



Smithsonian  
*National Air and Space Museum*

Nike-Ajax Antiaircraft Missile  
System Technical Manuals

2001

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Nike-Ajax Antiaircraft Missile System Technical Manuals
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0207
<b>Date:</b>	1957-1959
<b>Extent:</b>	1.09 Cubic feet ((1 records center box))
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

No donor information, gift, unknown, XXXX-0207, unknown

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## Biographical / Historical

The Nike series missiles were surface-to-air missiles for point defense against aircraft and ballistic missiles. Development of the Nike-Ajax (SAM-A-7) began in 1945 at Bell Laboratories. The first Nike-Ajax site became operational in December 1953 and initial plans called for installations at forty major cities in the continental United States, as well as at U.S. installations in foreign countries. As deployed the Nike-Ajax consisted of a Douglas-built airframe and a Bell (Aerojet-General) powerplant guide by a Westinghouse radar guidance system. It was superseded by the more powerful Nike-Hercules (SAM-A-25) and Nike-Zeus and was phased out of the U.S. inventory by 1965.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of technical manuals for the Nike-Ajax missile system. Most of the manuals cover the electronic, electrical, and guidance equipment for system testing and operation.

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## General

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Air defenses
- Air defenses -- United States
- Antiaircraft missiles
- Nike rocket
- Rockets (Aeronautics)
- Surface-to-air missiles

Types of Materials:

- Manuals

Names:

- Bell Telephone Laboratories
- Douglas Aircraft Corp
- Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company