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Phoenix, Arizona
September 22, 1952.

Honorable Frank Pace, Jr.
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Frank:

You were in Europe at the time of my departure from Washington but I was so greatly concerned about the future of Fort Huachuca that, shortly before leaving, I asked Mr. Bendtsen to let me come to the Pentagon to talk with him and his military advisors. On August 26 I received a letter from him which contained a crumb of comfort by giving an assurance that the \$5,900,000 expended in the rehabilitation of Fort Huachuca as a result of the Korean situation would not be entirely wasted because at this time:

"There is no plan to declare this facility surplus to the requirements of the Army, and it will be retained for possible future use."

In the fore part of the letter the Acting Secretary explained that by this fall there will be no need for training additional aviation engineer special units at Fort Huachuca and that

"During the interim, the Department of the Army will continue to survey its requirements for this station, as it has and is doing in connection with all other Department of the Army installations, to determine whether other units can appropriately utilize this facility consistent with the necessary economy of operation."

Senator MacFarland and I have been greatly embarrassed by statements given the Arizona newspapers by the Governor of our State to the effect that the Department of the Army does not intend to arrange for training any kind of troops at Fort Huachuca after the last of the aviation engineer units have departed. We are therefore anxiously awaiting word from you that a way has been found to at least fully utilize the existing facilities at that place for training purposes.

I have yet to talk with any officer who was at any time in command at Fort Huachuca who did not say that there is no place in the United States better suited for the training of ground troops at all seasons of the year and for every type of training which they may be required to receive. The chief difficulty, as I see it, is that Fort Huachuca has been a thousand or more miles away from the seat of command, first of the Eighth Corps Area at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and later of the Sixth Army at San Francisco, California. The Commanding General and the members of his Staff do not fail to see the need for developments within convenient distances from their headquarters to the disadvantage of more distant places which have greater natural advantages.

This brings me to a request that you advise me as to the correctness of the following information which has come to me.

First, that in 1950 a decision was reached by the Department of the Army that Fort Huachuca should be rehabilitated to such an extent that an Infantry Division could be trained there and that General Wedemeyer, in accordance with instructions, prepared plans which provided for the expenditure of approximately 60 million dollars at Fort Huachuca by 1955.

Second, on a day late in 1951 or early in 1952 a railroad train of soldiers arrived at Hereford, Arizona, enroute to Fort Huachuca but, after a delay of about eight hours, was sent on to Camp Ord, California, and that on the following day another trainload of soldiers intended for Fort Huachuca was diverted at El Paso, Texas, and sent to Camp Ord.

Third, that the funds originally earmarked for expenditure at Fort Huachuca were transferred to Camp Ord, that its name was changed to Fort Ord, and that hereafter it is to be the Sixth Army Training Center for Infantry instead of Fort Huachuca.

If you should find that the development of Fort Huachuca was abandoned in favor of Fort Ord I would appreciate a statement as to whether this change was made on advice received by your Department from the Sixth Army Headquarters. I would also like to know whether consideration was given to the fact that Fort Ord is located in an area which is much more exposed to atomic bomb attack than Fort Huachuca.

I hope that you will pardon the length of this letter and assure you that it would not have been written except that the subject matter is one of great concern to the people on whose behalf I have the duty to make these representations. It is needless to say that I trust that it will be possible for you to give definite assurances which will in some measure be satisfactory to them.

With best regards, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Carl Hayden
United States Senator

P.S. I shall be greatly obliged if you will send me a copy of the address that you delivered at the meeting of the American Bar Association in San Francisco on September 16.

CH:EQ