

STATE OF ARIZONA
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
747 WEST VAN BUREN STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

FEF/dh

19 May 1949

Honorable Dan E. Garvey
Governor of Arizona
State Capitol Building
Phoenix, Arizona

My dear Governor Garvey:

For the past six weeks there have been many rumors dealing with the status of the Artillery Range at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. These rumors indicate that through an exchange of land between the State of Arizona and the Department of the Interior approximately 7500 acres have been withdrawn from the allotment of 28,000 acres covered by the deed from War Assets Administration and that an additional 4000 or 5000 acres have been requested withdrawn by the State of Arizona to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

In conversations held with Mr. Kelly and with the Real Estate Division of the local District Engineer's Office, this office has been informed that approximately 7500 acres have been withdrawn from the Artillery Range at Fort Huachuca and transferred to the Department of the Interior for other lands and that an application had been submitted to the Department of the Interior wherein approximately 4500 acres would be withdrawn from Fort Huachuca and transferred to the Department of the Interior. Neither Mr. Kelly nor the District Engineer have furnished this Headquarters with certified copies of the papers in question because no doubt, they are a matter of record in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior.

In conversation held with Mr. Kelly as of this date, he has informed this office that he has initiated a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Krug, requesting clarification of the status of the lands comprising the Artillery Range at Fort Huachuca.

An exhaustive check has been made of all the papers in the Headquarters of the National Guard of Arizona that pertain to Fort Huachuca and the check fails to disclose any correspondence

19 May 1949

or any information of any nature whatever that indicates that any land was to be withdrawn from the Artillery Range at Fort Huachuca and transferred to the Department of the Interior.

There is, however, a letter in the file received from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Mr. C. Girard Davidson, dated 13 August 1948. In this letter he states, "Because of the public and beneficial nature of the work of the State agencies, there was no desire on our part to handicap them in obtaining the surplus lands at Fort Huachuca which they need to complement the use of the improvements. At the informal conference on August 2 mentioned in your letter between representatives of our Bureau of Land Management and War Assets Administration, it developed that while the War Assets Administration had not made any definite commitments on the disposal of the lands at Fort Huachuca, their disposal plans had advanced to the point where they were about ready to dispose of the land and improvements. Since the disposal procedure had progressed so far and it appeared that the State agencies would require a substantial amount of the lands in Fort Huachuca to properly utilize the improvements and conduct their activities, it was decided that the War Assets Administration should proceed with the disposal and return any of the lands in the surplus declaration to this Department which were not needed by the State agencies." The letter from which the above was extracted was addressed to the Honorable Carl Hayden, United States Senator from Arizona.

You will recall during this period the National Guard of Arizona was doing its utmost to acquire Fort Huachuca for the State of Arizona and that the State of Arizona was advised that a transfer could be made to the State of Arizona of that portion of Fort Huachuca which included the Artillery Range in view of the fact the Department of the Army decided that this entire area be kept intact for the training of what is termed the reserve components.

In the application submitted by the State of Arizona it was stressed very pointedly that the Artillery Range was the key to the training of the reserve components which includes the National Guard of Arizona. Sixth Army, commanded by General Clark, also stressed the great value of the Artillery Range, and of course the Department of the Army through the Secretary of the Army approved the transfer, because of the value of this large tract of land which had been set up in War Assets Administration records as comprising approximately 32,000 acres. At the time the deed was

19 May 1949

drawn however, it was disclosed that some 4000 acres could not be transferred to the State because of the peculiar manner in which they had been acquired by the War Department at the time the Artillery Range was established. This item of 4000 acres is therefore deducted and the deed at the present time transfers to the State of Arizona for use of the National Guard of Arizona 28,521 acres which is the perimeter description of the Fort Huachuca Field Artillery Range dated 28 December 1944, file number 310 which appears in WAA 1005.

The Department of the Army through the National Guard Bureau and Sixth Army with Headquarters at Presidio of San Francisco, have made it mandatory that the National Guard of Arizona train at Fort Huachuca in view of the fact that this installation has been transferred to the State of Arizona and the site is particularly adaptable to tactical training of troops employing the most modern of Army equipment. To assist the State of Arizona in fulfilling its obligation in having a National Guard properly trained and equipped, certain funds are allocated to the State for the maintenance and operation of Fort Huachuca. As of this date, a repair and construction crew are employed at Fort Huachuca getting the installation in readiness for field training during the month of August. Some \$8,000.00 can be spent within the next six weeks and at the beginning of the new fiscal year additional funds are available for the continuance of the rehabilitation work now in progress. This allotment of funds was made predicated upon what was termed to be a fact that the National Guard of Arizona did have some 28,000 acres available in the Artillery Range for training purposes. The Headquarters of the National Guard of Arizona have certified to the National Guard Bureau that 28,000 acres was available in the Artillery Range together with additional lands and improvements thereon in what is known as the original Fort Huachuca site. The National Guard of Arizona have apparently made a serious mis-statement; they do not have 28,000 acres in the Artillery Range, instead they may only have some 16,000 or 17,000 acres.

Further it is not known what areas are transferred to the Department of the Interior and it is not known whether the Department of the Interior has in turn leased this land to persons to conduct various types of activities thereon.

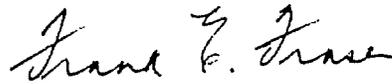
The undersigned sincerely apologizes for this voluminous letter but it is transmitted solely for the purpose of acquainting you with the problems that confront the National Guard of Arizona relative to the field training encampment to be held during the

19 May 1949

month of August 1949. An intelligent training program cannot be prepared nor transmitted to higher headquarters when it is not known what land, if any, can definitely be said to be under the jurisdiction of the National Guard of Arizona. This office is required to submit estimates of costs based upon the fact that Fort Huachuca is held to be a State installation in its entirety. This we cannot do.

In view of the fact that June 30th will soon be here and that the obligation of funds must be expedited prior to that date, it is earnestly requested that the Headquarters of the National Guard of Arizona be advised as to whether or not plans can be promulgated for the training of the National Guard of Arizona with the understanding that the Artillery Range comprises some 28,521 acres which is intact for training purposes. It is further requested that if the land has been transferred to the Department of the Interior, this Headquarters be so advised and a map furnished showing thereon the parcels of land withdrawn from the Artillery Range at Fort Huachuca that have been transferred to the Department of the Interior.

Respectfully yours,



FRANK E. FRASER
Colonel, Inf-IGD
Executive Officer
For The Adjutant General

cc: Mr. O. C. Williams
State Land Commissioner
Mr. Ed E. Atkinson
Office of District Engineer
Mr. Robert O. Kelly
State Surplus Property Officer
Mr. Perry Ling
Assistant Attorney General