

HEADQUARTERS
ARMY ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA

SIGPG-CE 601

19 AUG 1955

SUBJECT: Acquisition of Additional Real Estate

TO: Chief Signal Officer
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Reference letter CSigO, subject: Requirements for Acquisition of Additional Real Estate in support of Army Electronic Proving Ground, file SIGOP-1 dated 29 September 54, with 1st Ind.
2. In compliance with Standard Procedure CSigO, Compt-19, the following information is submitted.
 - a. Informal approval is requested to obtain a tract of land consisting of approximately 44 square miles and covering the area indicated on the inclosed map. This area is required basically for the following reasons:
 - (1) Of the presently available 80 square mile area within the reservation boundary, approximately 38 square miles are of mountainous nature without access roads and unsuitable for AEPG purposes, approximately 8 square miles are currently being utilized for an artillery range, approximately 5 square miles of otherwise usable land are utilized for small arms ranges; thus, a total of only approximately 28 square miles remains for troop unit training and AEPG Technical Program work.
 - (2) The area presently being utilized for an artillery firing range is unsatisfactory because it does not contain a large enough area for firing artillery weapons at maximum ordinate or for firing of artillery pieces larger than 105 mm howitzers. Firing on this range endangers the electrical transmission power line providing power for Fort Huachuca. It has been estimated that moving this line to a safe location would cost approximately \$58,000.00, which has not been included in the FY 56 program and which would have to be approved by the Department of the Army. Firing on the present range also constitutes a definite safety hazard to aircraft operations at Libby Army Air Field, since the 90°-270° magnetic bearing of the only paved landing strip is on a direct line with the impact area.
 - (3) Although Coronado National Forest areas are available for AEPG use, artillery firing cannot be conducted in the national forest, nor

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is it feasible to use tracked or other heavy vehicles on national forest roads. It is currently contemplated to conduct tests of communications in armor at AEPG. Suitable areas are not currently available for this test. The extreme fire danger condition of the Coronado National Forest during spring and early summer, annually, makes extensive use of these facilities problematical during the period.

(4) Conduct of the following AEPG Technical Program tests will be facilitated by the acquisition of this area.

(a) D2D2 - Drone Project - this test requires a large amount of area both for Drone flights and for recovery of the Drones after flight. This area is to be restricted to avoid collision with other air and ground objects.

(b) D2G4 - flash ranging and locating equipment - this test requires a somewhat restricted area free from outside interference.

(c) D2C4 - infra-red viewing and detecting devices - areas should be free from visible light, and horizon light should be at a minimum. Available areas have proved unsuitable for this purpose.

(d) F7A2-AN/GRC-10 radio set test. Phase 2 of this test requires that the equipment be dispersed in normal tactical fashion over relatively flat, rolling terrain such as the proposed range area.

(e) D7A6 - Operation MIRAGE. Line-of-sight characteristics of this equipment requires that the equipments be displaced relatively far apart, separated by relatively flat terrain. Difficulty has been experienced in finding a suitable area in the past.

(f) Tasks D7A9, D7A7, D7A19, D14A2 are all radio projects being conducted by E & T Department which require areas and displacements which are ideally supplied within the proposed area.

(5) The AEPG systems tests will require a large amount of real estate, particularly as the tests progress from the Division to Corps to Army phases and systems. The proposed airway for the AEPG-1 test runs from the vicinity of Hereford over Libby Field in a SE-NW direction over the present artillery range to the vicinity of Mt Wrightson. The firing on the present artillery range will interfere with this airway. In addition, it is desirable to place several tactical air strips within the reservation but at a location remote from Libby Field. These same air strips can be used in the tests of tactical air displacement of ground communications equipment presently being planned. The AEPG-4 systems test in its initial

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phases, requires several remotely located sites for the placement of communications centers and sub-centers. This requirement will be increased several times as the test progresses. A large part of this requirement can be met by utilizing the proposed area.

(6) AEPG Technical Program tasks as outlined in subparagraphs (4) and (5) above are continually under development and create a requirement for subject real estate for an indefinite period.

b. The Phoenix Real Estate office of the Corps of Engineers has estimated that \$4,000.00 will be required to transfer title to the Government.

c. When acquired, the area requested in this correspondence will be used as an artillery range, as a site for field air strips, for operational sites for the conduct of the systems tests and AEPG Technical Program Tasks.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:


H. F. SECK
Maj, SigC
Actg Asst Adjutant General

1 Incl
Real Estate Map (trip)

