

ARMY TO ESTABLISH ELECTRONICS PROVING ROUND AT FORT HUACHUCA IN FEBRUARY

Reports Post To Have 8,500 Men

WASHINGTON (AP)—A giant electronics enterprise with an anticipated annual payroll of \$1 1/2 million dollars is moving to Ft. Huachuca, Ariz. It was announced here today.

Arizona's congressional delegation revealed that the facility is expected to eventually employ 7,600 Army personnel and 1,000 civilians. It will be activated either Jan. 31 or Feb. 1.

The development is actually a transfer of all the electronic proving activities now being conducted at Ft. Monmouth, N.J., to the Southern Arizona post.

The Army said that Signal Corps electronic and aviation activities require more experimental space than is available at Ft. Monmouth. Ft. Huachuca, which has been on a standby basis since last June, was selected as the only suitable and economical site of many surveyed, the Army stated.

A spokesman said that less than 100 persons would be involved in the actual transfer from Ft. Monmouth, but figures released by Arizona's two senators and two congressmen in Washington revealed the much greater potential of the switch.

They also cited the ultimate employment total of 8,500.

In Phoenix, Gov. Howard Pyle of Arizona released the \$1 1/2 million dollar payroll figure to newsmen.

"This is the culmination of a tremendous amount of work on the part of Arizona's entire congressional delegation and ranking state officials," he said.

"It is anticipated that in due course the fort will also be used as an Army aviation development center."

He did not expand on that angle. Pyle said the new facility would begin settling up at its Arizona site on Jan. 31. Other sources said it would be Feb. 1.

Three reasons were cited for selecting the fort:

- 1—The area is relatively free from electrical interference.
- 2—There is an adequate and suitable quantity of varied terrain.
- 3—No new construction will be required.

The Army said normal broadcast bands will not be affected by its activities.

The transfer is expected to inject new life into Southern Arizona's economy. Civic leaders in Douglas, Bisbee and Tombstone have long fought for use of the fort on a permanent basis—either by the Army or for some civilian activity.

The post is one of the most scenic and historic in the Southwest.

It was founded in 1877 during the days of Arizona's bitter Apache, Indian wars. At that time the 8th Cavalry moved in to aid in battling such widely known renegades as Geronimo, Nachas, Victorio, Mangú, Chihuahua, Chato and others.

It is located some 25 miles southwest of Tombstone against a background of the Huachuca Mountains. Some of Arizona's finest grasslands are on the 117-square mile reservation.

The post was used mainly to train cavalry for many years, and some of the most famous names in American Army history have been on its rosters.

In World War II two Negro divisions of infantry were stationed there and more recently engineer troops have used the base.