

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Association for Historic Preservation****Federal Tax ID: 920085097****Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

# Alaska Association for Historic Preservation - Nike Site Summit Tourism Development Project

**State Funding Requested: \$50,000**  
Future Funding May Be Requested

**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**Brief Project Description:**

Stabilize Buildings at Nike Site Summit Historic District in preparation for public tours.
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**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$215,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$5,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	(\$50,000)
Project Deficit:	\$160,000

*Funding Details:*

*FONSS is actively fundraising and seeking in-kind donations to continue the work to stabilize the Launch Control Building and Guided Missile Maintenance Facility. Total project cost as estimated by the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) is approximately \$524,000. Our estimate of \$407,670 is based on different assumptions for treating the buildings.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

In preparation for guided tours of the Nike Site Summit Historic District scheduled to begin in the fall of 2012, FONSS began building stabilization of the Launch Control Building and the Guided Missile Maintenance Building in the summer of 2011. This followed successful completion of restoration of 3 Sentry Buildings and preliminary roof repairs at two Launch buildings during the summer of 2010 by volunteers. Donations from vendors, in-kind equipment loans and FONSS members have so far paid for repairs, but additional funds are needed to cover the "big jobs" that remain, as follows:

**Launch Control Building** - The objective of stabilization is to seal the building from the elements, restore the exterior of the building to its historic Cold War appearance, and abate hazardous materials from inside the building to make it safe for visitors. Stabilization will require replacement of the roof, as it presently drains water through broken, frozen roof drains into the building, replacement of all doors and windows, including three large garage doors. FONSS volunteers replaced sheathing on wood portions of the building in 2011, and painted the exterior of the building (see attached photos).

**Guided Missile Maintenance Building** - The objective for this building is the same. Stabilization will require repair of the roof and replacement or repair of doors. About half of the corrugated metal siding on the building needed replacement and FONSS volunteers accomplished partial replacement in 2011. (See attached photos).

Project Justification

We need to show substantial progress on stabilizing these 2 buildings in 2011 in accordance with our Programmatic Agreement with Joint Base Elmendorf (JBER). The plan for preserving and interpreting Nike Site Summit Historic District for guided public tours is outlined in the 2009 Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Department of the Army, Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation(ACHP) Regarding Management of Nike Site Summit Historic District at Fort Richardson, Alaska, with the:

- National Park Service (NPS);
- Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP);
- National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP);
- Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ACASLA);
- Anchorage Ski Club (ASC); and
- Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS) as concurring parties.

The PA formed a partnership between the above named parties that will preserve most of Nike Site Summit Historic District and open it up for guided tours. FONSS and AAHP are the lead non-profit organizations in this partnership, with NPS and SHPO playing supporting roles. As the property owner the U.S. Army (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson as of September 2010) is the lead federal agency.

Nike Site Summit Historic District's location on the eastern edge of JBER, adjacent to Chugach State Park and Alpenglowl Ski Area makes it a great addition to the recreational and tourist activities available to visitors to the area. During the summer months the Anchorage Ski Club Lodge is a much underutilized facility at the head of Arctic Valley. Plans call for tours to Nike Site Summit Historic District to begin at the Lodge.

**Project Timeline:**

July 2012 to September 2014.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson with assistance from the Friends of Nike Site Summit

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Jessica Verges  
Title: President  
Address: 420 M St.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone Number: (907)929-9870  
Email: akpreservation@gmail.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

## Nike Site Summit Cost Estimate

### Launch Control Building

Windows (materials only)	\$2,000.00
Doors and Hardware	\$9,000.00
Overhead Door Replacement (2 Doors)	\$5,000.00
Hazardous Material Removal	\$63,000.00 *
Roofing	\$23,000.00
Subtotal	\$102,000.00

### Missile Maintenance Building

Steel Siding Repair/Replacement (materials only)	\$1,000.00
Doors and Hardware	\$2,000.00
Overhead Door Repair (1 Doors)	\$2,000.00
Subtotal	\$5,000.00

**TOTAL** \$107,000.00

#### \* Explanation of HazMat costs:

This provides for a 6 person crew, 3 days setup/mobilization, 4 days removal, 1 day encap/clearance/teardown. Davis Bacon wages at \$105 per hour, plus 15% contingency fee dealing with the unknowns of working at the remote mountaintop location

UXO training	\$650	
Mobilization, set up	\$15,100	
Removal, cleanup	\$20,150	
Encap, clearances, tear-down	\$5,100	
Dumpster expenses	\$2,700	
Disposal fees (6 tons)	\$600	
Consumables (PPE, filters etc)	\$2,000	
Air Monitoring	\$2,500	
Generator & related expense	\$1,800	
Other, including contingency, admin & water hauling	\$12,400	
TOTAL		\$63,000.00

# Nike Site Summit



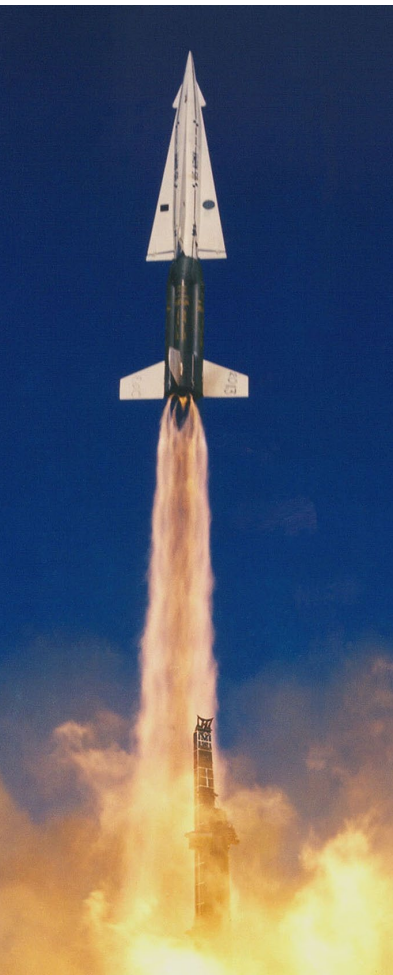
## About The Site

For two decades (1959-1979) Site Summit stood guard over Anchorage as a last line of defense against long range bombers from the Soviet Union. Constructed on the 4,000' Mt. Gordon Lyon on Fort Richardson from 1957-1959, Site Summit was one of three Nike Hercules missile sites guarding Anchorage. Construction of these sites in Alaska required major design adaptations to accomodate permafrost and harsh winter weather.

Nike Hercules missile sites in the Lower 48 consisted of three areas: battery control, launch, and housing. In Alaska, these were combined into two areas. At each site the Battery Control Building, pictured above, combined housing and battery control into one building. The clam shell covered radar towers were also a unique adaptation to Alaska's environment. These heated enclosures protected the radar and those maintaining it from weather that included winds approaching 160 mph and temperatures that sometimes dropped to minus 60 degrees.

The Missile Launch and Storage Area was located about 5,000 feet from the Battery Control Area. In the Lower 48 missiles were stored in underground bunkers and raised into launch position on a large elevator. In Alaska, the storage bunkers were constructed above ground and the missiles were rolled to the launch pad on a rail system.

*Left: Nike Hercules missile launch, ca. mid 1960s.*







## About The Missile

*Above: Nike Hercules missiles rolled into launch position at Site Summit, ca. 1964.*

The Nike Hercules missile was the U.S. Military's first nuclear capable anti-aircraft missile. Capable of speeds over 2,700 mph, the missile was designed to destroy close formations of bombers at ranges in excess of 87 miles. Site Summit was one of only two Nike Hercules missile sites in the nation to conduct live fire exercises. From 1960 to 1964 live fire exercises were carried out each fall and were exciting events for the military and Anchorage residents. Spent rocket boosters still litter the slopes around Site Summit.

## Preservation

Of the 145 Nike Hercules missile sites constructed during the 1950s and 1960s Site Summit is the only one to survive as a nearly complete site. Site Summit provides a unique opportunity to educate the public about Alaska's frontline role in the Cold War and tell the story of those who served. Its location at the head of Arctic Valley Road makes the site easily accessible during the summer.

## Friends of Nike Site Summit

c/o Alaska Association  
for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 102205  
Anchorage, AK 99510  
(907) 929-9870

Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS) is a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation of Site Summit. Under an agreement with the U.S. Army, the site's owner, we began efforts to preserve it during summer 2010. Tax deductible donations to support our efforts may be made by visiting our website, <http://www.nikesitesummit.net/>, or by mailing contributions to the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) at the address at left. Write "Nike Site Summit" in the memo field to direct your contribution to FONSS. Interested in volunteering or joining? We meet monthly. Visit our website for more information.

## Launch Control Building

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Volunteers replacing siding on Launch Control Building, August 2011.



Siding on most of the Launch Control Building was painted and installed by volunteers, September 2011.



Volunteers put in a temporary roof drain, Launch Control Building, September 2011.



Funds to slope the roof are needed as the flat roof design is impractical now that the building is unheated. Moisture needs to drain off the building's edges.



Launch Control Building looking northwest, fall 2008.



Launch Control Building, fall 2011 after volunteers replaced doors, shored up a sagging wall and began replacing the siding.



Volunteers installed a temporary plywood seal on one of the Launch Control Building doors to keep out vandals and the elements. This is one of the doors that needs replacing.



Windows seen here are among those needing replacement.





## Guided Missile Maintenance Building

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Guided Missile Maintenance Building,  
looking south, fall 2009



Guided Missile Maintenance Building, after north  
wall siding replaced by volunteers, Sept 2011



Volunteers replacing siding on the Guided Missile  
Maintenance Building, Sept 2011



Guided Missile Maintenance Building,  
interior, fall 2009





## Other Friends of Nike Site Summit restoration work 2009-2011

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Work in 2010 and 2011 brought another  
Site Summit building, Sentry 2, from this:



To this. Two other sentry stations have similarly been  
stabilized.



Patching the roof on the Missile Launch and Storage  
Building #1, October 2010





NIKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 602

Alameda, Ca. 94501-8602

(510) 326-9451

FAX (510) 521-1347

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February 8, 2011

Dear Alaska Legislators:

The Nike Historical Society is an international Nike Veterans organization that was founded to insure the proper interpretation of the Nike Missile System and the role it played in the defense of the United States and other countries during the Cold War. We have assisted with restoration projects, supplied technical information, assisted students in their studies pertaining to this period, and have been recognized as the leading organization in this historical endeavor.

We fully support and endorse Friends of Nike Site Summit's (FONSS) and the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation's (AAHP) request to carry out stabilization of buildings that are part of the Nike Site Summit Historic District so that visitors to your state may learn about the vital role that Alaska played in the Cold War. The Guided Missile Maintenance Building and the Launch Control Building were essential parts of the Nike Hercules missile battery and need to be preserved for the proper historical interpretation of Nike Site Summit, as a whole.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter, and trust that you will agree to their preservation.

Sincerely,

Ezio F. Nurisio  
National Secretary



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February 10, 2011

The Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

I am writing to express my support for the Friends of Nike Site Summit's (FONSS) and the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation's (AAHP) request for funding to carry out stabilization of buildings that are part of Nike Site Summit Historic District. In September 2009, I had the privilege of being the keynote speaker for the National Nike Veterans Reunion held in Anchorage. I had a marvelous time in Alaska. Meeting Nike Missile veterans from across the United States and Canada, speaking to high school students at Bartlett High School, and touring Nike Site Summit with the men that served there were trip highlights. To see the last and best preserved of the 145 former Nike missile sites constructed across the nation during the Cold War was a real privilege.

I applaud the efforts of FONSS and AAHP to preserve this site and open it to the public. As the founder of The Cold War Museum ([www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org)) I have worked for many years to ensure that the memory of veterans like my father and the service of all Cold War veterans are not forgotten. More Americans served in the Cold War than all other American wars combined, yet as a nation we have done less to acknowledge and memorialize their service and sacrifice than those of any other veterans group.

Nike Site Summit provides a rare opportunity to memorialize Cold War veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate the public on the Cold War and the huge role that Alaska played in defending our nation during this period. While Nike Site Summit is the last and best preserved site of its kind in the nation it needs immediate work to stabilize several key buildings and address safety concerns before tours can begin. I believe that whatever is invested today will benefit Anchorage, Alaska, and our nation in the future. You have a truly extraordinary site there – one that deserves to be preserved for future generations and that visitors will want to see.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your support of this request.

Very truly yours,

Francis Gary Powers, Jr.  
Founder



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Anchorage, AK 99504  
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[gcannelos@gmail.com](mailto:gcannelos@gmail.com)

## LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NIKE SITE SUMMIT DEVELOPMENT

February 11, 2011

Dear Alaska State Legislator,

For the past several years, I've been proud to serve on the Advisory Board for the Friends of Nike Site Summit. I've watched the group develop a far-reaching and inspiring vision for the preservation and development of the Nike Site Summit, perched high atop the mountains of Arctic Valley.

I strongly believe Nike Site Summit has the real potential to significantly add to the visitor/tourism, educational and historic resources offered by the Anchorage area. The site offers a tremendous opportunity to educate the public on the Cold War, and Alaska's strategic role in our nation's defense. The remaining buildings present a spectacular "Star Wars" type appearance, and the sweeping views surrounding the facility are unmatched anywhere in the Anchorage area. The facility is accessible by road.

Friends of Nike Site Summit continue an exceptional program of outreach, and the organization enjoys the cooperation and support of the military, the National Park Service, the Municipality of Anchorage and many others. Development of the site will not compromise the Army's ability to train in the area.

I thank you for your past support, and respectfully urge you to consider this timely funding request to carry this project forward. Thank you for everything you do.

Respectfully,



George J. Cannelos, AICP  
Brigadier General (Retired)