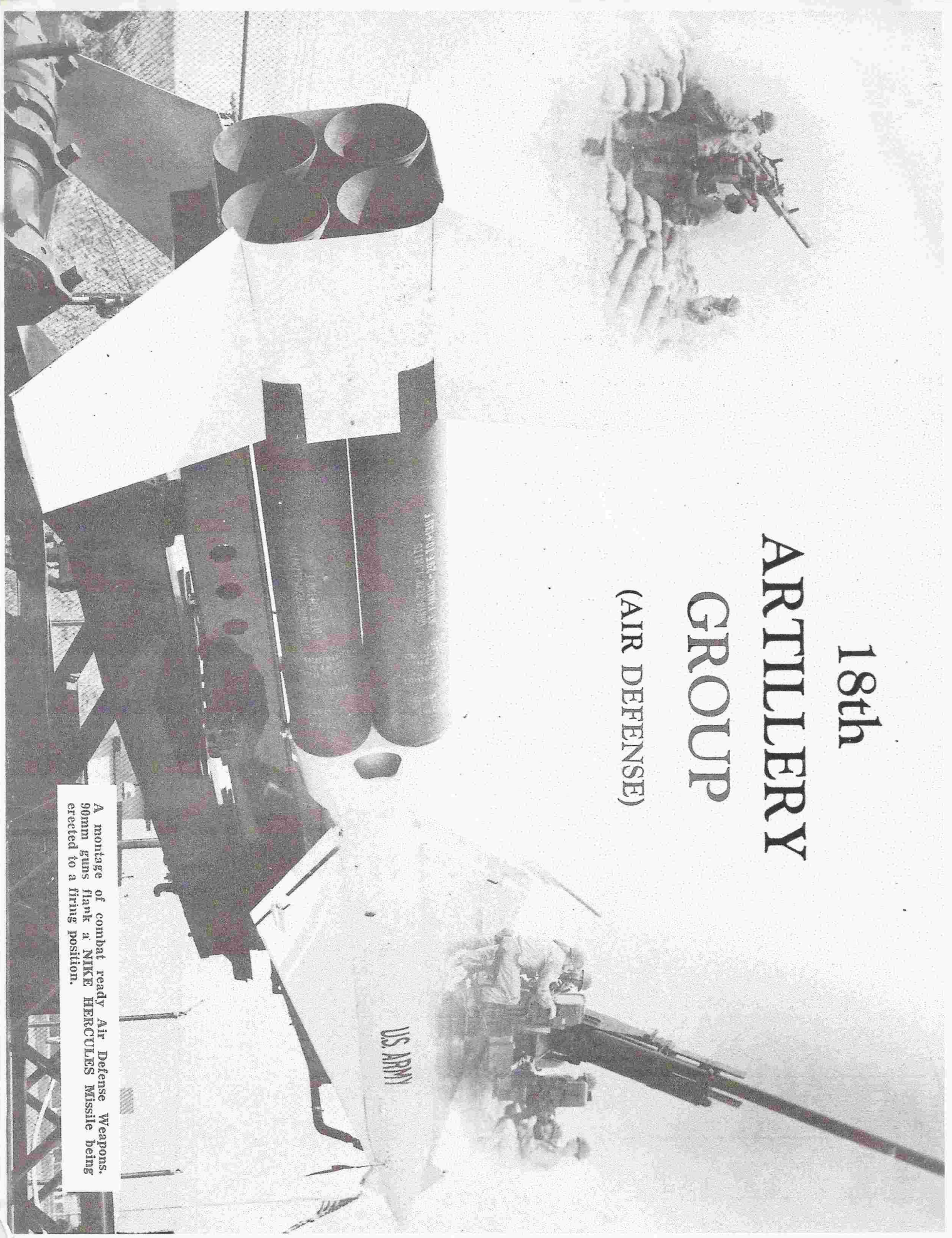


18th ARTILLERY GROUP (AIR DEFENSE)



A montage of combat ready Air Defense Weapons, 90mm guns flank a NIKE HERCULES Missile being erected to a firing position.

The history of the 18th Artillery Group reveals a proud unit with a distinguished and varied past. It shows the changes that have taken place as the 18th, once a 90mm anti-aircraft artillery organization, evolved into its present status as the protector of one of the nation's largest industrial complexes.



The outstanding record of the 18th Artillery Group has established a challenge to all who take up its banner. We of the Pittsburgh Defense are ready now as in the past to accept that challenge and to continue the accomplishment of our assigned mission with spirited professionalism.

This history is dedicated to the officers and men presently assigned or past departed, who bear the responsibility and share the reward of successful accomplishment.

M. R. McCARTHY

Colonel, Artillery

Commanding

History of the 18th Artillery Group (AD)

I. The 18th Artillery Group (AD) in World War II

In World War II, the guns of the 18th Artillery Group (AD) were heard at Omaha Beach, Falaise, St. Lo, the approaches to Paris, the Meuse, the Bulge, and the Rhine.

The Group was activated at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts on 20 January 1943, as the 18th Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons Group. In May 1943, its name was changed to the 18th Antiaircraft Artillery Group as the unit continued intensive training within the United States for its combat role.

The Group boarded ships for England in December 1943, and upon arrival began five months of training for an assault landing in France. When the time came for the Normandy invasion, 18th AAA Group Headquarters, now in charge of five gun battalions and a searchlight battalion, boarded an LCT in Plymouth, England, on 2 June 1944. After dry runs and weather delays, and an attempted D-Day landing that was driven off by enemy artillery fire on 6 June, the ship landed at 7:30 a.m. on 7 June. Personnel from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th Artillery Group (AD) were the first to hit Omaha Beach on D + 1.

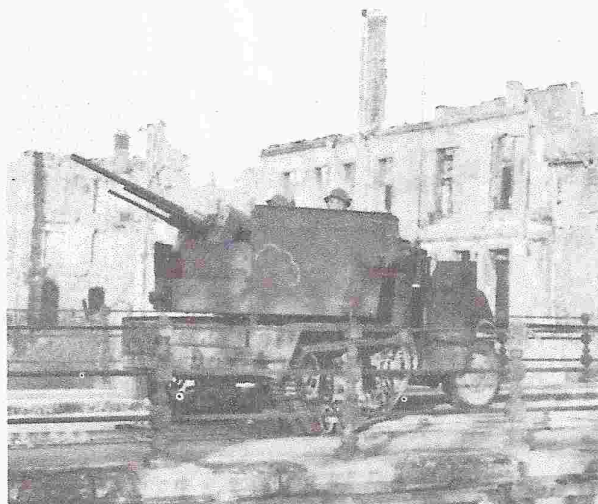


Twin 50 caliber machine guns and a 37mm automatic gun formed an early Air Defense weapon. This self-propelled unit was used in Defense of Cherbourg Harbor in France in World War II.

Group Headquarters immediately began organizing antiaircraft activity in the Beach area. One of the battalions attached for the landing, the 110th AAA Gun Battalion (Mobile) landed the first heavy antiaircraft weapons on Omaha. The battalion's "D" Battery set up its 90 mm guns on D + 1 at 4 p.m. and promptly

shot down a German airplane. More battalions landed subsequently, and new units were assigned to the 18th AAA Group. At one point, the Group had a total of 14 battalions attached.

The 18th Group pushed inland with other troops of V Corps, First U.S. Army. Its guns, used as antiaircraft and occasionally as field artillery, helped to close the gap at Falaise and take St. Lo. As V Corps raced across France, the mission of the 18th AAA Group was re-oriented to that of defending rear areas against attack. Then, after Paris fell, the Group was assigned to air defense of that city for approximately two weeks.

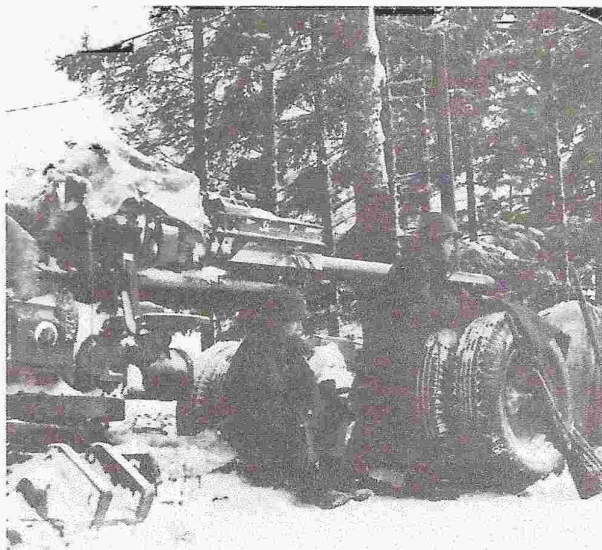


Anti aircraft crew, their weapon mounted on a half track, guards a Meuse River bridge in World War II.

As American and British aircraft increased their dominance in the skies, the number of enemy planes engaged by the 18th AAA Group dwindled. Whereas in June battalions attached to the Group fired on 316 planes, in September only five planes were sighted, and in November only one.

But the Germans had a new aerial threat — the V-1 rocket. Though the faster V-2 could not be detected by gunners in time to fire on it, the V-1 was a possible target for effective antiaircraft fire. The 18th AAA Group was assigned to set up a belt of anti-V-1 fire in Belgium against V-1's being fired at Antwerp.

The Group arrived at its new location on 7 December, but, before it had much time to fire at V-1's, German forces began their winter offensive through the Ardennes, and elements



During the bitter winter of 1944 the 90mm guns were used in a ground defense role as anti-tank weapons against the German Panzers.

of the 18th AAA Group were among the principal American units near the area under attack

These units supported the Second and Ninth Infantry Divisions in throwing back the German attack in the last days of December in "The Battle of the Bulge." Perhaps the Group's greatest day came on New Year's Day, 1945, when weather conditions permitted the Germans to launch their planes while American airfields were fogged in. The guns of the 18th AAA Group provided a hot reception for the Germans. More planes than the Group had seen for months flew overhead and "In all this activity, the elements of this command had a field day," as the 18th AAA Group's journal recorded.



The 90mm guns of the 18th AAA group provide a hot reception for the Germans during the winter of 1944-45.



The versatility of the anti air weapons of World War II is shown as this 90mm gun is utilized against enemy armored vehicles during bad flying weather.

15 claims were made that day for "Category I" kills (planes shot down by the 18th AA Group fire alone) and two for "Category II's" (planes that fell amidst fire from the 18th AAA Group and other units).

On 1 February, the Group took on a new role. Reassigned from V Corps and the First Army to XVI Corps, Ninth Army, the Group moved across the Roer and Rhine Valleys and through the Ruhr Valley, the heartland of Germany's coal and steel production. The Group was assigned to organize antiaircraft defenses for XVI Corps.

As the war ended, the Group was stationed in Helsa, Germany. Since the Allies chose Helsa as a site for consulting with German leaders on possible means of forming a new German government, the Group may be said to have "stood guard" over the formation of a new administration.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th AAA Group, sailed for New York from Marseilles on 24 November 1945, and was inactivated at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, on 11 December 1945.

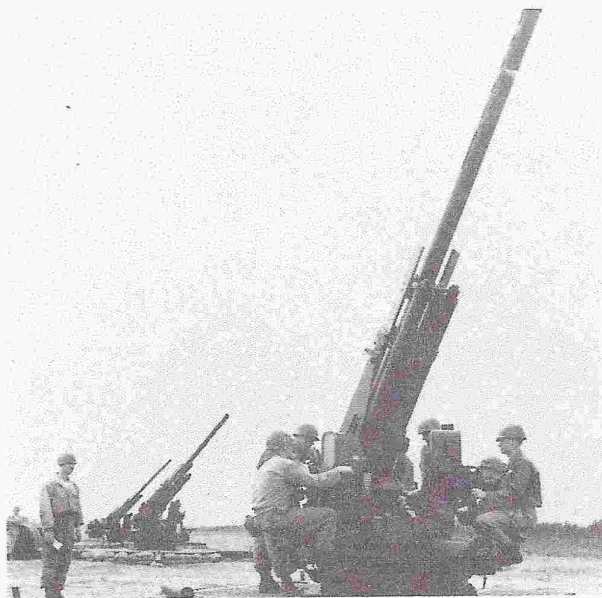
II. The Pittsburgh Defense: The 90 mm Gun Days

Seven years later, in the second year of the Korean War, the 18th AAA Group was activated once again. It was assigned to relieve the federalized 209th Antiaircraft Group, New York National Guard, as the unit defending Pittsburgh.

The National Guardsmen had been called upon earlier that year to establish 90-mm gun defenses and tent barracks and mess halls

around Pittsburgh. When elements of the Regular Army units assigned to the Pittsburgh Defense began arriving, permanent buildings on the battery sites were still not completed. The men lived in tents through the fall and winter of 1952.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th AAA Group, was activated at Camp Stewart, Georgia on 14 July 1952 and, after training, assumed its duties in Pittsburgh in October 1952. By then, one of the Regular Army battalions assigned to the Pittsburgh Defense was already in position. The 74th AAA Gun Battalion, with Headquarters and Battery A at West View Park, had relieved the 102nd AAA Gun Battalion, New York National Guard, in June 1952. Other batteries were located on McKnight Road in Millvale, on Prison Farm Road in Blawnox, and on Middle Road in Etna, all north of Pittsburgh.



90mm guns from the Pittsburgh Defense conduct practice firing on Lake Erie near Port Clinton, Ohio.

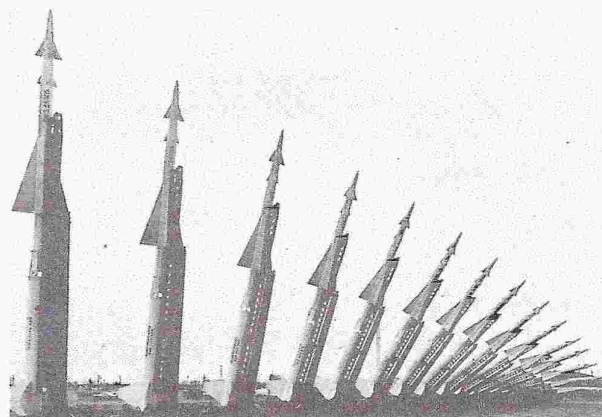
The next Regular Army battalion to become operational was the 509th AAA Gun Battalion, which relieved the 182nd AAA Gun Battalion, Ohio National Guard, on 1 December 1952. The sites of the 509th were on Cook School Road, Bridgeville, where battalion Headquarters and Battery B were located; on Planet Way, Moon Run; on Collier Road, Heidelberg; and on Phillips Road, Kenmawr. All the sites were located to the southwest of Pittsburgh.

The last battalion in position, the 701st AAA Gun Battalion, replaced the 708th AAA Gun Battalion, Pennsylvania National Guard, on 1 February 1953. Headquarters of the 701st was co-located with Headquarters, 18th Artillery Group and with Battery C, 701st AAA Gun Battalion in South Park, Pittsburgh. Other bat-

teries were at Frick Park, Wilkinsburg; at Kennywood Park on the Monongahela River in West Mifflin; and at Brentwood, just south of Pittsburgh. The batteries of this battalion were to the south and east of the City.

III. The Advent of the Ajax

At its beginning, the Pittsburgh Defense was equipped with anti-aircraft guns of World War II vintage. But as the Russian nuclear capability developed, the need for an anti-aircraft missile system capable of intercepting all incoming planes became apparent. The Nike missile program was put on a crash basis. As the materiel became available, the concept was to substitute air defense missile batteries for selected anti-aircraft gun batteries.



NIKE AJAX, first of the NIKE family, pose for their portrait at Fort Bliss Texas, home of the Air Defense school.

The first Nike-Ajax battery in the United States became operational as part of the Washington-Baltimore Defense on 30 May 1954. Almost a year later — on 21 May 1955, Battery D, 509th AAA Missile Battalion became the first Nike-Ajax battery in the Pittsburgh Defense.

The missile sites became operational slowly. Each one opened before barracks and mess halls had been constructed on-site. When the first battery opened, its men were commuting 23 miles each day from their gun battery to the new site at Elizabeth. But by late 1955, the 509th AAA Missile Battalion and the newly activated 1st AAA Missile Battalion were in position defending Pittsburgh. The next year the 74th AAA Battalion traded in its 90 mm guns for missiles.

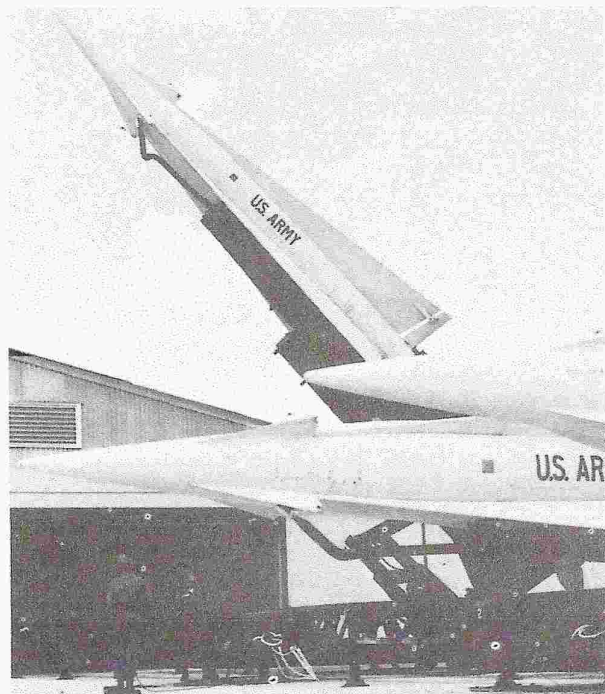
Two Pennsylvania Army National Guard battalions, the 708th AAA Gun Battalion (PARNG) and the 724th AAA Gun Battalion (PARNG), had taken over the gun sites of the 74th and the 509th in early 1955. The 701st AAA Gun Battalion, a Regular Army unit, remained on active service until all three gun batteries were inactivated in October 1957. The two PARNG battalions, redesignated missile

battalions, continued training, however, for an eventual takeover of the Nike-Ajax sites abandoned by the Regular Army units of the 18th Group.

IV. The Nike-Hercules

The late 1950's witnessed the introduction of the Nike-Hercules missile. The nuclear-capable missile was more advanced than the Nike-Ajax, but its introduction into air defense systems was gradual. The dependable Ajax missile was not phased out until it had been proved beyond a doubt that a lesser number of Hercules sites was providing the country with an adequate air defense.

The reorganization caused a complicated, multi-phased restructuring of the Pittsburgh Defense. At first, in 1958-59, some batteries were "universal," armed with both Ajax and Hercules missiles. Others — those programmed for inactivation or for takeover by the National Guard — were left with only Ajax missiles (a complete list of Pittsburgh Defense battery sites at the end of this history explains which sites were involved). Each of the three Regular Army battalions now had two "universal" batteries and two with only Ajax missiles.



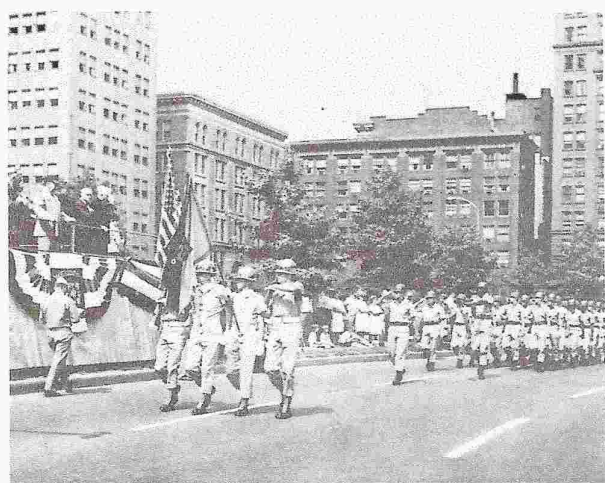
A three-times-the-speed-of-sound carrier of a big war-head, the **NIKE HERCULES** is the second generation of the **NIKE** family.

In 1959, the 1st AAA Missile Battalion was redesignated the 3rd Missile Battalion, 1st Artillery, and the 74th AAA Missile Battalion was redesignated the 5th Missile Battalion, 3d Artillery. The 509th AAA Missile Battalion was inactivated, and its battery sites were redesignated and placed under the control of other

units. D Battery (PI-43, Elrama) went to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Artillery as a "universal" battery, while A Battery (PI-71, Coraopolis) went to the 5th Missile Battalion, 3rd Artillery, also as a Hercules-Ajax unit. C Battery (PI-52, Finleyville) went to the 5th as an Ajax unit.

At the same time, four Ajax sites were turned over to the two National Guard battalions whose men had previously manned the 90 mm gun sites. These battalions had been redesignated, however. On 1 June 1959, two months before they took over the Ajax sites, the 708th AAA Battalion became the 1st Battalion (Nike-Ajax), 176th Artillery, and the 724th AAA Battalion became the 2nd Battalion (Nike-Ajax), 176th Artillery.

The 1st Battalion, 176th Artillery (PARNG) took over the North Park (PI-92) and Rural Ridge (PI-02) batteries of the 74th AAA Missile Battalion. The 2nd Missile Battalion, 176th Artillery (PARNG) took the Bridgeville (PI-62) battery of the 509th AAA Missile Battalion and the Elizabeth (PI-42) battery of the 1st AAA Missile Battalion.



Active in community affairs, the 18th Artillery Group (Air Defense) passes in review during a parade in downtown Pittsburgh.

The last two Regular Army Nike-Ajax batteries were inactivated in late 1961; they were A Battery, 3rd Missile Battalion, 1st Artillery (Monroeville, PI-25), and D Battery, 5th Missile Battalion, 3rd Artillery (Finleyville, PI-52). Ajax missiles from these sites were sent to other batteries within the Defense or deprocessed for shipment to a depot. All Ajax missiles were removed during the most recent reorganization of the Defense in 1963.

On 18 October 1963, the 5th Missile Battalion, 3rd Artillery, was inactivated, and its mission assumed by the batteries of the 2nd Missile Battalion 176th Artillery, who had been training with the Nike-Hercules missile for months. Personnel of the 1st Missile Battalion,

176th Artillery, were assimilated in the 2nd Battalion, and the 1st Battalion was inactivated.

From 1961 until 26 December 1963, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th Artillery Group (AD) was inactive. The U.S. Army Air Defense Command had been reorganized, and several defenses has been combined under the 31st Artillery Brigade (Air Defense), then headquartered in Lockport, New York. Headquarters, 18th Artillery Group (AD) was re-

constituted as the Pittsburgh Command Element, 31st Artillery Brigade (AD) in 1961.

When the new Pittsburgh Air Defense Site Headquarters was built in Oakdale in November, 1960, the Pittsburgh Command Element moved into it. Two years later, ARADCOM again reorganized, and the 18th Artillery Group (AD), reactivated on 26 December 1963, reassumed command of the Pittsburgh Defense.

Except for technological improvements, the Defense remains today as it was in 1963.

CHART OF THE PITTSBURGH DEFENSE

1952--1967

I. 1952-1955

3 RA 90 mm Gun Battalions

74th
(operational 13 June 1952)
HQ and A—West View Park
B—McKnight Road, Millvale
C—Etna
D—Blawnox Prison Farm

701st
(operational 1 Feb 1953)
A—Frick Park, Wilkinsburg
B—Kennywood Park
HQ AND C—South Park
D—Brentwood

509th
(operational 1 Dec 1952)
HQ and A—Moon Run
B—Bridgeville
C—Heidelberg
D—Kenmawr

II. December, 1956

3 RA Nike-Ajax Battalions, 1 RA and 2 PARNG 90 mm Gun Battalion

1st AAA Missile Battalion
A—Monroeville (PI-52)
B—Herminie (PI-37)
HQ and C—Irwin (PI-36)
D—Elizabeth (PI-42)

701st AAA Gun Bn (RA)
A—Greensburg Pike
B—Kennywood Park
HQ and C—South Park
D—Brentwood

74th AAA Missile Bn
HQ and A—West View (PI-93)
B—North Park (PI-92)
C—Dorseyville (PI-03)
D—Rural Ridge (PI-02)

708th AAA Gun Bn (PARNG)
HQ and A—West View Park
B—Millvale
C—Etna
D—Blawnox

509th AAA Missile Battalion
A—Coraopolis (PI-71)
B—Bridgeville (PI-62)
HQ and C—Finleyville (PI-52)
D—Elrama (PI-43)

724th AAA Gun Bn (PARNG)
HQ and A—Moon Run
B—Bridgeville
C—Heidelberg
D—Kenmawr

III. January, 1959

3 RA Missile Battalions

1st AAA Missile Bn
A—Monroeville (Ajax)
B—Herminie (Herc-Ajax)
HQ and C—Irwin (Herc-Ajax)
D—Elizabeth (Ajax)

74th AAA Missile Bn
(Herc-Ajax)
HQ and A—West View
B—North Park (Ajax)
C—Dorseyville (Herc-Ajax)
D—Rural Ridge (Ajax)

509th AAA Missile Bn
A—Coraopolis (Herc-Ajax)
B—Bridgeville (Ajax)
HQ and C—Finleyville (Ajax)
D—Elrama (Herc-Ajax)

All three gun battalions were inactivated in October, 1957

IV. December, 1959

2 RA Missile Battalions, 2 PARNG Missile Battalions

3rd Missile Battalion, 1st Artillery

A—Monroeville (Ajax)
B—Herminie (Herc-Ajax)
HQ and C—Irwin (Herc-Ajax)
D—Elrama (Herc-Ajax)

1st Battalion (Nike-Ajax), 176th Artillery (PARNG)

A—North Park (Ajax)
B—Rural Ridge (Ajax)

5th Missile Battalion, 3rd Artillery

HQ and A—West View (Herc-Ajax)
B—Coraopolis (Herc-Ajax)
C—Dorseyville (Herc-Ajax)
D—Finleyville (Ajax)

2nd Battalion (Nike-Ajax), 176th Artillery (PARNG)

A—Bridgeville (Ajax)
B—Elizabeth (Ajax)

V. 1967

1 RA Missile Battalion, 1 PARNG Missile Battalion

3rd Battalion (HERC), 1st Artillery

B—Herminie
HQ and C—Irwin
D—Elrama

2nd Battalion (N-H), 176th Artillery (Hq, 826 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh)

A—West View
B—Coraopolis
C—Dorseyville

Commanders of the 18th Artillery Group (AD)

NAME	FROM	TO
Colonel Thomas W. Munford	20 Jan 43	28 Aug 45
Colonel Cecile Spann, Jr.	14 Jul 52	10 Jul 53
Colonel Raymond W. Rumph	3 Aug 53	16 Aug 54
Colonel Stephen M. Mellnik	17 Aug 54	30 Jan 55
Colonel Theodore F. Hoffman	31 Jul 55	24 Jul 57
Colonel Yale W. Wolf	3 Aug 57	29 May 59
Colonel James C. Parker	5 Jun 59	27 Aug 61
Colonel James A. Hudson	28 Aug 61	15 Dec 61
Colonel Bill J. Tutin	26 Dec 63	7 Jul 64
Colonel Thomas F. Bristol	8 Jul 64	12 Jun 66
Colonel Max R. McCarthy	23 Jul 66	

COLONEL THOMAS F. BRISTOL

Colonel Thomas F. Bristol, commanding officer, 18th Artillery Group (Air Defense), Oakdale, Pennsylvania, has accumulated more than 24 years active service in the United States Army.

The colonel was born July 2, 1915, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and attended Central High School in Washington, D.C.

In 1938, he was graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science Degree in business administration, and concurrently was awarded a second lieutenant's commission in the Army Reserve based upon participation in the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

In September, 1940, he entered active duty with the Regular Army and was assigned to the 987th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina.

During World War II, he served continuously for 3½ years with the 433d Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, joining the unit in March, 1942. While the 433d was at Port Arthur, Texas, he was promoted to captain. From October to December, 1942, he attended the Coast Artillery School, Anti-Aircraft Artillery Course, Fort Monroe, Virginia. The 433d left the U.S. during January, 1943, for North Africa, and later participated in eight major campaigns: Sicily, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Naples-Fozia, Southern France, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe, and the Rhineland, including two beachhead landings. Colonel Bristol served in the unit successively as a platoon leader and battery commander, then as adjutant, intelligence officer, and operations officer at battalion headquarters.

He subsequently served with the 474th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (Constabulary) near Augsburg, Germany, until December, 1946, when he returned to the U.S. for duty as assistant professor of Military Science and Tactics at the Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina.

After completing the ten-month Advanced Artillery Course, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in July, 1950, he served briefly in the 6th Armored Field Artillery Battalion prior to joining the 553d Field Artillery Battalion as an operations officer and later as executive officer.

From May thru July, 1951, he was operations officer of Combat Command "B", 5th Armored Division, Camp Chaffee, Arkansas.

(MORE)

Colonel Bristol participated in two campaigns of the Korean War from February to September, 1952, serving as operations officer of the 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

Duty in the Far East Command, on Okinawa, followed. He served for a short time as operations officer of the 85th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion. From August, 1953, he was with the 97th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group as operations officer. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in April, 1954, one month before returning to the U.S.

As a personnel management officer, he was a member of the Assignment Section, Artillery Branch, Career Management Division, The Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C., until October, 1957. During this tour of duty, he attended the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, completing both the Associate Course and the Special Weapons Course.

Following his Pentagon assignment, Colonel Bristol attended the Nike-Ajax course at the Army Air Defense School, Fort Bliss, Texas, prior to joining the 9th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (NIKE) at Fort Baker, California, as battalion commander. The battalion subsequently became the 2d Missile Battalion, 51st Artillery (HERC).

As a student officer, he attended the United Kingdom Joint Services Staff College (equivalent of the U.S. Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk) near London, England, before becoming artillery Representative, U.S. Army Standardization Group (UK), at the British School of Artillery in May, 1960.

He became assistant chief of staff, Operations and Training, at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, upon his return to the United States in October, 1962.

From August, 1963, until July, 1964, he was a student at the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. While there, he was promoted to colonel on October 29, 1963.

Colonel Bristol assumed command of the 18th Artillery Group on July 8, 1964.

The colonel and his wife, the former Miss Marie Drolet of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, live at 5959 Leprechaun Drive, Bethal Park, Pennsylvania.

September, 1964