

29 January 1954

MEMORANDUM REPORT OF CONFERENCE HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF
THE STATE OF ARIZONA

SUBJECT: Reacquisition of Title to Fort Huachuca, Arizona

1. At the request of the Honorable Howard L. Pyle, Governor of the State of Arizona a conference was arranged between representatives of the State of Arizona and representatives of the Department of the Army concerned with the transfer of title to the land and facilities at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. The meeting convened in the office of the Governor at 10:30 hours, 29 January 1954. The following persons were in attendance:

Representing the U. S. Army

Arthur H. Frye, Jr. Col. C. E. District Engineer, Los Angeles
District
George A. Baldwin, Major Sig. Corps O.C. Sig. O.
Harold E. Spickard, Chief Real Estate Division, Los Angeles
District
Herman C. Antenrieth, Realty Assistant, Phoenix R.E. Field
Office

Representing the State of Arizona

Honorable Howard L. Pyle, Governor
Frank E. Fraser, Brig. Gen. The Adj. Gen. of Arizona
Robert Pickrell, Assistant to the Attorney General
Jack Mantle, Arizona Fish and Game Commission
John M. Hall, Arizona Fish and Game Commission.

2. The purpose of the conference was to outline the Realty requirements of the U. S. Army and to clarify certain problems of the State of Arizona in connection with the transfer of title by the State of Arizona to the real property and facilities comprising Fort Huachuca Military Reservation, Artillery Range and Cemetery and Access roads thereto.

3. An outline of the present status of the real property was presented by Mr. Antenrieth, indicating that portion of the Military Reservation upon which the United States recaptured title in January of 1951, that portion of the Military Reservation and Artillery Range upon which possession only was recaptured, the Cemetery, Access roads and the balance of the Artillery Range, on which title and possession still remains with the State of Arizona, also that portion which is public domain land. It was pointed out that there are scattered tracts of State school lands in the Artillery range approximating 1,762.95 acres which were not included in the correction deed of 1950 from the United States to the State of Arizona.

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4. Governor Pyle stated that he was prepared to execute a quit claim deed to the United States conveying title to the real and personal property comprising Fort Huachuca as conveyed to the State of Arizona by the United States; however, he would like to clarify certain problems in regard to the continued use of portions of Fort Huachuca by the State of Arizona. These problems were discussed and conclusion arrived upon were as follows:

a. The use of facilities at Fort Huachuca by the Arizona National Guard for the annual training encampment. General Fraser stated that General Lensner had assured him that present facilities will be available for the 1954 encampment and plans for future encampments will be arranged thereafter, as the requirements for the Signal Corps are formulated. It is not contemplated to disturb the existing license for the concentration site.

b. Continued use of a portion of the Military Reservation by the State Fish and Game Commission for buffalo grazing. Governor Pyle explained that it would be impracticable to again move the buffalo due to the expense involved and if the State is denied the right to graze the buffalo, they will have to be killed. Major Baldwin stated that he was not authorized to make any commitments in regard to this problem, but could see no reason why use of Unit 1 could not be continued provided the buffalo are confined therein. The Governor instructed the Fish and Game Commission to write a letter to the Corps of Engineers outlining their needs for the preservation of wildlife on the Military Reservation for study and consideration by the U. S. Army.

c. Disposition of the Cemetery and Access roads. It was realized by the Governor that for security reasons title to the Access roads to the Cemetery will necessarily be required by the Army. It was, therefore, concluded that title to the Cemetery also be returned to the United States.

5. Governor Pyle agreed to confirm, in writing, his verbal commitment to execute the necessary deed or deeds to the United States reconveying the real and personal property comprising Fort Huachuca as conveyed to the State by the United States by deeds and bill of sale. As to the State school lands within the Artillery Range, he instructed the Assistant Attorney General to consult with the State Land Commissioner and work out an equitable solution toward transferring these lands to the United States.

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