October 1962, American intelligence reports of construction of Russian missile bases in Cuba brought the conflict to a new state of urgency. Kennedy demanded the removal of the missiles from the island and established a naval blockade; Khrushchev refused, however, citing Cuba's right to defend itself against invasion. After a tense, week-long stand-off in the Caribbean, the Soviets agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for Kennedy's overt promise that the United States would not invade Cuba and a secret promise to remove American missiles aimed at the USSR from Turkey.³ Historians have concluded that the Cuban Missile crisis brought the two superpowers to the brink of nuclear war.

AMERICAN DEFENSE AND NIKE MISSILE PROGRAM

American military planners had begun to develop new strategies for the defense of the nation before World War II was over. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, defense strategists believed that the greatest threat to national security was an aerial attack by long-range bombers, a fear that was heightened by the successful Soviet test of an atomic bomb in 1949. With these fears in mind, military planners sought to develop an antiaircraft system to provide protection from bombers flying above the range of conventional artillery.⁴ The Army contracted with Bell Laboratories and Western Electric to develop a supersonic rocket missile that could be guided and detonated by remote control commands from a ground-based unit. Bell then subcontracted with Douglas Aircraft Company to design the missile, booster, and launcher.⁵

The Nike Ajax,⁶ as the system became known, was "the world's first operational, guided, surface-to-air missile system." The system consisted of a long, slender missile with three warheads activated by burst orders sent from ground computers. The missile was propelled by a solid-propellant booster for the first 2.5 seconds, then by a liquid-fueled sustainer motor for seventy seconds. This propulsion system gave the Nike Ajax a range of twenty-five to thirty miles and a ceiling of 65,000 feet.⁸

² Quoted in George B. Tindall and David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, brief 2d ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 1989), 870.

³ Ibid., 871-72.

⁴ M. D. Fagen, ed., A History of Engineering and Science in the Bell System: National Service in War and Peace (1925-1975) (Bell Telephone Laboratories, 1978), 370.

⁵ Ibid., 371.

⁶ The system was named after Nike, the Greek goddess of victory, and Ajax, Greek hero of the Trojan War.

⁷ Christine Whitacre, ed., *Last Line of Defense: Nike Missile Sites in Illinois* (Denver: National Park Service, Rocky Mountain System Support Office, 1996), 31.

⁸ Ibid.

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On the ground, the Nike Ajax system had two radars, one to track the target and another to track and communicate with the missile. A computer processed the data gathered by the radars and provided guidance for the missile to intercept the target. The computer also issued the missile's burst command when it neared the target.

The first Nike missile site was activated in December 1953 in the Washington-Baltimore Defense Area. Ultimately, Western Electric and Douglas Aircraft built 358 ground batteries and 14,000 Nike Ajax missiles for the Army, which were then deployed across the country around major cities and military bases. Use of the Nike Ajax peaked around 1960; by 1964, the last operational Ajax missile site in the United States had closed, although the missile would be deployed overseas for several more years.

Bell Laboratories continued to make improvements to the Nike system after production of the Ajax had begun. One concern with the Ajax was that multiple bombers flying close together might overwhelm the system, which was equipped to handle only one threat at a time. Thus, researchers sought to develop a missile with a nuclear warhead and a longer range than the Nike Ajax. The resulting system, the Nike Hercules, had a range of 100 miles and utilized the ground control system built for the Ajax. 11

Nike Hercules began replacing the Nike Ajax in 1958. Three years later, the "Improved Nike Hercules," which included a new High Power Acquisition Radar (HIPAR) capable of detecting targets at a greater distance, became operational. The Improved Nike Hercules system could operate in three modes, surface-to-air, low-altitude, and surface-to-surface; however, like the Ajax, its principal mode of operation was surface-to-air. The Hercules systems supplemented and eventually replaced Ajax missiles across the country. ¹²

Ultimately, the Hercules system, too, would become outdated and usurped by other defensive weapons systems. One major reason for this was the changing nature of the Soviet threat. Although for nearly two decades it was assumed that a Soviet attack would use long-range bombers carrying nuclear arms, it became increasingly clear over time that the Soviets had instead invested heavily in intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) development, which required a different type of defense. Development of an antiballistic missile system (ABM) began in 1956 with the Nike Zeus, an extension of the Nike Hercules program. Although the Zeus was never activated, technological advances made during its development were applied to the later Sentinel and Safeguard missile systems. ¹³

⁹ Fagen, 372.

¹⁰ The Hercules was named after the hero of Greek mythology known for his great strength.

¹¹ Ibid., 388-89.

¹² Whitacre, 32-34; Fagen, 389.

¹³ Stephen P. Moeller, "Vigilant and Invincible," [http://www.redstone.army.mil/history/vigilant], n.p.; Whitacre, 36-37.

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NIKE MISSILES IN SOUTH FLORIDA

When the Cuban Missile Crisis began in October 1962, the Army quickly sent air defense battalions to South Florida to defend this strategically important area. By mid-November, the 2nd Battalion of the 52nd Artillery had established three temporary missile batteries in the Homestead-Miami area. Both Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules batteries were employed temporarily in the defense of South Florida.¹⁴

Within a few months, the temporary batteries were assigned to the Army Air Defense Command (ARADCOM), which administered the nation's Nike missile program. ARADCOM oversaw the repositioning of the batteries and construction of permanent facilities. In Key West, less than 100 miles from Cuba, the Army placed HAWK missiles, which were designed to defend against planes flying at low to medium altitudes. Both HAWK and Nike Hercules battalions ringed the Homestead-Miami area in defense of the South Florida population center.¹⁵

Headquarters for the South Florida air defense units was at Homestead Air Force Base and at Naranja, northeast of Homestead. The central missile command center was located at Richmond Air Force Station, just south of Perrine, where a Missile Master System coordinated the efforts of the twelve associated batteries. The Missile Master had a powerful Defense Acquisition Radar, which enabled the central site to oversee the defense of the area by assigning incoming targets to specific batteries. The BIRDIE, a simpler and less expensive system, eventually replaced the Missile Master in South Florida and throughout the nation. ¹⁶

Soldiers were stationed at the Nike missile sites twenty-four hours a day, and practice tests were conducted once a month. The relative isolation of the bases, combined with the stress of keeping constant vigil, made life at the missile sites difficult. In the Homestead-Miami defense area, "hurricanes and humidity, coral and glade, snakes and mosquitoes" contributed to the low morale of the troops. Hurricane Betsy (1965) and Hurricanes Alma and Inez (1966) did substantial damage to the missile sites in South Florida. After that time, sites were deactivated during hurricane alerts and vital equipment dismantled and placed in storage for safekeeping. ¹⁸

In 1963, the Nike missile system reached its peak deployment, with some 134 Nike Hercules batteries established around the nation's major population centers. Both Army and National Guard units operated the facilities. As the decade drew to a close, American involvement in the Vietnam War and Soviet development of ICBMs led to a gradual dismantling of the nation's air defense system. By 1968, the number of Nike and HAWK batteries controlled by ARADCOM had

¹⁴ Donald E. Bender, e-mail communication to Skip Snow forwarded to author, Oct. 20, 1997, n.p.

¹⁵ Moeller, n.p.; Bender, e-mail, n.p.

¹⁶ Bender, e-mail, n.p.

¹⁷ Moeller, n.p.

¹⁸ Bender, n.p.

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decreased to 87. By May 1, 1974, the only remaining ARADCOM air defenses were, "four NIKE HERCULES batteries and four HAWK batteries in the Miami-Homestead Defense, four HAWK batteries in the Key West Defense, and a corresponding command and control center in each defended area." Five years later, the Florida sites were also decommissioned by the Army.

NIKE MISSILE SITES: LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Nike missile bases had two major components: the Battery Control Area and the Launch Area. Administration buildings and housing might be located at either of these areas or at a third location nearby. Some of the structures common to the administration of the site included the barracks, mess hall, supply store (PX), administration building, and basketball court.²⁰

The Battery Control Area contained the equipment needed for the identification of targets and guidance of the Nike missile system. Also known as the Integrated Fire Control Area (IFC), Battery Control included three types of radar and the computer equipment needed to synthesize the radar data. Because the Army originally intended that the Nike system be mobile, battery and radar control equipment was housed in trailers on site.²¹

The Launch Area was located on a large parcel of land with an unobstructed line-of-sight to Battery Control. The primary component of the Launch Area was the missile storage and launcher-loader assemblies. Typically, Nike missiles were stored in underground magazines; however, the high water table found in South Florida required that the missiles be housed in above-ground shelters constructed of reinforced concrete. Other structures in the Launch Area included the Missile Assembly and Warheading Building, and Launch Control Trailer.²²

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK: COLD WAR RESOURCES

South Florida national parks played an important role in the Cold War history of South Florida and the United States. In many cases, park resources provided realistic training scenarios for CIA-backed Cuban exile groups as well as U.S. military personnel engaged in survival training and other exercises. Various military groups and defense contractors also utilized the parks as natural laboratories, seeking to develop new technologies with which to fight the Cold War. The parks provided a location for Cold War communications and intelligence-gathering facilities as well as a home for a nuclear weapon-equipped air defense missile site. Throughout the Cold War, park officials actively participated in military exercises and enjoyed a beneficial relationship with military commanders and personnel in the area. Some of the first extensive mapping of Everglades National Park (Everglades NP) took place through cooperation with U.S. Marine Corps

¹⁹ Moeller, n.p.

²⁰ Whitacre, 53-56. See also attached site plan, EVER 303245

²¹ Ibid., 56-59.

²² Ibid., 59-67. See also attached site plan, EVER 303246

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airmen located at Opa Locka Airport. Air Force pilots took survival training in the waters of Biscayne Bay and in what is now Big Cypress National Preserve (Big Cypress NP).

It appears, however, that park staff may not have known how active a role they were playing in the Cold War. In many cases, park staff in contact with CIA and other intelligence personnel were kept "in the dark" by operatives who pretended to be involved in various innocuous projects but were actually involved in the secret war against Fidel Castro. Because of this fact, park records have not always provided complete information. Other sources have identified areas where the parks may have been involved in the Cold War events in South Florida but the staff may not have known it. Several innocuous items in the park records may actually be related to the various CIA covert action programs. A list of landscapes, structures, remains of structures, and other resources that played a role in the Cold War history of South Florida and the United States has been compiled in a Historic Resources Study commissioned by the National Park Service in 2000.

Everglades National Park (Everglades NP) provided a unique location for Cold-War-associated activites during all of the major events of the Cold War in South Florida. At various times the park was utilized by the CIA as a paramilitary training center, by Cuban exiles as a shooting range, by the Army for an air defense site, by civil defense authorites as an evacuation center, by the State Department as a cultural resource designed to promote understanding among allies and enemies. Some sources indicate that the park was used as a giant "real world" laboratory to develop new technologies and weapons demanded by the Cold War's ongoing arms race and numerous proxy wars.

NIKE MISSILE SITE HM-69 – EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

In 1916 the land in the "Hole in the Donut" area was brought under cultivation as a tomato farm by the Iori family. The former Iori Farms location in the Hole in the Donut area of Everglades National Park (EVER) was the site of Nike Hercules Missile Site HM-69. Built in 1964 and operational until 1979, this Nike site became the permanent home of Battery A/2/52 ADA. The personnel were initially deployed to a point just outside the main entrance of the park in 1962 following the Cuban Missile Crisis. Approximately 146 U.S. Army soldiers and technicians operated this missile site's three aboveground launchers and protected South Florida from Cuban air strikes. This former missile site, now the home of the Beard Research Center, represents the most substantial Cold War historic resource in the park. This missile site is exceptionally significant because of its unique architecture and because it had a completely different deployment, construction, and mission than that of other Nike Hercules sites within the continental U.S (CONUS). Other Nike Hercules sites and related facilities in South Florida may possess exceptional significance, but they are not evaluated in this nomination.

The personnel of A/2/52 deployed under duress as U.S. military leaders sought to protect the forces and facilities associated with the military buildup during the Cuban missile crisis. They also faced a different situation than other U.S. Nike units because they had to guard against attacks on the part of Fidel Castro as well as the threat of Soviet bombers. As part of the overall air defense of South Florida, Nike sites like HM-69 were integrated with HAWK missile sites in order to provide an all-altitude defense capability. This occurred nowhere else within the United States. The personnel of the various air defense units in South Florida received a meritorious unit commendation for their efforts from President John

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F. Kennedy. This award is highly significant because it represents one of the few times the award was presented for a Cold War deterrence mission.

HM-69 was also significant because it used radars and missiles unlike those at any other CONUS location. HM-69 had a mobile high-power acquisition radar (HIPAR) in order to fulfill its mission as a fully mobile air defense system. Mobile HIPARs were rare among Nike sites operating in fixed locations. The site also had the Nike version of the Army's antitactical ballistic missile (ATBM). This was one of the earliest weapons systems designed to shoot down incoming missiles. This implies that one of the missions of HM-69 was to provide a defense against missiles launched from Cuba against South Florida. The ATBM can be considered a predecessor of the Patriot missile system deployed during the Persian Gulf War, and it was an important early step in the quest to defend the nation against ballistic missile attack. In addition to its highly significant role in the Cold War history of South Florida, Nike site HM-69 along with the other sites in South Florida is important because it represents the last group of active Nike sites to operate within the CONUS.²³

In 1964 Everglades National Park issued a special use permit to the Army for construction of a Nike missile base within the park. This site, located in an area referred to as the "Hole in the Donut," was known as HM-69 and was the westernmost of twelve missile bases in the Homestead-Miami defense area. The base had two component areas: the Launch Area and the Battery Control and Administration Area.²⁴

The Launch Area was built on fill dredged from a borrow pit along the southwest edge of the site. The area contained three reinforced concrete missile shelter buildings surrounded by U-shaped earthen berms, which were to provide protection should a missile accidentally detonate on the ground. Built into the berms were small, multi-chambered concrete bunkers which housed the launch consoles. The consoles communicated with the Launch Control Trailer, which was connected to the RADARs at the Battery Control Area through the Interconnecting Corridor Building. Three sets of metal tracks ran from inside the missile shelter buildings to the launch pads located in front of each barn. A chain-link fence topped with barbed wire surrounded the Launch Area, which was the most secure part of the site, and a sentry station, since removed, sat at the entrance to the area. A canine kennel for housing guard dogs was located within the Launch Area.

A loop road connected the three missile barns with the other structures in the area. The Missile Assembly & Warheading Building, located in the soutwest corner of the site, was surrounded by an earthen berm on the southwest side for protection in the event of an explosion.

A group of structures sat at the entrance to the site. Although functions cannot be identified from an aerial photograph, it seems likely that the structures include a Launch Control Trailer, Generator Building, and a Ready Building, where crewmen could hold meetings and take breaks while on duty at the site.

²³ Steve Hach, Cold War in South Florida: Historic Resource Study, Phase I, unpublished draft (National Park Service, 2000), 89.

²⁴ Site plans and architectural drawings for missile site HM-69 have not been located. Description of the site is based on aerial photographs from November and December 1969 and site surveys in 1995 and 1998. Aerial photos are on file in the Resource Management Office, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Fla.

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The Battery Control and Administration Area was located directly north of the launch site; a paved road connected the two areas. A one-story, concrete block structure with a T-plan served as the site's administration and barracks building. The eastern end of the building served as the enlisted men's barracks, while the western end contained the kitchen, mess hall, supply store, and officers quarters. Behind this building, a basketball court provided recreational opportunities for crewmen. Other structures in the Battery Control Area included the Water Pump House & Storage Tanks, the Paint & Oil Storage Building, the Sewage Treatment Plant, the Generator Building, the Interconnecting Corridor Building and its attendant trailers, RADAR towers, and a general purpose warehouse.

END OF THE COLD WAR

The Cold War left an indelible impact on South Florida. In the wake of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the area saw a rapid deployment of troops and weaponry to Homestead, Miami, and Key West. Both the troops and the defensive missile bases would remain active in the region long after the rest of the nation had lowered its guard. The impact of the Cold War on the South Florida landscape is potentially wide-ranging. Nike missile site HM-69, which is located within Everglades National Park, is the only above-ground missile site under the control of the National Park Service. Other Nike and Hawk missile sites also remain in South Florida. Additionally, sites associated with preparations for the Bay of Pigs invasion may exist in the region, particularly in remote areas of the Everglades or Big Cypress Swamp. Other Cold War resources associated with Navy and Air Force missions in the region might also remain.

Evaluating the significance of Cold War cultural resources presents unique challenges for historic preservation. The military has commissioned numerous studies to assist in the identification and evaluation of Cold War resources; *Coming in from the Cold: Military Heritage in the Cold War*, a Department of Defense study, broadly examines cultural resource management issues related to Cold War sites.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nike Missile Site HM-69 is significant under Criterion A for its association with the Cold War-era defenses of South Florida and Criterion C as an example of a Nike Hercules missile site. HM-69 had characteristics in common with other Nike sites, but also possessed unique features. The site amply meets the requirement of exceptional significance (Criteria Consideration G), demanded of all properties less than fifty years old.

The Cold War was a defining event for America in the second half of the 20th century. HM-69 is representative of what was considered the last line of defense for American citizens during the Cold War.

During the Cold War era, the United States never came closer to war with the Soviets than during the 1962 Cuban Missile crisis. Weapon systems in Cuba represented a direct and proximate threat to the United States. HM-69, as well as other Nike sites in Florida, was established in direct response to the Cuban Missile Crisis as government officials realized that there was a gaping hole in the last line of defense in South Florida.

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The South Florida sites were integrated with HAWK missile sites in order to provide an all-altitude defense capability. Such integration occurred nowhere else in the United States other than South Florida. This integration along with the aboveground missile storage barns, necessitated by the high water table in South Florida, and the use of mobile radar systems make the South Florida sites unique among Nike sites in the continental United States. The South Florida sites were also among the last Nike sites in the continental United States to be decommissioned in 1979.

HM-69 clearly has a direct relationship with the events of the Cold War and is associated with the operational mission of deterrence of nuclear and conventional weapons threats. The soldiers deployed at HM-69 faced a different situation than those at other U.S. Nike units because they had to guard against attacks from Cuba as well as from the Soviet Union. These factors, combined with the unique, aboveground design of the South Florida missile storage facilities and the extended period of activation, justify the exceptional significance of the South Florida missile sites, and HM-69 in particular, under Criteria A and C.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS/INTEGRITY

HM-69 has experienced few important changes since its deactivation in 1979. HM-69 has been under National Park Service stewardship, and although the missiles and radar towers have been removed, the majority of the buildings and structures that were integral to the site during its period of significance are intact. Additionally, because the site is located in the Everglades National Park, the site has a high degree of integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

Although several buildings at the Launch Area have been removed, the Launch Area Road, Missile Assembly and Warheading Building, Missile Shelter Buildings, and earthen berms are all intact. In the case of these remaining buildings and structures, the key exterior materials from the period of historic significance have been retained along with the significant features.

The buildings that have been removed at the Launch Area are the sentry boxes at the main entrance, at the northeast and northwest corners, and at the entrance to the missile storage area, the Ready Building, the water pumphouse and tank, the launch control trailer, the sewage pump station, four generator sheds, part of the canine kennel, the main gate, and a secondary fence within the missile storage area. The Borrow Pit from which earth was removed for construction of the berms surrounding the Storage Barns and Assembly and Test Building has been filled in and has lost integrity.

The Missile Shelter Buildings are currently used by the National Park Service for storage and remain in good condition. The sliding steel doors are still functional. Although the missiles themselves are gone, traces of the steel tracks upon which the missiles were mounted for deployment are visible on the launch pads. The communication trench through which cables were run, although filled in with concrete for safety reasons, is still visible as well. The Missile Shelter Buildings and launch pads surrounded by the earthen berms convey the purpose of the site. The recent use of two of the berms as small arms firing ranges by law enforcement personnel has had only minor impact on the berms, most noticably on berm

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A where minor erosion has occurred. Although the control panels have been removed from the concrete bunkers in the earthen berms, the bunkers are still intact and accessible.

The Missile Assembly and Warheading Building retains features such as the rolling metal doors and overhead crane that are indicative of its function. The building is currently being used as a storage facility by the park service, an adaptive use that has had no impact on the building itself. The date of the painting of a missile on the west exterior wall to the left of the rolling door has not been determined, although the preponderance of evidence indicates that it dates from after the period of significance (1964-1979).

The entire Launch Area is surrounded by a chain-link fence topped with three rows of barbed wire, all of which is original to the site. The gate into the Launch Area is a more recent addition. Several metal signs with the message "U.S. ARMY RESTRICTED AREA, USE OF DEADLY FORCE IS AUTHORIZED, WARNING, THIS SITE HAS BEEN DECLARED A RESTRICTED AREA BY AUTHORIZATION OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON 20 AUGUST 1954. PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 21, INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950. UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY IS PROHIBITED. ANY PERSONS OR VEHICLES ENTERING HEREON ARE LIABLE TO SEARCH. PHOTOGRAPHY, MAKING NOTES, DRAWING, MAPS OR OTHER GRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS OF THIS AREA OR ITS ACTIVITIES IS PROHIBITED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER. ANY SUCH MATERIAL FOUND IN THE POSSESSION OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WILL BE CONFISCATED" are attached to the fence. A sentry box and another fence that ran parallel to the existing fence on the north, northeast, and southeast sides and enclosed the three Missile Shelter Buildings are no longer extant.

Most of the buildings and structures in the Battery Control and Administration Area also retain their integrity. The Sentry Box at the main entrance is the only building that no longer exists. The radar towers and the radar control trailers have been removed, but the Interconnecting Corridor Building with its concrete pads for the trailers is still extant. The roof on the Administration and Barracks Building was replaced in 1992 following hurricane Andrew, but the exterior walls and fenestration of the building are original with the exception of the windows on the northwest end of the building, which have been filled in with concrete block. The building has been adapted for use as an office building, research center, and storage of the museum collection, but most of the original interior partition walls remain. The original gate is still on the ammunition room (currently Room B in museum storage) in the west end of the building. With the exception of the new helicopter pad, the paved areas and sidewalks connecting the buildings of the Battery Control and Administration Area are original to the site. Other original structures include the basketball court and its surrounding fence, a helicopter pad, a sewage treatment plant, and a concrete picnic table.

Noncontributing buildings and structures include the new helicopter pad, a chain-link fence surrounding the basketball court and the General Warehouse located near the Interconnecting Corridor Building. The Warehouse has been rebuilt and has therefore lost its integrity.

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Of the series of power poles that linked the Battery Control Area to the Launch Area, only one pole remains. Located just outside the entrance to the Launch Area, the pole is representative of what was once a physical connection between the two sites. The Launch Area Road, which connects the two areas, is still very much intact.

Overall the site maintains a high degree of integrity. The Battery Control and Administrative Area and the Launch Area are largely unchanged from the time during which the site served as a Nike Missile base. The adaptive use by the National Park Service has not undermined the integrity of the site, and has, in fact, helped ensure the preservation of many of the buildings and structures at the site. The surrounding area, because it is in a national park, is largely unchanged, and there is little or no chance of encroaching development in the near future. The key buildings at the Battery Control Area and the Launch Area survive largely unaltered, and they convincingly convey the exceptional significance of this important Cold War defensive installation.

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UTM REFERENCES, NIKE MISSILE SITE HM-69

Zone Easting Northing

1. Northeastern corner

17 531992

2807900

2. 5200 feet south of northeastern corner at turn towards the East

17 531992

2806315

3. 1700 feet east for point #2 at turn towards the South

17

2806315

4. Southeastern corner

17 532538

532538

2805035

5. Southwestern corner

17 531228

2805035

6. 1150 feet north of point #5 at turn towards the East

17 531228

2805385

7. 200 feet east of point #6 at turn towards the North

17 531260

2805385

8. Northwestern corner

17 531260 2807900

See attached map.



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WARNING

CHIS SITE HAS BEEN DECLARED A RESTRICTED AREA BY AUTHORITY OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON AUGUST 1954, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 21. INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950. UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY IS PROHIBITED ALL PERSONS AND VEHICLES ENTERING HEREON ARE LIABLE TO SEARCH PHOTOGRAPHING. MAKING NOTES: DRAWINGS, MAPS. OR GRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS OF THIS AREA OR ITS ACTIVITIES, IS PROHIBITED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER. ANY SUCH MATERIAL FOUND IN THE POSSESSION OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WILL BE CONFISCATED.





