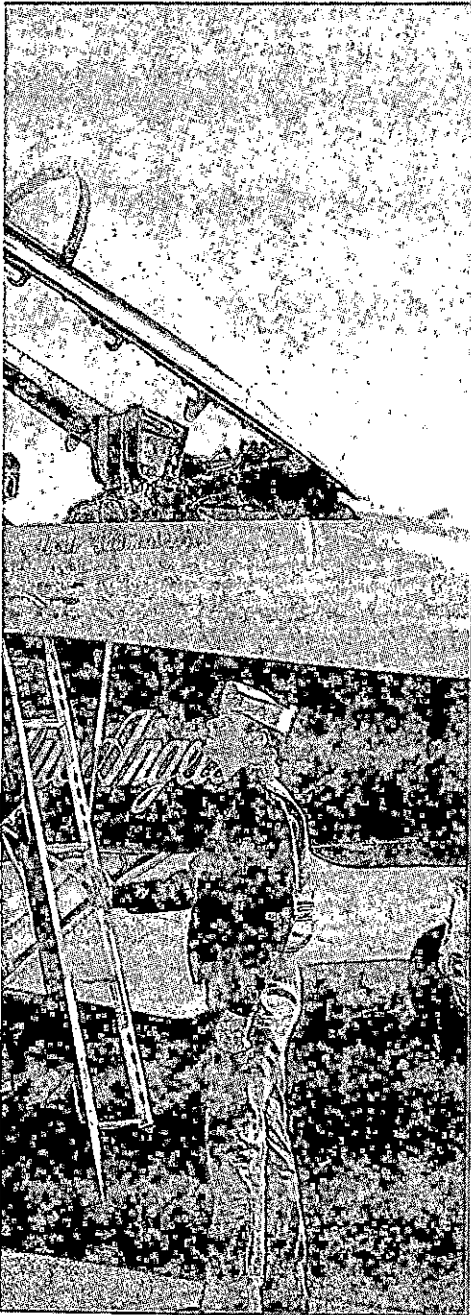




JAMES CARBONE

# Superfund eyed for old base

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A former Air Force missile base in Westhampton designed to protect the country from a potential Soviet air attack during the Cold War may be designated a Superfund site, Suffolk County health officials said Thursday.

The BOMARC Missile Base on Old Country Road in Westhampton could join the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites if further testing determines that hazardous waste disposed on the property places the public or environment at undue risk, said county Health Commissioner James Tomarken in a news release.

Tomarken was informed of the potential listing as a Superfund site on Dec. 5.

"The BOMARC site, which comprises approximately 186 acres, is being investigated as the result of the detection of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in samples from both private wells and on-site groundwater monitoring wells and polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, in soil samples collected on the site," said the announcement issued Thursday.

The location was one of 10 Air Force-managed Boeing and Michigan Aeronautical Research Center facilities protecting the East Coast from a potential Soviet air attack from 1959 until 1964, when it was decommissioned, officials said, adding that as many as 56 nuclear-tipped missiles were located there.

After decommissioning, it was turned over to Suffolk County, which has used the site for "storage of automobiles involved in serious accidents, as a law enforcement shooting range, and as a vehicle training course for emergency responders, among other uses."

The development comes amid an ongoing survey and investigation of private wells in Westhampton, an effort that began in 2017 following the detection of perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS) in a Suffolk County Water Authority public supply well south of the former BOMARC facility, officials said.

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### THIS DATE IN HISTORY

**1803** The Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the U.S.

**1860** South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

**1924** Adolf Hitler was released from prison after serving nine months for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch.

**1963** The Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

**1989** The U.S. launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

**2014** A gunman who'd announced online that he was planning to shoot two "pigs" in retaliation for the police chokehold death of Eric Garner ambushed two New York City officers in a patrol car; Ismaaiyl Brinsley shot Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu to death before running to a subway station and killing himself.

newsday.com NEWSDAY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2019

on repeated, safe results," said Kerrick, a Philadelphia native who will perform in his first Jones Beach show. "So you will see the same outstanding show year after year."

The 2020 Jones Beach show will also feature a performance from the U.S. Air Force's A-10 Thunderbolt II. The aircraft, dubbed the "Warthog," excels at supporting troops with low-altitude attacks.

The roster also includes the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, the GEICO Skytypers, Team Oracle with Sean Tucker and Jessy Panzer, David Windmiller, and the Farmingdale State College Aviation Team.

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