



*Dedication  
of an  
Official State Historical Marker  
Commemorating the  
Richboro Nike Missile Site – PH07A*

*Friday, October 5, 2007*

*10 AM*

*Richboro, Northampton Township,  
Bucks County, Pennsylvania*

*Sponsored by the*

*Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
and the  
Northampton Township Historical Society*

# Richboro Nike (PH-07A) Base History

The Richboro Nike Missile site was one of twelve Nike Ajax sites that formed the Philadelphia “ring of protection.” The Nike Ajax development started shortly after WWII and was ready for deployment in the early 1950’s during the buildup in the cold war with the Soviet Union. The Richboro site was placed in service in 1956. The launch site, on route 332, east of Richboro, housed two type B magazines, 20 Ajax missiles, and 8 A type launchers. The Integrated Fire Control Site (IFC) was located on Twining Ford Road, about .6 miles NNW of the launch site. By the late 1950’s the Ajax missile was replaced by the more capable Hercules missile. This allowed fewer bases to provide the needed protection. The Richboro site was never upgraded and closed in 1961. The signing of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) in the early 1970’s resulted in the decommissioning of all US Nike bases.

There is a wealth of information about the Nike program on the web and there are many individual websites detailing the Philadelphia bases including the Richboro base. The Northampton Township Historical Society’s web page has a link to the Richboro base.

## RICHBORO NIKE MISSILE BASE PH-07



One of thirteen installations in the Philadelphia area that provided protection from Soviet aerial attack during the 1954-1970 period of the Cold War. The Nike system here used radar to guide Ajax anti-aircraft missiles. From the mid-1960s through the early 1970s, this missile system was replaced as technology and terms of arms control treaties evolved. The missile launch area and magazine are located near here.

<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	<i>Doug Crompton Director, Northampton Township Historical Society</i>
<i>Pledge of Allegiance</i>	<i>Council Rock High School, South Color Guard</i>
<i>“God Bless America”</i>	<i>Northampton Township Recreation Center Preschool Children</i>
<i>Greetings</i>	<i>Doug Crompton</i>
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Scott Petri, State Representative 178<sup>th</sup> District and representing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Proclamation, Patrick J. Murphy United States Congressman 8<sup>th</sup> District Citation – State Senator Robert Tomlinson, 6<sup>th</sup> District Proclamation, Bucks County Board of Commissioners Peter Palestina, Chairman Northampton Twp. Supervisors John Kunz, Army and National Guard Nike Fire Control Anthony Lorino, Retired Army and National Guard Nike Security and Missile Assembly</i>
<i>Closing Remarks</i>	<i>Doug Crompton</i>
<i>Unveiling of Marker</i>	<i>Thomas Pascarella &amp; Lauren Foisy 6<sup>th</sup> grade students Richboro Elementary School</i>

*After the Ceremony attendees are invited  
for light refreshments at the Recreation Center Building.*

## IN APPRECIATION

The Northampton Township Historical Society would like to offer its many thanks to the following for their generous support of this historical marker:

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is the Commonwealth's memory, telling Pennsylvania's story, safeguarding the tangible remains of our past, and serving present and future generations as the state's official history agency.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Edward G. Rendell, Governor

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Wayne Spilove, Chairman

Barbara Franco, Executive Director

And all who have donated to the Society to offset the cost of the marker.

A very special thank is also given to:

The Northampton Township Board of Supervisors

The Northampton Township Parks and Recreation Department

Pat Giradi and the Northampton Township Public Works Department

Northampton Parks and Recreation Preschool Singers

Teachers: Mrs. Bracken and Mrs. Beck, students:

Avery Rice, Olivia Morsberger, Ryan Holstein, Julia Saunders, Jake Brossman, Bo Hoffman, Sarah Langer, Michael Shimer, Kaitlyn Folz, India Schaefer, Jagger Azvolinsky, Jack O'Neill, Jason Shragher, Brandon Berghaier, Rohun Jobanputra, Abigail Schmid

Teachers: Ms. Suzanne and Ms. Karen, students:

Lydia Devlin, Kane Prozzillo, Bobby Baehser, Mia Downs, Mary Pat Riggs,, Nolan Rosenberg, Olivia Wisniewski, Mackenzie Mohr, Olivia Shragher, Jake Bilella,,Matthew Gillis

Teachers: Ms. Bonnie and Ms. Mindy, students:

Alexis Abrams, Autumn Cohen, Marissa Glace, Claire Goetz, Alison Linkewich, Karlie McCloskey, Kate Shaya, Allyson Shimer, Jake Sloss, Gavin Stock, Ashley Tetreault

The Council Rock High School South Color Guard

David Long, amateur historian, for nominating this site

Jake Rinier and all of the Philadelphia Air Defense veterans, who helped with documenting the history of the Philadelphia Nike bases and supported the PH07 historic marker project

Jackie Liney, Mary Seader, Betty Luff and all of the NTHS volunteers

The Northampton Township Historical Society, is a non profit organization established in 1974 dedicated to the preservation and education of Northampton Township's historical heritage.

For information, visit our website at:

[NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org)