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# The Arizona Daily Star

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## American History Bridged by Historic Fort

### Huachuca Has Fought Indian Wars, Seen Modern GI Train

Fort Huachuca, newly announced site of a super secret army electronics proving grounds, bridges American history from the Indian wars to the atomic age.

It has had many ups and downs since its establishment 76 years ago to guard the border and slow down Indian raids on the rough Arizona frontier.

Its latest "down" was on June 1, 1953, when it was ordered deactivated as a training center and placed on a standby basis in a national military economy move.

Announcement of the closing prior to June 1, brought a flood of protests from public officials, including Gov. Howard Pyle and Arizona's congressional delegation, but to no avail.

It was as unexpected as yesterday's revelation that it once again will be a bustling military installation. It is doubtful, however, that the general public will be given an opportunity to view any of this activity.

#### Site Selected

The Fort Huachuca site first was selected Mar. 3, 1877 and became a permanent military post Jan. 21, 1878. The name officially was adopted Feb. 9, 1882.

From that time on it was occupied by thousands of soldiers, including complete Negro units, but there were threats of closure upon several occasions.

By 1931, it had become one of the most modern military posts in the country, but in 1939 it was threatened by closure. Then came the threat of World War II and the eventual training of as many as 30,000 soldiers at once prior to the actual outbreak of that conflict.

#### Decision Made

With that war over, General (now President) Eisenhower announced that Fort Huachuca would be closed, and he was backed up in this decision by President Truman.

In the interval between then and the outbreak of the Korean conflict, the fort passed into the hands of the state, was operated for a time as a haven for people of small incomes, and then went back to the government for the training of troops.

Included in the Fort Huachuca reservation are 70,000 acres of some of the most desirable land in Arizona. It currently is the haven of a large herd of buffalo maintained by the Arizona game and fish department.

#### Valuable Post

It has been estimated that as much as 60 million dollars has been spent on the fort in its 76-year history.

Some 15 million was spent on preparing it for the training of the 93rd and 94th divisions in World War II, and another 15 million for the training of air force engineers during the Korean conflict.

At present, there are 1,150 buildings on the post, all equipped. They include barracks, detached and semi-detached dwellings, mess halls, administration structures, hospital, theaters, churches, warehouses, etc.



Fort Huachuca had undergone a \$3,000,000 face lifting when this panoramic view of part of its more than 1,000 buildings was taken in April of 1951 upon its reopening as an army aviation engineer training site. The sprawling military post is located in good artillery and infantry terrain and in recent years has been headquarters for the Arizona National Guard's summer encampment.

### Bisbee's Leaders Elated Over News Of Army Project

DISBEE, Jan. 7.—(Special)—Business men throughout Bisbee were elated today at the news that Ft. Huachuca will be reactivated.

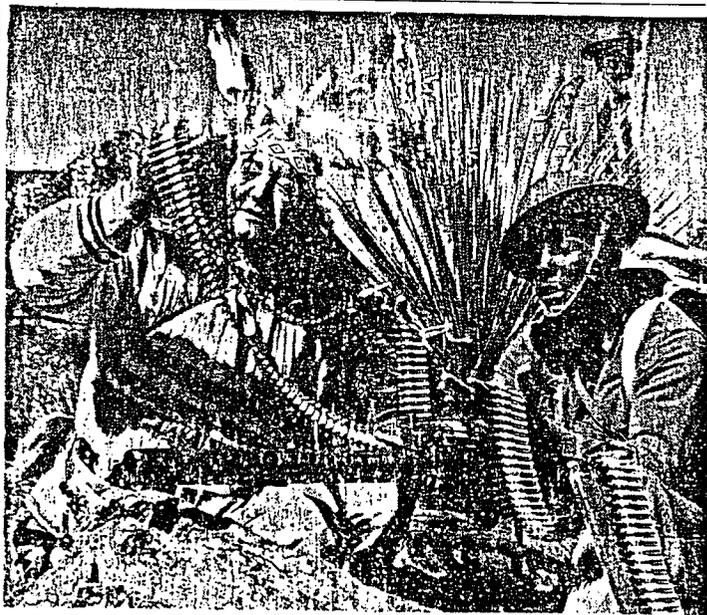
Mayor Herman T. Price said "This is the best news that could have hit the district."

Sen. Barry Goldwater estimated the payroll at the base would hit \$2,500,000 each month. With this in mind, business men felt Cochise county would be receiving a "real" economic shot.

Maj. Woodrow H. Schubert, commanding officer at the fort and one of two officers directing 60 civilians in maintenance and caretaking at the fort, said the announcement came as a surprise to him.

Major Schubert said he has not received any official word as to when troops would arrive. He said "most of the buildings are in fair condition and not too much money will be needed to rehabilitate them."

The last troops departed from the fort June 1, 1953.



Part of Fort Huachuca's colorful history was written by its Apache Indian scouts who lead troopers after marauding bands of their kinsmen and who, in more recent years, helped train combat troops. Shown above is Sgt. Siney J. Riley, Apache scout, checking over a machine gun ammunition belt with a Negro soldier in the early days of World War II. Sergeant Riley's ceremonial dress was donned for the picture, he normally wore regular army attire.

### Shot in Arm' Huachuca Plans Stir Happy Reaction

Announcement of the army's decision to establish an electronics proving grounds at Ft. Huachuca, historic military base in Cochise county, has stirred expressions of enthusiasm yesterday from Tucson business leaders. Probably the most enthusiastic was C. Edgar Coyette, manager in Tucson Chamber of Commerce.

"It is the most wonderful news I've heard in a long, long time," he asserted. "It is the fulfillment of our long-cherished hope and the living faith in Tucson and the southwest is rewarded in time to time in a really big way."

"Wonderful! It makes me realize we are not the most wonderful part of the United States." This is just what we needed. The president of some department store said. He was enthusiastic not only for the economic effect on Tucson, but for the benefits to be derived from the entire state.

"It is important militarily and economically for Cochise and Pima counties and for all of Arizona. Whatever helps Cochise and Pima, it helps everyone."

Leon Levy, president of Levy's department store, described it as "the most important thing that has happened in southern Arizona for a long time."

A payroll involving 8,500 people, he said, will have a tremendous impact on the economic communities and its neighborhoods in Tucson with many benefits to all. Back and company, stressed the importance of the millions spent in the past to build Ft. Huachuca into a modern military base.

Ideal location helps to the people of Arizona, and particularly in Cochise and Pima counties. The fort is ideally located and it makes sense for the government to use something that which millions of dollars spent. He described the arm "that will benefit everyone."

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