

September 2, 1952

General Max Taylor
Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

My dear General:

Having had no luck in reaching you by telephone, I am writing to request that you see what you can find out about the future status of Fort Huachuca. It is rumored here and not exactly without foundation that the Department of the Army intends to put this installation on an inactive status sometime around January 1st.

I realize that this is probably entirely beyond your personal jurisdiction. Still it is not out of order for me to emphasize to you the difficulty we have in understanding just why such should be the case.

Fort Huachuca is climatically, geographically, and in every other way one of the most strategic and historically significant military installations in the United States today. When the Department of the Army surrendered it to the State of Arizona a good many months ago, we were finally reconciled to the fact that it was a matter of essential economy and something about which we could do very little. We immediately took the area over and attempted to convert it to general usefulness by a variety of means. In the course of this interlude, the facilities were to a very large extent pretty well dismantled on the assumption that in all probability it would never again be activated. Then all of a sudden, we were requested to surrender title, and the Army proceeded to invest more than eleven million dollars in completely rehabilitating the plant. The idea behind the effort was to restore it to more or less complete usefulness.

Now we discover that everybody has changed their minds again. As a state we don't know what to do. We would like to see the in-

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stallation continue to be active. Those who have been responsible for its operation are loud in their praise of what it has done for troop morale and the training program to which it has been committed generally. At the moment, no one seems to be able to figure out what comes next, if anything. It is not a very happy state of affairs. If there is any way you can throw any light on the subject, it will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely

Howard Pyle
GOVERNOR

HP/erb