

PHOENIX GAZETTE
**Huachuca To Become
Electronics Test Site**

JAN 7 1954

**Army Reveals
Reactivation,
Set For Feb. 1**

**Ultimate Personnel
Of 8,500 To Include
About 1,000 Civilians**

Gazette's Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—
A secret electronics proving
ground will be established at
Fort Huachuca Feb. 1, it was
disclosed here today.

The announcement was
made jointly by the four
members of Arizona's con-
gressional delegation after a
conference with the Depart-
ment of the Army in the Pen-
tagon.

Fort Huachuca, about 30 miles
northwest of El Paso, in Cochise
County, has been on a standby
basis since last July. Only a small
caretaking complement, consist-
ing of a few officers and less than
100 civilians, has remained there.

AN ARMY spokesman said the
base will be activated Feb. 1 and
the ultimate personnel will in-
clude about 8,500, including ap-
proximately 1,000 civilians.

The army spokesman added
that signal corps electronics and
aviation activities require more
expensive equipment than is avail-
able at Fort Monmouth, N. J.,
where they have been heretofore
located.

Major signal corps operations at
Fort Monmouth, including re-
search and development labora-
tories and the signal corps school,
will not be affected.

THREE REASONS were given
for the selection of Fort Hua-
chuca:

1.—The area is relatively free
from electrical interference from
private commercial transmitting
facilities and private receivers.

2.—There is an adequate and
suitable quantity of varied ter-
rain.

3.—No new construction will be
required because the existing
facilities and buildings will be
sufficient.

THE ARMY said normal broad-
cast bands will not be affected by
activities at the proving grounds.
The army also will try to avoid
interference with local reception
as much as possible and will
eliminate signals that create
interference, the spokesman said.

It could not be learned imme-
diately whether the operations at
Fort Huachuca will include test-
ing of guided missiles.

LESS THAN 100 civilian em-
ployees—all of them highly skilled
scientists—will be affected by the
move, the army said. Arrangements
are being made to offer
some of the employees transfers to
Fort Huachuca if they wish. The
remainder will be offered other
jobs at Fort Monmouth, the an-
nouncement said.

Fort Monmouth's signal corps
activities have been the target of
espionage charges by Sen. Joseph
R. McCarthy (R-Wis.) and several
civilian employes have been sus-
pended from work there pending
loyalty checks by the army.

Sen. Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.) said
the Arizona delegation has been
seeking some way to retain use
of Fort Huachuca by the army,
but today's announcement was
"a surprise to all of us."

Other members of the dele-
gation are Republican Sen. Barry M.
Goldwater, Rep. Harold A. Patten,
and Rep. John J. Rhodes.