

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

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 congressional delegation after a conference with the Department of the Army in the Pentagon.

Fort Huachuca, about 30 miles northwest of Bisbee, in Cochise County, has been on a standby basis since last July. Only a small caretaking complement, consisting 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 include about 8,500, including approximately 1,000 civilians.

The army spokesman added that signal corps electronics and aviation activities "require more experienced people than is available at Fort Monmouth, N. J., where they have been heretofore located."

Major signal corps operations at Fort Monmouth, including research and development laboratories and the signal corps school, will not be affected.

THREE REASONS were given for the selection of Fort Huachuca:

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 terrain.

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

THE ARMY said normal broadcast 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 immediately whether the operations at Fort Huachuca will include testing of guided missiles.

LESS THAN 100 civilian employees—all of them highly skilled scientists—will be affected by the move, the army's 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 announcement said.

Fort Monmouth's signal corps activities have been the target of espionage charges by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis) and several civilian employees have been suspended 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 delegation are Republican Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, Rep. Harold A. Patten, and Rep. John J. Rhodes.