

October 1968

FACT SHEET

Fert Huachuca, established in 1877 to protect early settlers, plays a major role in the national defense program as the home of the Strategic Communications Command (STRATCOM), a major field command serving as the single manager directly controlling the Army portion of the global Defense Communications System (DCS) under the Defense Communications Agency.

Located in the southeastern corner of Arizona, the fort is 12-air miles from the Mexican border. It is situated at the foot of the colorful Huachuca (Thunder in Indian translation) Mountains at an altitude of about 4,900 feet and, with its outlying test and training areas, covers an area approximately 113,000 acres. The fort is 70 miles southeast of Tucson and 30 miles southwest of Tombstone.

From 1917 until 1947, the fort was used as a training post. Two Infantry Divisions, the 92nd and the 93rd, trained here during World War II. Prior to that time cavalry units operated from the post and Fort Huachuca was one of a series of outposts using the heliograph (mirror signal system) for communications.

At the end of World War II, the installation was closed (1947) and turned over to the state of Arizona. The fort was reopened in April, 1951, during the Korean War, and was again closed in December, 1953. Fort Huachuca was reactivated in February, 1954, as headquarters for the Army Electronic Proving Ground(AEPG).

PRESENT DAY ACTIVITIES

As the home of STRATCOM, the fort serves as headquarters for about 50,000 personnel around the world. STRATCOM was first established in March, 1964, and in July, 1967, took over the post. STRATCOM is responsible to the Army's Chief of Staff.

STRATCOM delegates area control to subcommands in various sections of the globe. STRATCOM engineers install and maintain communications systems and equipment of all types, chiefly large fixed-station transmitters and relays, utilizing radio, telephone, teletype, data, facsimile and TV.

Much use is made of radio relay mechanisms such as tropospheric scatter and satellite communications. The systems are highly sophisticated for rapid, responsive heavy-duty work. They are often 'secured'---enciphered or scrambled---to protect against interception and intelligence.

Systems include Automatic Voice Network (AUTOVON), Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN) and Integrated Wideband Communications Systems (IWCS).

STRATCOM also provides transportable communications facilities for quick installation in emergency anywhere in the world. It maintains a large troop unit, the 11th Signal Group, based at Fort Huachuca, that provides this stand-by service.

U. S. ARMY GARRISON

The post's "housekeeping" duties are handled by the U. S. Army Garrison (USAG). Such activities as the engineers, motorpools, utilities, military police, maintenance of the 1,800 sets of military quarters and troop facilities, are the responsibility of USAG. The finance section and military and civilian personnel offices also are coordinated by the USAG headquarters.

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U. S. ARMY ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND (USAEPG)

USAEPG was established here in 1954. Until July, 1967, it was the main headquarters of the post. Its mission is to test and evaluate electronic equipment and systems; to provide guidance to agencies developing these products; to assist in the preparation of maintenance packages and to provide facilities to test these products.

OTHER TENANT ORGANIZATIONS

There are several 6th Army units on post. The largest is the Combat Surveillance School/Electronic Warfare School-Training Center. The organization is broken down into three parts, the CSS, EWS, and the 1st Training Brigade. In CSS various electronic and photographic surveillance classes are taught. The EWS presents courses in the maintenance and operation of electronic warfare equipment. The brigade is primarily a three-battalion unit that teaches nine advance skills to basic training graduates. These are the Wireman's Course; Wheeled Vehicle Mechanics Course; Radio Operators Course; and three types of personnel schools.

Other 6th Army organizations are the Dental Service Unit and the Raymond W. Bliss Army Hospital.

Smaller units include the Meteorological Support Activity; U. S. Army Security Agency Test & Evaluation Command; and the Area Frequency Coordinator under the Chief of Communications-Electronics, Department of the Army.

There are also liaison officers assigned here from Great Britain, Germany, Canada, and the Marine Corps.

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OTHER FACILITIES

There are two major test areas in use by AEPG:

The Surveillance System Test Facility is a 300-mile, full-instrumented range, extending from Ft. Huachuca to Yuma, Ariz., used for testing airborne electronic systems.

The Electromagnetic Environmental Test Facility is a large, outdoor field laboratory located near Gila Bend, Ariz., in which electronic devices or systems are tested for ability to operate in a typical battlefield environment.

There is also Libby Army Air Field which gained some fame as "Colfax Field" in the motion picture "Captain Newman, M. D.", filmed here several years ago. Libby Field provides aircraft for airborne testing by USAEPG and other support missions of all the units on post.

IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMY

Ft. Huachuca's contribution to Arizona's economy has been substantial since 1954. Close to \$62 million has been spent in the construction of barracks, family housing, Greely Hall (main headquarters building), Barnes Field House (sports center including indoor swimming pool), two schools, and permanent test facilities.

Over \$4 million was spend in 1966-67 in renovating the CSS-TC area for the arrival of new troops there. The \$4.5 million RWB Army Hospital opened it doors last year and in late 1966 a new \$350,000 NCO Club, La Hacienda, was put into operation.

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Ft. Huachuca authorities estimate that the current input to Arizona's economy is approximated \$80 million each year, of which over \$40 million is combined military-civilian payroll.

The noonday population of the post is now (October 1968) approximately 19,000. This figure includes approximately 3,600 civilian workers, 9,500 military personnel, and about 5,000 dependents.

More than 1,200 of the civilian workers on post commute 15 to 200 miles. Fort Huachuca payrolls are a factor in the economy of nearly every town in southeastern Arizona.