

January 1967

U. S. ARMY ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA

FACT SHEET

Fort Huachuca, established in 1877 to protect early settlers, plays a major role in the national defense program as the United States Army Electronic Proving Ground.

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

From ¹⁹¹⁷1717 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 re-opened in April 1951, during the Korean War, and was again closed in December 1953. Fort Huachuca was re-activated in February 1954 as headquarters for the Army Electronic Proving Ground.

PRESENT DAY ACTIVITIES

The mission of the Proving Ground is: To test and evaluate electronic communication equipment and systems; to provide guidance to agencies developing

(More)

USF200007326

January 1967

these products; to assist in the preparation of maintenance packages and to provide facilities to test these projects.

The ultimate goal of the Proving Ground is to insure that only the best equipment is provided to the American soldier at the lowest possible cost to the government, thus providing the battlefield commander with the best possible control through communications-electronic systems.

The Proving Ground also provides necessary support facilities for the following activities: The Combat Service Support System Test Group; Electronics Command, Meteorological Support Activity; 52nd U. S. Army Security Agency, Special Operations Command; U. S. Army Combat Surveillance School/Training Center, which includes the 1st Training Brigade; Area Frequency Coordinator under the Chief of Communications-Electronic, Department of the Army; Electronic Warfare School; 160th Signal Group; 11th Signal Group; Sixth U. S. Army Dental Service Unit; U. S. Army Hospital; U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command Headquarters (in place by June 1967).

To conduct the testing activities for the proving ground projects, Fort Huachuca has two major test areas:

The Surveillance System Test Facility is a 300 mile, fully instrumented range, extending from Fort Huachuca to Yuma, Arizona, used for testing airborne electronic systems.

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

(More)

FACT SHEET
ADD 333

January 1967

Installation activities on post include Headquarters, Troop Command, which coordinates "house keeping" activities and includes administrative coordination of the WAC Company, Headquarters Company, Installations Support Company, the 36th Army Band, a Military Police Company, Electronic Testing Company, and Communications and Automatic Data Processing Support Company.

There is also Libby Army Air Field which gained some notoriety as "Colfax Field" in the motion picture "Captain Newman, M.D.", filmed here several years ago. Libby Field provides aircraft for airborne testing by the Proving Ground.

Commander of both the Proving Ground and Fort Huachuca is Colonel Nicholas T. Angel.

Fort 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.

A \$4.5 million, three story hospital is scheduled for completion by June, 1967, and a \$350,000 NCO Club was completed in late 1966. Other construction projects, including troop barracks and other permanent-type buildings, were completed during 1966 at a cost of \$4.6 million.

Fort Huachuca contributes approximately \$46 million each year to the Arizona economy, of which \$26 million is the combined military-civilian payroll.

The total noonday population of the post is approximately 16,000. This figure includes civilian employees, military personnel, and their dependents.

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