

hema

test

stuff

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Nike-X was an [anti-ballistic missile](#) system developed in the 1960s by the [US Army](#) to counter the [Soviet Union's intercontinental ballistic missiles](#) (ICBM). Tested but never [deployed](#), it was a response to the problems with [Nike Zeus](#), whose radars could not tell the difference between warheads and decoys until it was too late to launch. Nike-X would wait until the last moment and launch a very fast missile known as [Sprint](#) (*pictured*); the entire engagement would last only a few seconds, at altitudes as low as 25,000 feet (7.6 km). While technically capable, a Nike-X missile would have been very expensive, as much as 20 times the cost of the ICBM at which it was fired. [Robert McNamara](#), the Secretary of Defense, felt the Soviets would respond by building more ICBMs, leading to a new [nuclear arms race](#). In 1967, Nike-X was cancelled in favor of a simpler system, [Sentinel](#).