

BLAZING SKIES!



Bob Davis painted the water tower in 1963
Photo Credit Ken VanHandel



PITTSBURGH AIR DEFENSE



B Btry 1st AAA Msl Bn

B Btry 3rd Msl Bn 1st Arty

2011 Reunion

*Reunion Program
August 27, 2011*

4:00 – 5:30 pm Photo Session - Program starts at 5:30 pm

Master of Ceremonies - Bill McCue



ARAACOM



USARADCOM
ARADCOM



1ST Arty Regt
1ST ADA



1ST Artillery

Early in 1955, an Ajax Training Package assigned to B Battery, 1st AAA Msl Bn arrived from Ft. Bliss. It was stationed, along with other critical personnel, at PI-92, near North Park, PA. In September 1956, PI-92 was reassigned to the 74th AAA Msl Bn. In 1956, another Ajax Training Package arrived at Irwin Pennsylvania and was assigned to B Battery, 1st AAA Msl Bn. B Battery quartered and trained with C Battery (PI-36) at Irwin Pennsylvania while the site near Herminie was being constructed.

Late in 1957, Air Defense site PI-37, at Herminie Pennsylvania was officially activated. It was part of **ARAACOM** (Army Anti-Aircraft Command), and its designation was **B Battery, 1st AAA Msl Bn**. It was part of the Pittsburgh 18th ADA Grp., headquartered at South Park, PA.

B Battery was one of 12 Nike Air Defense sites defending Pittsburgh. It was armed with the Nike Ajax, the world's first operational, guided Surface to Air Missile. This missile carried high explosive warheads and had a range of around 30 miles with a ceiling of 70,000 feet.

In March 1957, **ARAACOM** was redesignated United States Army Air Defense Command (**USARADCOM**). In 1961, **USARADCOM** was shortened to **ARADCOM**.

In September, 1958, the Unit at the Herminie Nike site was redesignated as **B Battery, 3rd Msl Bn, 1st Artillery Regiment**.

In the fall of 1959, B Battery personnel were sent to Ft. Bliss, Texas, for Conversion Package training for the new Nike Hercules missile. The Hercules had the capability to attack formations of supersonic aircraft with nuclear warheads at a range of around 90 miles and an altitude up to 150,000 feet. Beginning in 1962, the Improved Nike Hercules System with its greater range and accuracy was introduced to B Battery.

In 1959, 1st Artillery Regiment was redesignated as **1st Artillery**.

In 1971, the 1st Artillery was renamed **1st Air Defense Artillery**.

The Herminie Nike site was deactivated in June, 1974.

Over the period of its operational years, from 1955 to 1974, B Btry was manned by an estimated 1,500 Regular Army personnel.

Welcome

Bill McCue

B Battery Launcher Crewman 1957-1959

Presentation of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance

BSA Troop # 259, Herminie PA

Invocation

CSM Ed Evans, US Army (Ret.)

B Battery First Sergeant 1960-1962

Buffet Dinner

After Dinner Speaker

Col. Terry Wright, USAR (Ret.)

D Battery Acquisition Operator 1972-1974

Recognition of Battery Commanders and Exec Officers

Bill McCue

Recognition of Military Retirees

Bill McCue

Stories from the Audience

Memorial Tribute

Bill McCue

Taps

Corey Flesik, Troop # 259

Closing Prayer

Ed Evans

Retiring of the Colors

Troop # 259

Visiting continues until 11:00 pm