

# *Nike-Ajax Missile*



## *Adopted by Mr. Louis A. Cetrone, Jr.*

The Nike-Ajax missile was deployed in 1954 as the world's first operational, guided, surface-to-air missile system. Conceived near the end of World War II and developed during the early years of the Cold War based on an increasing perception of a direct Soviet bomber threat to the American mainland, Nike-Ajax was deployed around key industrial, military, and urban locations around the United States, including Detroit. Site D-14 was at Selfridge AFB from 1955 to 1963 and staffed by US Army and Michigan Army National Guard personnel.

### STATISTICS

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Wingspan: 4' 6"           | Diameter: 12"    |
| Length: 34' 10" w/booster | Speed: 1,679 mph |
| #SAM-A-7                  |                  |