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# Army Will Close Ft. Huachuca June 1, State Delegation Told

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Arizona's historic Ft. Huachuca will be closed June 1, the state's congressional delegation was advised yesterday by the army.

The post, in Cochise county, near the Mexican border, will be maintained on a stand-by basis only.

Ft. Huachuca and five other military installations are being shut down in an economy move that is estimated will save \$8,000,000 in the first year. Strength of half a dozen other posts will be reduced.

MAJ. MILES Reber, legislative liaison officer for the army, informed the Arizona delegation of the decision at a conference in the office of Senator Hayden (D-Ariz).

An army spokesman said Ft. Huachuca is not being abandoned and that it would be placed back in service if and when the army program requires it.

"The changing needs of the army and the world situation will determine the exact use of the fort in the future," he said.

THE ARIZONA delegation said it had no plans to oppose closing of Ft. Huachuca because the army had explained the six posts affected are the least essential to its current mobilization program.

The army is closing those posts which are operating the farthest below capacity.

Established in frontier days, Ft.

Huachuca for many years was one of the major military installations along the Mexican border. It was greatly expanded in World War II as a troop training center. After cessation of hostilities it was closed, and then was reopened as a training site for aviation engineer troops.

## McFarland Hits Closing

Ernest W. McFarland, former Democratic U. S. senator from Arizona, today urged the citizens of Arizona to "communicate directly with President Eisenhower to block the inexcusable closing of Ft. Huachuca."

McFarland said he contacted President Truman and Secretary of the Army Frank Pace last year when closing of the historic fort was tentatively announced and obtained firm assurances that it would be kept as a permanent military installation.

"It's not economy to spend millions of dollars and then flush it down the drain," McFarland declared. He attributed the closing to "great pressures brought on the administration by Californians who want those troops at home."

## Public Lease Plan Readied For Huachuca

Nearly 25 per cent of the 50,000-acre Ft. Huachuca reservation will be made available for leasing to private interests after its return to an inactive status, sixth army headquarters announced today.

Initial word came from Lt. Gen. J. M. Swing, commander at San Francisco, and details were given by Col. David M. Dunne at Ft. Huachuca.

DUNNE SAID leases undoubtedly will go to grazing interests because of the reservation's abundant grass stands and water. He said the fort is expected to go on a stand-by basis "in the near future" and that leases will be signed for temporary private use in the meantime.

A land utilization and management survey is being conducted to determine which portions of the reservations may be leased. Upon completion of the survey, the Phoenix suboffice of the army corps of engineers will advertise for competitive bids.

Leasing will be on a competitive basis, in accordance with "good land management practices," the sixth army said.

Following are considerations excluding nearly 75 per cent of the area:

1. Protection and utilization of the natural resources of the reservation.
2. The grazing programs of the Arizona state game and fish commission, which keeps the Arizona buffalo herds.
3. Areas used by the Arizona national guard.
4. Other leased Arizona state land.
5. The post proper, including buildings and grounds.

Dunne said exact date of deactivation has not been announced. When placed on a stand-by basis, a cadre of military personnel will be stationed at the post to supervise care and upkeep.

Of 350 civilian personnel, 250 will be released in the near future. The remainder will be kept for maintenance work.