

ACTIVATION OF ARMY ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA
February 1, 1954

The Signal Corps had emerged from yet another war. In retrospect any reader of history, military man or civilian, could well wonder if the saga of the United States hadn't long ago fallen into the all-too-familiar European slough, characterized by one dreary conflict after another.

Since even the United Nations did not seem positive insurance against war, America's armed services never left a war footing even after the guns ceased to bark over the rough Korean hills. The Signal Corps, demobilizing only alightly, pushed ahead for new and better tools of its unique trade.

It had, for example, to supply the equipment and most of the brains for the Army's Combat Surveillance Agency. In various stages of development were pilotless drones, airborne television systems, portable surveillance radars, some as light as 80 pounds, and infrared cameras which made a mockery of enemy camouflage and the darkness of night alike.

The Signal Corps was especially proud of its development of the solar cell -- a battery which generated electricity through the power of the sun's rays. In the growing contest to conquer outer space, this invention alone had incalculable implications.

At isolated Fort Huachuca, in southeastern Arizona, an unusual quest ended in 1954. The Signal Corps wanted an area relatively free of electromagnetic interference for testing varied equipment from guided-missile radio and TV sets to equally complex but less dramatic digital computers.

By a quirk of geography, the 74,000-acre military reservation was the answer for such experimental work.

== "A History of the Signal Corps,"
By the Editors of the Army Times.
G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1961.
Pages 173-174.