Our purpose is to update everyone on our reunion efforts. At San Francisco last year we met with Barbara Propes Deputy Chief of Staff for Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell and Jim Renkert Director of “Friends of Nike Site Summit” at that time we discussed the proposed events scheduled for this years reunion. The Anchorage portion of this reunion is scheduled for Sept. 4 through the 6th. An extension to the Fairbanks area is now in the planning stages. A highlight of this portion of the trip will be a visit to the BMEWS site at Clear Alaska, we are also planning on a stop at Denali National Park. Rounding out that portion of the trip will be a visit to what remains of the 5 Fairbanks Nike Units. Note those planning to attend this portion of the reunion will need to supply us with some personal information that will be spelled out later in this newsletter. The information is needed for security reasons involving that site visit. A complete schedule of events (as complete as of time of this newsletter) will be posted in the following pages. Also the agenda will be downloadable from our website, and will be changed as needed.

Links to reunion info below.
http://www.a-2-562.org/reunion_r/2014_1.html

Any of you that have any information on the location of the following former Nike Vets that served at Site Point, A Battery at Anchorage during the Good Friday earthquake of March 1964. And possible Ordnance Company vets that may have assisted in the recovery operations at Site Point. As part of the reunion on Friday afternoon a plaque dedication ceremony will be held to honor the 1964 Meritorious Unit Citation that A Battery was awarded for their action during that time. To the best of our knowledge this is the only such award of this type given to a Army unit during peace time. If possible it would be great to have some of these vet’s at that unveiling ceremony.

Relay any information to the following addresses.
reunion@a-2-562.org
or fonss2007@gmail.com
SAN FRANCISCO 2013 PHOTOS

For those that don’t have E-Mail and access to the web we are including some photos from our San Francisco Reunion. To the right we started our reunion with a side trip to the USS Hornet. The photo on the lower left is a mural in the Marines Ready Room. Just below that a shot from the flight deck looking back at the city center. Lower right a shot taken in the engine room you see in red the “nick name” of one of the two ships turbines that drive the ship. This one happens to be Shirley. Lower Right taken at our “Meet & Greet” session is Tony Soscia he served on a Nike site at Thule Greenland. Tony is a high school buddy of Richard Ruggeri and through Richard we got to know Tony. He supplied us with a number of photos that show life on a Nike Site at Thule. Tony was at Thule from May of 1962 to June of 1963. To see Tony’s photos go to our site click on the Site Life tab and then click on “Nike at Thule” and see the difference between Alaska and Thule duty.

On to page 3 with more from the reunion at San Francisco 2013. You may see photos from past years in our reunion section on the A Battery website.
Above, our Friday “Meet & Greet” session, to the right is Bill Jackson a tour guide at Sandy Hook who had a assortment of Nike related patches. Below that we are waiting on Saturday morning outside of our hotel for the bus to take us to SF-88 for the tour. Below waiting for the bus are left to right Richard Lennon, Ed Thelen and James Earnest. Ed is the webmaster for “Ed’s Nike Site” this site is the most complete collection of information on the Nike System. Ed has assembled a ton of information and also a listing of Nike Vet’s from a lot of Nike units that have signed up over the years. Give Ed’s site a visit you will be amazed. www.ed-thelen.org

Above a shot of the Golden Gate Bridge SF-88 entrance lies just beyond the end of the bridge. At the left is Alcatraz Island some of our group wished to visit it while we were there but tours need to be booked well in advance and were full. Others did visit “The Americas Cup Race” and extended to Yosemite National Park. Extending your stay at our reunions gives you a chance to take in other attractions while there.
Photos left to right from the top. First order was lunch as we got off the bus next is the 2 IFC vans then a interior shot of the BC Van the vans in in great shape inside. Next photo is some of the “Extra” equipment that they have acquired, the white tubes contain missiles. Next from the “Friends of Nike Site Summit” is Jim Renkert inspecting a Nike on the launcher, the friends are very interested in obtaining some of the missiles that SF-88 has in storage. The final shot is early at our banquet we had a great time. The NHS president Al Kellogg a artist gave away some watercolor prints as door prizes and we added some items from our “Moose Creek Store”
Commemorating Victory In The Cold War

Alaska Nike Veterans Reunion
Cold War Conference
September 4-6, 2014

As you can see from our opening remarks in this Newsletter this reunion surpasses anything we have done previously in many ways. The schedule of events for the Anchorage portion of this reunion is on the next page. To kick things off on Thursday evening the Keynote speaker for that evening is Sergei Khrushchev. This will give you an indication of the level of this event I am sure we will never surpass this reunion in the future. The Fairbanks portion of the trip is in the early planning stages what we do know is we have been granted special permission to tour the BMEWS site at Clear Alaska one of only 3 in the “Free World” and still operational today. We will be asking for some personal information from attendees for access to this facility.

At this time we are asking you to please respond with your tentative plans of attending. We know it is still a distant time but we have to have an idea of possible numbers, particularly with transportation to Fairbanks. Also you will notice on the agenda remarks about seating or “invitation only” at some of the events. We have been assured that the Nike Vets who sign up to attend will be “first on the list” and guaranteed seating, attendance. Please address all replies to reunion@a-2-562.org

The Conference Chairs have chosen the “Hotel Captain Cook” as the host hotel. That hotel is affiliated with the “Voyager Hotel” just across the street; room rates at The Voyager are about $25.00 per night cheaper that the Captain Cook but has fewer amenities, dining or bar on site. Both have free WiFi the Voyager has a complimentary continental breakfast Captain Cook has 4 different dining levels so does not offer a “free breakfast” also those staying at “The Voyager may use the “Athletic Club” at Captain Cook.

As always a visit to the reunion section at http://www.a-2-562.org will display any new information as it is received. Those that request to be included in a “reunion update” group will also receive those updates directly.

We also extend the invitation to this reunion to “All Nike Vets” so if you know of someone who would be interested in attending please pass along this message to them.

Take time to visit our “General Store” your support of it helps us in distribution of this Newsletter and maintaining our website.
Commemorating Victory In The Cold War

Alaska Nike Veterans Reunion
Cold War Conference
September 4-6, 2014

Thursday  September 4, 2014

3:00 – 6:00 p.m.  Registration Open
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.  Opening Reception  (invitation only)
7:30 p.m.  Keynote Speaker  Special Guest Sergei Khrushchev
   Evening lecture at the Wendy Williamson Auditorium

Friday  September 5, 2014

7:30- 9:00 p.m.  Breakfast and opening ceremonies; registration packets open until 10:00 a.m. at the Hotel Captain Cook

Lectures and Presentations at the Hotel Captain Cook Ballroom

9:00 – 9:30  9:45 – 10:15  10:30 – 11:00  11:15 – 12:00

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.  Lunch with Keynote presentation at the Hotel Captain Cook

1:30 to 4:00 p.m.  Swords Into Plowshares Tour.  Visit to Site Point, Battery A, to see how missiles were replaced by mountain bikes, skis and soccer balls at what is now Kincaid Park.

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.  Personal Stories.  Recorded for posterity by UAF Oral History Project and Alaska Veterans Museum

5:30 – 10:00 p.m.  Dinner on your own
   After dinner: “War Stories” in the lounge

8:00 p.m.  The Lighter Side of the Cold War and Special Showing of Stanley Kubrick’s “Dr. Strangelove, Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying And Love the Bomb.” Location: Wendy Williamson Auditorium, Beartooth Theatre Pub or Alaska Experience Theater

Saturday  September 6, 2014

6:30 to 8:00 a.m.  Breakfast (Veterans picked up at hotel at 8:15 a.m. for tour)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00  Nike Site Summit Tour for Nike veterans. Invitation only.

12:00 - 2 p.m.  Lunch fare available at Arctic Valley Lodge

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  Commemorative Event and Plaque Dedication at Arctic Valley Lodge.  Invitation only; 150 people maximum

2 - 5 p.m.  Nike Site Summit Tour for ceremony VIPs and other vets. Invitation only; 75 max

6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  Farewell Dinner for veterans at the Port View