

## **Nikes in Norway**

Author: Jürgen Dreifke, December 2003

In 1957 Norwegian parliament (Stortinget) admitted to the deployment of a Nike bataillon of the Royal Norwegian Airforce in the Oslo area. The first missiles arrived in the same year and were gradually deployed in four batteries in Asker, Valer, Trogstad and Nes. The Staff of C-1-1 Bataillon was formed in July 1957 and placed at Oslo-Linderud. Norway kept their Nikes in service for a long time until 1990/1991. They were modernized in several steps. The last one was the European Nike Support Plan from 1983 when the remaining systems of Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Norway were modified with digital computers by a German airforce workshop in Mechernich. In December 1990 the Bataillon-HQ at Linderud disbanded. The Norwegian military academy (Krigsskolen) is using the buildings today. When the last battery was disbanded at Valer in 1991 40 missiles were transferred to the Space Centre of Andoya in Northern Norway. There they were used to carry smaller scientific rockets into space. An Ajax system is reported to be displayed at Bodo aircraft museum. The Nike Hercules anti-aircraft systems for Airdefence were replaced by mobile Norwegian Adapted Hawk (NOAH) deployed on airbases. At Andoya Space Centre some Nikes continued their career for scientific use.

A photo from Norwegian Nikes on launcher was published in an "Aftenposten"-article from 13-5-01 about nuclear warfare plans during the cold war era. This was a very sensitive issue because Norwegian policy didn't and still doesn't allow nuclear warheads and permanent location of foreign troops on its territory.

### **Asker battery**

The battery at Asker disbanded in 1990. Asker fort in the southwest outskirts of Oslo is still used for training of the national homeguard. An Ajax missile is displayed in front of the fort. The badge of the Norwegian Nike missile units can be seen on the pedestal. (see [www.geekinfo.net](http://www.geekinfo.net))

### **Valer battery**

The site was established in 1959 and disbanded as the last Nike battery in 1991. The missile station not far from Rygge airbase concentrated the IFC, LA and camp in a small area. The area was sold to a private owner in 2003.

### **Trogstad battery**

The fort of Trogstad in the mountains east of Oslo-Fjord became the home of the IFC of a Nike battery in . The launcher area was placed at Havnas, south-west of Trogstad. The battery disbanded in 1990. Trogstad fort is a museum which shows the long history of this fortification

### **Nes battery.**

Nes battery was established not far from the air base Gardemoen north of Oslo in and disbanded in 1991 . A photo has been taken from a web advert which offers the object for sale in 2003.

Links:

<http://www.skifte.no/Forsvarsbygg/Artikler/1064774673.83/1048762658.55>

<http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/d210012.htm>

<http://www.forsvarsbygg.no/dok/verneplaner/Landsverneplanen.pdf>

<http://fysikk.hfk.vgs.no/romfarti.htm>

<http://geekinfo.net/nike>

<http://ed-thelen.org/npg-v4-2.html>

<http://www.Kulturminner i Østfold - Trøgstad.htm>