

23 ANTIPLANE TO CLOSE IN

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon announced today the Army will shut down 23 antibomber missile batteries in 12 states to save money.

The action is the latest in a series of economy measures being taken by the Pentagon to cut fiscal 1968 spend-

ing by as much as \$3 billion. The Pentagon said deactivation of the 23 Nike-Hercules firing sites and seven headquarters installations will save \$18.8 million in the current budget year, \$54 million in succeeding years.

THE PENTAGON is expected to bear the brunt of a demand for spending reductions

totaling \$6 billion which the Congress made in return for passing President Johnson's 10 per cent income tax surcharge.

Closing the sites also will drop active Army strength by 4,200 men. Eight of the missile units are operated by the National Guard.

"After careful study, these

MISSILE SITES ECONOMY MOVE

sites, in 12 states, were found to contribute least to the effectiveness of the defense of the continental United States," the announcement said. "It was originally planned to close some of these sites by the summer of 1970."

THE NIKE-HERCULES is a 39-foot missile capable of

shooting down 2,000-mile-an-hour bombers.

The first batteries became operational only 10 years ago but the entire air-defense system has been undergoing considerable streamlining in recent months.

The announcement said these sites would be closed: Van Nuys and Newhall,

Calif.; Lemont, Ill.; Munster, Ind.; Selfridge Air Force Base, Mich.; Irwin, Pa.; Edgemont, Pa.; Annapolis, Md.; Old Bridge and Hazlet, N. J.; Cromwell, Conn.

MARINE, HECKER and Grafton, Ill.; Pacific, Lawson and Pleasant Hill, Mo.; Gardner and Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.; Denton, Terrell,

Alvarado and Camp Wolters, Tex.

The seven headquarters to be closed are at Saugus, Calif.; Tappan, N. Y.; Scott AFB, Ill.; Pleasant Hill, Mo.; Olathe, Kan., and Duncanville, Tex. The latter has two headquarters installations.

The Pentagon said National

Army--

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Guard units at the air-defense sites in Missouri and Texas will be inactivated.

TECHNICIANS at the Missouri and Texas sites will be released and the military personnel will be transferred to other National Guard units.

Two double-battery sites are being reduced to single batteries, at Warrington, Pa., and Ft. Tilden, N. Y.

Affected personnel in Maryland, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Illinois are being transferred to other National Guard units.

The phaseouts are the second economy move taken by the Army. Earlier, the Pentagon decided not to activate the Sixth Infantry Division at Ft. Campbell, Ky., as originally planned, to save \$125 million.

Last week the Navy made its initial financial cuts by ordering 50 ships into mothballs and closing down eight naval air squadrons.
