

Administrative Record for Fort Wingate

Tracking Form – *Correspondences*

Date on Letter: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter From

(letterhead): \_\_\_\_\_

Letter Signed

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter Sent

To: \_\_\_\_\_

Category:

- Parcel\_\_\_\_\_
- Groundwater
- Facility Wide
- Soil
- Surface Water
- Storm Water
- Land Re-Use
- Eco
- Cultural
- Real Estate
- Utilities
- Ordnance Explosive
- Chemical Warfare
- Asbestos
- Igloos
- Public Involvement/RAB
- Other\_\_\_\_\_
- RCRA Permit
- General/Air/Construction Permits
- Media
- Multi-Parcel
- Military Munitions Maps

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Letter Location:

Correspondence Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel/Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Cabinet: \_\_\_\_\_

Drawer #: \_\_\_\_\_

- Filed in Admin Record*
- Posted to Web/EMIS*
- Hard Drive
- Index
- Scheduler
- Copy to Record Keeper
- Sent to Addressee/CC List
- FedEx Tracking Attached

## 15th missile launch out of Fort Wingate

### Missile launch

By Vida Volkert

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FORT WINGATE — It started with a ball of fire with a smoky trail going straight up in the Fort Wingate sky.

“It’s going to space or what?” wondered Christopher Nez, 7, as he watched the 15 th missile launched out of the U.S. Army base in Fort Wingate Thursday morning. “Dad, you are supposed to text Mom.”

His father, Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez, watched in awe, standing next to the young boy at Red Rock Park. A small crowd that included Navajo Nation Department of Natural Resources employees, Gallup residents, U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range personnel and members of the state of Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs out of Camp Navajo watched the Juno missile take off, some shivering in the cold. It was about 25 degrees.

A blast followed, and as the missile left the Earth’s atmosphere, its booster fell somewhere in the Cibola National Forest. The Juno continued its course in the direction of

**See Missile launch, Page 5**



Fort Wingate Army Depot launches an unarmed Juno missile early morning Thursday toward White Sands Missile Range, on target to be intercepted by a Patriot missile

Cayla Nimmo/Independent



Jonathan Nez, vice president of the Navajo Nation, takes photos of the missile launch from a viewing area in Red Rock Park where he brought his son Christopher to watch.

Cayla Nimmo/Independent

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### Continued from Page 1

White Sands Missile Range — 300 miles away. Another missile, called the Patriot, was supposed to intercept the Juno and destroy it as part of a U.S. military defense operation.

Lisa Blevins, White Sands Missile Range public affairs specialist, said the operation, including target interception, went as planned.

Erin Dorrance, the chief of public affairs with the White Sands Missile Range Army Test and Evaluation Command, said the Patriot missile has been recently upgraded and the Army wanted to test it.

A White Sands spokesman says the Juno missile was successfully intercepted over the range by a Patriot missile and disintegrated midair. Range spokesman Luciano Vera says a second Patriot fired from White Sands self-destructed after the first Patriot hit the target. The corkscrew-shaped contrail was visible in Phoenix, 245 miles southwest of the launch site.

“The Juno is a target for the Patriot,” Dorrance said. “That’s really what the test is for. What we are doing, testing the Patriot, is vital to our national security. We need to have the confidence that the Patriot is going to do what it’s supposed to do and take out our threat.”

Dorrance said the Army conducts this particular type of operation out of the Fort Wingate base every two to three years.

The launches are based on weather conditions and they require about a year of preparation.

Shooting target missiles out of Fort Wingate is convenient because this part of the state is not densely populated and roads can be blocked and secured relatively easy, Dorrance said. The Federal Aviation Administration cleared the air space for the time of the operation, and the launch took place when the sun was just coming over the horizon so that Army personnel could have clear visibility to analyze conditions and impact after the shoot.

“We have this window to do it,” Dorrance said.

The Juno missile launched out of Fort Wingate Thursday was about 15 feet tall, built by the company Orbital out of Chambers, Arizona, and it consists of seven pieces that were assembled at Fort Wingate.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*



A missile is launched from the Fort Wingate Army Depot Thursday. The second stage of the missile breaks off and will land in an evacuated area of Cibola National Forrest where crew members are waiting to recover it.

Cayla Nimmo/Independent