

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

WDOSA 330.14 (17 May 46)

28 MAY 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

SUBJECT: Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Fort McClellan, Alabama; and  
Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

1. The attached letters to Senator Hayden, Congresswoman Rogers and Congressman Hobbs reflect the current War Department plans for the utilization of facilities at Fort Devens, Fort McClellan, and Fort Huachuca during the postwar period.

2. It is not believed that sufficient justification is given by the interested members of Congress for continuing the installations at Fort Devens, Fort McClellan, and Fort Huachuca in lieu of those which the War Department plans to retain as active.

a. In the New England area, Camp Edwards and Fort Ethan Allen are the only other War Department facilities exclusive of the Harbor Defense installations which could be considered comparable to Fort Devens. Fort Ethan Allen was declared surplus by the War Department on 8 May 1946, and Camp Edwards was placed in an inactive status 31 March 1946. The majority of the Harbor Defense installations, it is believed, will be placed in a caretaker status in the near future. All other minor facilities will be necessary for Headquarters, administrative and storage purposes.

b. Fort McClellan, Alabama, compares unfavorably with most of the large training camps in the Fourth Service Command. It has a capacity of approximately 2,100 in permanent and mobilization type buildings while the remaining capacity of approximately 22,000 is in huts, now in poor condition. Its terrain and soil conditions are not good for the training of combat type units; and its artillery range is inferior. It is not, therefore, as suitable for the training of National Guard and Organized Reserve Corps Units as Fort Jackson. There is now located at Fort Jackson a Corps Artillery Group (2 Battalions) which requires the Fort Jackson ranges for training. In view of these considerations, the Commanding General, Army Ground Forces plans to use Fort McClellan as a site of an infantry replacement training center for as long as the strength of the Army warrants. In the area of the Fourth Service Command, it is planned to keep active: Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Benning, Georgia, which are vastly superior to Fort McClellan on all counts; Fort Jackson, South Carolina, which is a better training area and which has mobilization type housing for a reinforced division; Fort McPherson, Georgia, which is suited only for a headquarters installation and is well located as the site of the Seventh Army; and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, which is the site of a small service school center. The general desirability of the facilities at Fort Oglethorpe and the cost of moving school facilities from Fort Oglethorpe to Fort McClellan indicates that it would not be desirable to move the schools.

c. The only installations that are being retained on an active status within the same region as Fort Huachuca are all located in states bordering on the State of Arizona and are at such far distances from Fort Huachuca that they can hardly be considered as being in the same region. Fort Bliss, Camp Hood and Fort Sam Houston, Texas are all being utilized to the fullest at the present and the activities for which they are being used could not practicably be transferred to Fort Huachuca. White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, is an entirely different type of installation than Fort Huachuca and it is not believed that a comparison is justified. There are no Ground Force installations in the State of Nevada and the War Department has been committed to place an Army Area Command at Fort Douglas, Utah, the only installation remaining active in Utah. There are several active installations in California; Fort Ord, Camp Beale, Presidio of Monterey, and the Presidio of San Francisco, but all are being utilized for special activities such as induction stations, personnel centers, staging areas, headquarters installations or school facilities. Therefore, it would require a great expenditure of funds to establish Fort Huachuca as one of these facilities and would necessitate the release of currently active stations which is not believed desirable under present War Department plans.

3. It is recommended that the attached letters to the Congressional members be signed and dispatched.

*Thos Handy*  
 THOS. T. HANDY  
 General, GSC  
 Deputy Chief of Staff

Attachments 3  
 Ltr to Hon Edith N.  
 Rogers, undtd  
 Ltr to Hon Sam Hobbs,  
 undtd  
 Ltr to Hon Carl Hayden,  
 undtd

*This matter has been coordinated with  
 the WD Installations Board (Gen. Spratz, Gen. Lutes,  
 Gen. Sener, Gen. Scott 6-4). The Board  
 concurred -*