

A more auspicious start of the new year could hardly be asked than that contained in the announcement yesterday of the transfer of the electronics proving facilities from Ft. Monmouth, N. J., to Ft. Huachuca, one of the nation's historic posts. The fact that the post was found to be the most suitable and economic site for highly technical operations is most encouraging.

Of especial importance was the report that Arizona leaders on both the state and federal levels worked in the strongest cooperation toward reactivation. Still further cooperation can be expected from the various communities in Cochise County as the first of the troops arrive. Evidence of the strong friendship between post officials and civic leaders of this area existed at every turn during the recent active period of the post.

As other developments are awaited, several implications have been suggested on the heels of yesterday's announcement. Governor Pyle reported that the move might lead to use of the fort as an "Army aviation development center." Yet another important consideration is the strong prospect of related industry reaching this area. At least, a closer survey of industrial facilities here can be expected.

The area awaits the arrival of advance detachments and extends a hearty welcome to the post that has been commanded by and has trained many outstanding military leaders.

Only 51 Persons Now On Duty At Huachuca

During the most recent part of the standby period at Ft. Huachuca the total personnel on the post was reported to be 51, only two of them military men.

In charge of the installation have been Maj. W. H. Schubert and Capt. C. A. Wallace, both of whom have made friends quickly in the area.

Though beset by inactivity, the fort has been kept in top shape for such an eventuality as that announced yesterday, the transfer of an electronics proving unit here.

Physical Report On Huachuca Shows Fort Ready For Troops

The most recent information on the facilities available at Ft. Huachuca follows. It was provided by the post as Engineer Aviation troops were completing training prior to the fort's being placed on a standby basis.

Excerpts from the report follow:

After two years of rebuilding, and the expenditure of approximately \$8,000,000, Fort Huachuca today has facilities for the advanced training of specialized troops. . . .

Today the post is capable of supporting the general and specialized training of over 8,000 troops. Ranges, classroom sites, physical conditioning courses and other required training facilities, suitable for an Infantry Division during World War II, have been in large part rehabilitated, and are capable of handling a much greater load than was imposed by the Engineer Aviation units. Other specialized training areas, such as fixed bridge sites, gas chamber, bayonet courses, obstacle areas, and other sites are more than adequate. Troop housing, available, including barracks, mess halls, dayrooms and administrative buildings, can support 10,000 officers and men. Water, lines, electric power facilities, sewage disposal plant, the incinerators, and other utilities have been restored to their former operating efficiency, when they served more than 20,000 troops. Housing for families is exceptional, with approximately 450 units available for occupancy.

To provide off-duty diversions for any troops that may be assigned, Fort Huachuca has been amply supplied with recreational facilities, many of them constructed by engineers in training. A service club, with fully equipped hobby shop, is in use. Officer and NCO messes, and a club for civilian employees have been reopened. In addition, a golf course has been rehabilitated and numerous softball, baseball, basketball, and other athletic areas provided. The post is also well equipped for less active pastimes, with two swimming pools, three theaters, and two picnic grounds now in use.

Other staff agencies of the Post Complement will serve the troop units in numberless ways. The Post Quartermaster has a laundry, a commissary, and a shoe repair shop, to name a few of the activities. The Signal, Ordnance, Transportation, Chemical, and other technical services maintain extensive supply and maintenance organizations capable, in most instances of easy expansion in the event a greater number of troops were stationed at Fort Huachuca.

The medical section operates the Fort Huachuca Hospital, a modern plant now utilizing up to 125 beds, but capable of expansion to 366 beds if necessary. In addition to the wards, the hospital has facilities for surgical, laboratory, dental and clinical care of the troops. Completing the medical facilities is a modern obstetrical building adjoining the hospital.

In short, Fort Huachuca, once abandoned to the buffalo herd and an occasional jackrabbit, is now a modern, well equipped military post.