

Missile Master Base Nearing Completion

To Co-ordinate Nike Units; Face School Problem

MIDDLETOWN — Bids for a \$300,000 to \$350,000 dormitory for Missile Master will be opened Tuesday morning.

It will represent the latest, though not final, step in construction of the \$2½ million Army-Air Force project here, designed to co-ordinate operations of the six Nike guided missile battalions in the New York air defense area.

Construction work is about two-thirds completed.

The buildings are going up in the Middletown-Highlands hills, situated between Highlands and Locust. Two hundred twenty-six acres of the 230-acre site are in Middletown.

The base will be one of the links in SAGE (semi-automatic ground environment, center), the Air Force's nationwide detection network, with headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colo.

Operations Center

The local installation will feature an operations center, a 175x185 foot masonry structure, to cost \$1,711,242. Isaac Dengaars Co., Inc., Midland Park, is the contractor.

The center will have four giant radar towers, a control room, conference chamber and warehouse and will be fully air-conditioned.

These additional facilities are included in the plan:

A powerhouse with two 1,000-kilowatt generators, seven underground water storage tanks, a 210,000-gallon reservoir, a sewage disposal plant, recreation building, mess hall, dormitory and housing facilities.

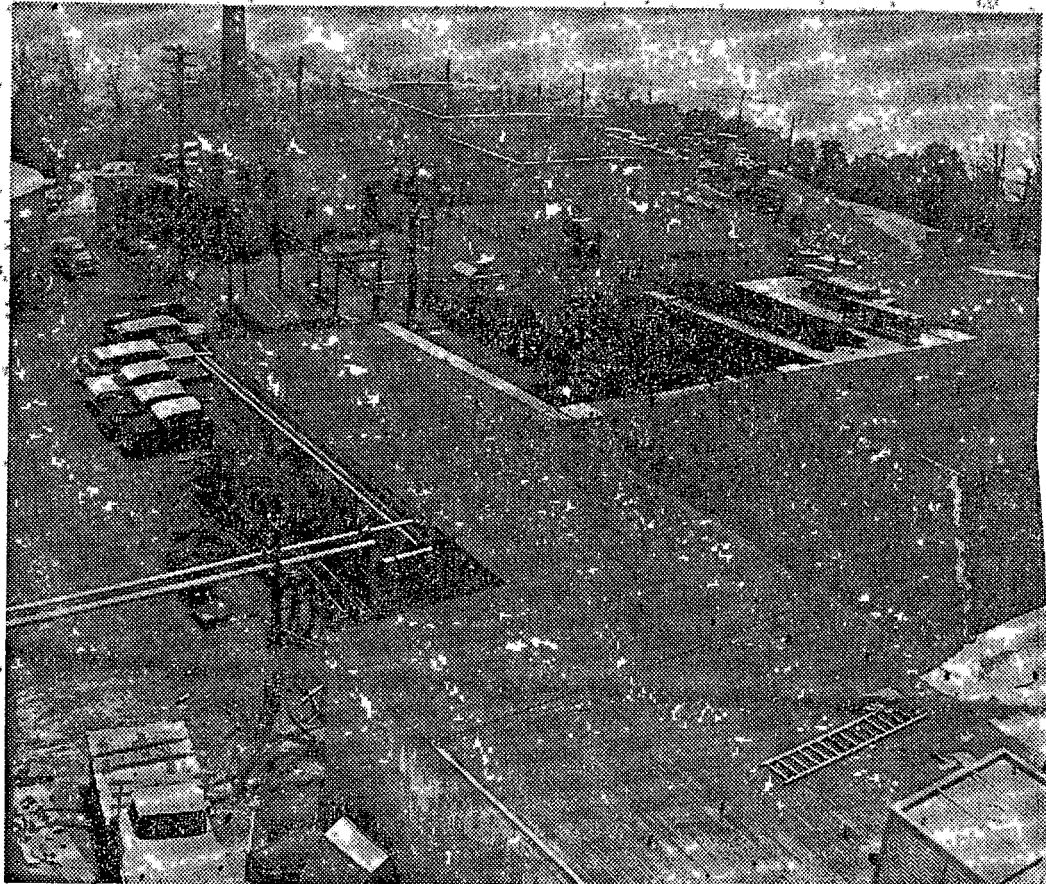
The dormitory is designed to accommodate 200 Army enlisted men. It will be three stories in height, 205 feet long and 40 feet wide.

Regarding housing for married men to be assigned to the new installation, officials said this week that it may be a year or more before the problem is solved.

No Funds

Lt. Col. John Whitlock, Air Force liaison officer to the Army, reported that funds for a housing project have been deleted from the 1959 appropriations.

Capt. Grant I. Lasher, 52d Brigade public information officer, told The Register that 224 officers, warrant officers and enlisted men will be transferred from Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, to the new base here.



The new Army-Air Force Missile Master Base, situated in Middletown and Highlands, near Locust, will feature four giant radar towers and on-premise utilities. The main section of the base is shown above in a photo taken this week. Work is to be completed before the end of the year. Part of the operations center, a structure of solid concrete walls, is in the foreground. The two units at the top center will house the telephone system and a power generator. The adjacent unit will enclose the heating plant. A part of the New York coastal harbor artillery defense system was formerly located near the same site.

Army officials indicated that the family men from Fort Wadsworth probably will have to commute until the housing problem is solved.

Meantime, Board of Education officials in Middletown and Highlands are studying ways and means of obtaining additional federal aid to offset educational costs when service personnel children enter the local schools.

Capt. Lasher has estimated that there are 310 children in the families to be transferred from Fort Wadsworth.

Highlands Mayor Cornelius J. Guiney, Jr., has taken a strong stand in the school matter. He has pointed out that if the housing project is located on the Highlands side the additional children would nearly double the Highlands school enrollment.

Need Federal Aid

"We are not in a position, without federal aid," he said Monday, "to build a new school for service personnel. Without aid, we would have to refuse to accept the pupils."

Middletown school officials have also indicated that federal aid would be required to handle service enrollment, but that unless new legislation is adopted by Congress there "is little hope for obtaining it."

Said James W. Davidheiser, Middletown board secretary, "This is going to be a very serious problem. So far, our board attorney, Lawrence A. Carton, Jr., has found no solution. There is a moral obligation here, that is true, but we also have an obligation to our taxpayers."

He said that under existing legislation the board can not qualify for federal aid for new construction. Next year, there will be 5 double-session classes in the township school system.

Army spokesmen said this week that there is no ready-made answer to the school problem but that talk will be held in the near future with municipal officials in an attempt to reach "an equitable solution." The possibility of new federal legislation was termed "unlikely at this time."

Mayor Guiney said he does not believe it would be practical for service personnel to attempt to commute between Fort Wadsworth and the new installation.

"It is more likely," he said "that they will seek rental facilities in this area."

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