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 ARIZONA REPUBLIC
Huachuca Designated Army Proving Ground
 Electronics
 Staff Will
 Reach 8,500

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fort Huachuca yesterday was selected as the site for an electronics proving ground that may eventually employ 8,500 persons and have a \$9½ million payroll.

The army announced that it is transferring all of its activities in this field from Fort Monmouth, N.J., to the southern Arizona post Feb. 1.

Governor Pyle of Arizona in a special news conference in Phoenix, said the change would take place Jan. 31.

MR. PYLE revealed the potential payroll figures and pointed out that the switch could also lead to use of the fort as an "army aviation development center."

He did not elaborate on this angle.

A spokesman for the army here said that less than 100 persons would be involved in the initial transfer from Fort Monmouth and that other signal corps work would be continued there. The buildup to 8,500 will be "gradual," he said, declining to be more specific.

Activities to be continued at Fort Monmouth would include the research and development laboratories and the signal corps school.

The spokesman cited the need for more space for experimental purposes as being a prime factor in ordering the change.

HE POINTED out that Fort Huachuca, which has been on a standby basis since last June, was found to be the only suitable and economical site of many surveyed.

Its buildings and other facilities are considered adequate. No new construction is anticipated. Only a caretaking complement of soldiers is there now.

Mr. Pyle, speaking of the importance of the development, told reporters jubilantly:

"This is the culmination of a tremendous amount of work on the part of Arizona's entire congressional delegation and ranking state officials."

THE SELECTION of the fort is considered of particular importance to the economy of southern Arizona.

Fort Huachuca, located 30 miles east and north of Bisbee, is one of the oldest military posts in the United States still ready for use. Its shutdown last summer took a major market and source of purchasing power away from such towns as Bisbee, Douglas, and Tombstone.

It was founded in 1877 during the days of Arizona's Apache Indian wars and was used almost continuously from that date until after World War II. At its peak there were two divisions of Negro infantry stationed there, but in post war years it has been alternately abandoned and reactivated for training air force engineers.

IN THE EARLY days, cavalry troops from the fort fought such Indian renegades as Geronimo, Naches, Victoria, Mangus, Cochise, Chato and others.

Many of the top names in American army history have appeared on its rosters.

The post proper is set at the base of the scenic Huachuca Mountains. At its doorstep lie some of the finest virgin grasslands in the state. The reservation covers 117 square miles.

It is equipped with fine recreational facilities, including swimming pools and tennis courts, and is adjacent to an area heavily stocked with game.