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# Board of Supervisors Memorandum

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August 3, 2010

## Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range

### Background

The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names (Board) requests a written recommendation from Pima County on a name issue before the Board that may be of interest to residents of and visitors to Pima County.

The name ***Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range*** has been submitted to name a military electronic test range administered by Fort Huachuca. The range is used to test command control, communications, computer and intelligence systems in an electromagnetically quiet part of the state: portions of Cochise, Santa Cruz and Pima Counties (see attached map). Senate Bill 1387 provides for protection of the test range and range activity in the form of real estate disclosure. The bill was signed into law by Governor Napolitano on May 7, 2008.

The name "Buffalo Soldier" honors African American cavalry and infantry regiments stationed at Fort Huachuca; the first black regiment arrived at Fort Huachuca in 1892. The continuous era of black soldiers at the fort began in 1913 with the arrival of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, or "Buffalo Soldiers," as they were called by Plains Indians. Over the years, the name has been extended by veterans to include soldiers of all of the original black regiments.

Attached is a copy of the ***Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range*** proposal and various letters of support for the proposal.

### Recommendation

I respectfully recommend the Board of Supervisors direct County staff to issue a letter of support for the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range proposal to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry", is written over the printed name and title.

C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/mjk – July 26, 2010

Attachments

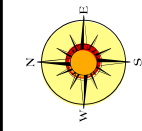
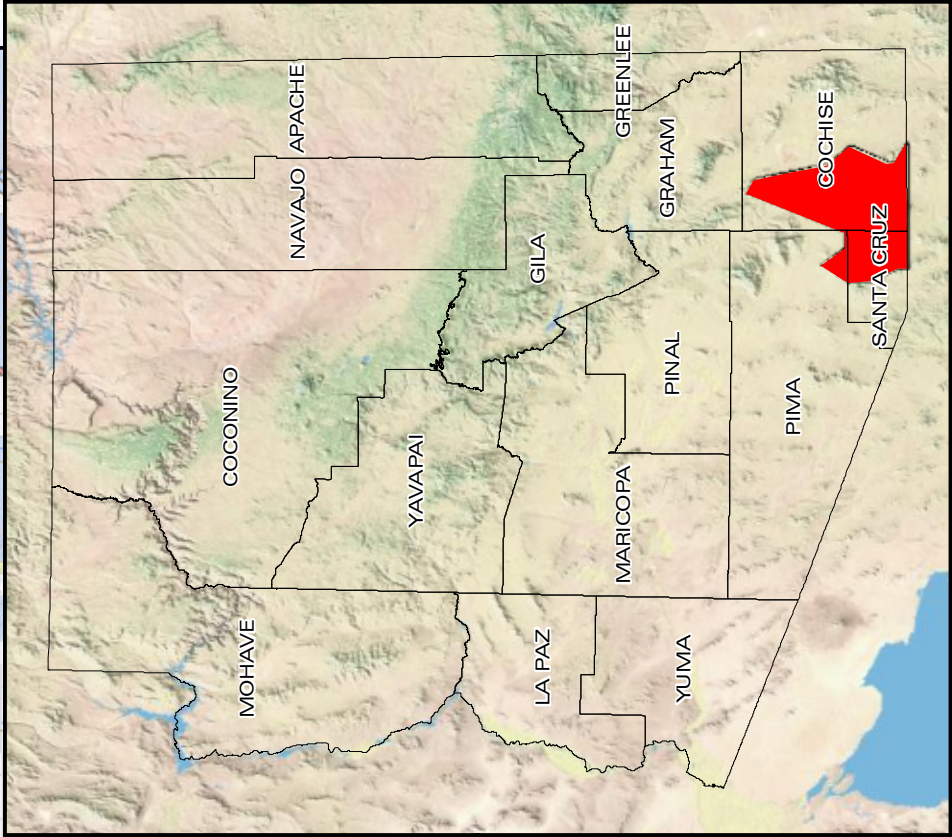
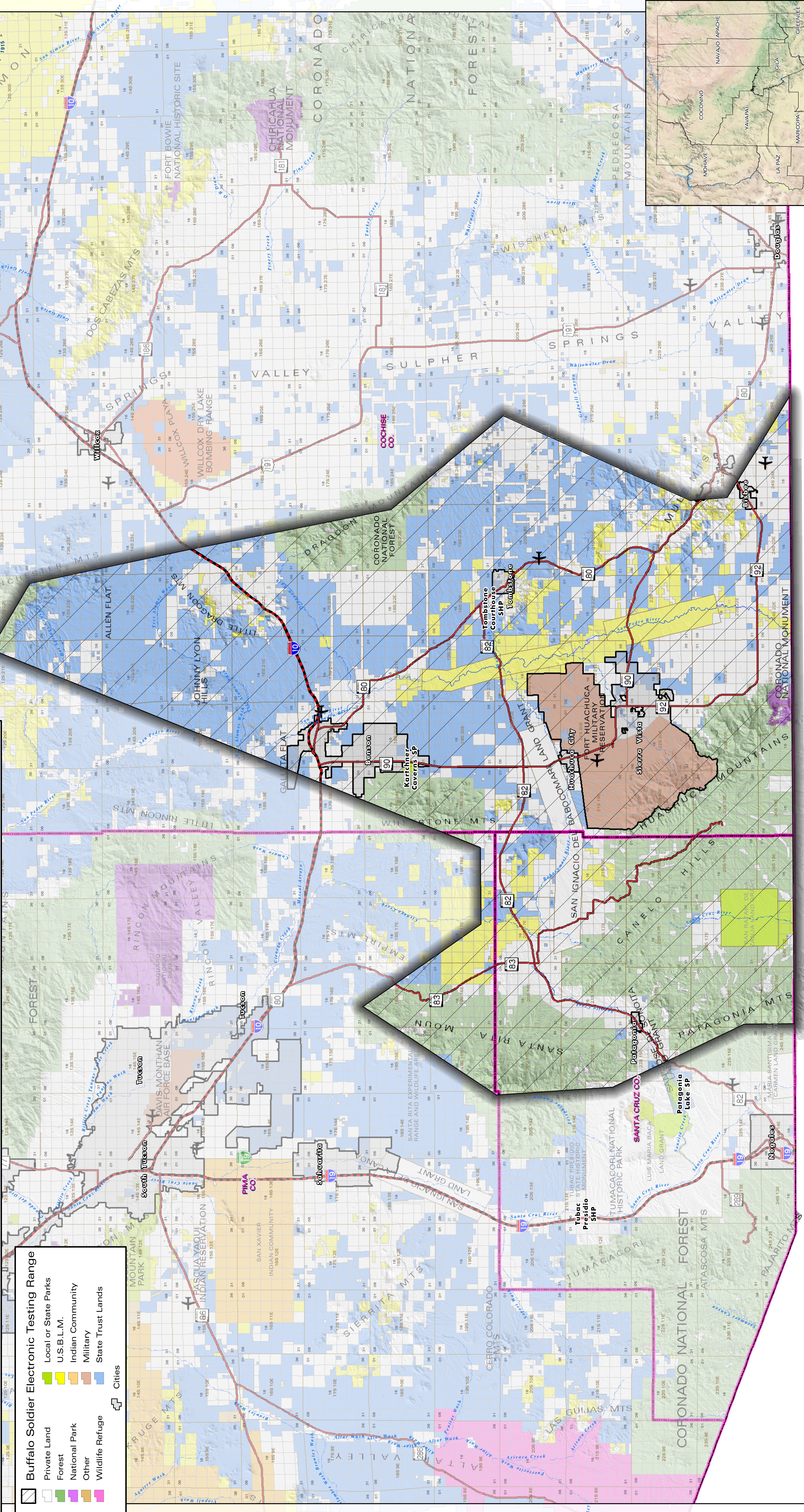


# BUFFALO SOLDIER ELECTRONIC TESTING RANGE

## Fort Huachuca, Arizona

### S.B. 1387

-  Buffalo Soldier Electronic Testing Range
-  Private Land
-  Forest
-  National Park
-  Other
-  Wildlife Refuge
-  Local or State Parks
-  U.S.B.L.M.
-  Indian Community
-  Military
-  State Trust Lands
-  Cities





# Arizona State Board On Geographic And Historic Names

## NAME PROPOSAL/NAME CHANGE APPLICATION



Proposed Name: BUFFALO SOLDIER ELECTRONIC TEST RANGE

☒ Proposed New Name

☐ Application Change

☐ Name Change

☐ Other

Land ownership:

☒ Federal ☒ State ☐ Tribal

☒ Private ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Administrative Agency:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

County: COCHISE, SANTA CRUZ

Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_

Meridian: \_\_\_\_\_ Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_ ft./m.

Lat. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" N S Long. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" W E Mouth End Center  
Lat. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" N S Long. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" W E Headline End

### Description

Type of feature (lake, stream, mountain etc.): ELECTRONIC TESTING RANGE

Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered): THE RANGE IS MAINLY LOCATED IN THE SAN PEDRO RIVER VALLEY IN COCHISE COUNTY AND ALSO EXTENDS TO THE WEST INTO SANTA CRUZ COUNTY - SEE MAP (B)

Yes ☐ No ☒ Feature is identified by other names or spellings. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes ☐ No ☐ The feature has been signed, posted, or publicized. If so, when: SB 1387, 2008  
(ATTACHED)

Please enclose a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Topographical Quad Map and mark feature for reference. For assistance in obtaining copies of appropriate documentation, please contact the Names Board support staff at the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records at 602-926-4035. Outside of Phoenix (but within Arizona), dial toll free at 1-800-255-5841.

Yes ☐ No ☒ Copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map enclosed (7.5' required)

NOTE: Attachments such as maps and photographs cannot be returned. Photocopies will be accepted.

### Definition of Name

Does the proposed name have a meaning? What is the meaning? Cite the source consulted for the meaning.

THE ELECTRONIC TEST RANGE IS MANAGED BY THE ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUNDS, FT. HUACHUCA, AZ. FORT HUACHUCA IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE HOME OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIER. SEE ATTACHED LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF BUFFALO SOLDIERS AND MG CUSTER FOR ADDITIONAL HISTORY. ALSO ATTACHED IS BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FORT TAKEN FROM THEIR WEB SITE WWW.HUACHUCA.ARMY.MIL (2)

# Arizona State Board On Geographic And Historic Names

## NAME PROPOSAL / NAME CHANGE APPLICATION

### History

Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings (add pages if needed). This may include the following: [1] Native American; [2] First Settlers; [3] Historical Background pertinent to the feature; [4] History on how the land is/was used; [5] Natural disasters (floods, fires, etc.); [6] Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources.

Origin of the name: ACCORDING TO THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MUSEUM, THE NAME ORIGINATED WITH THE CHEYENNE WARRIORS IN THE WINTER OF 1877, THE ACTUAL TRANSLATION BEING "WILD BUFFALO". HOWEVER, WRITER WALTER HILL DOCUMENTED THE ACCOUNT OF COL. BEN GRIGSON, WHO FOUNDED THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY (STATIONED AT FT. HUACHUCA). GRIGSON ASSERTED THAT IT WAS A NAME GIVEN OUT OF RESPECT FOR THEIR FERRICENT FIGHTING ABILITY. OTHERS ASSEERT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THEIR DARK CURLY HAIR WHICH RESEMBLED A BUFFALO'S COAT.

Yes ☐ No ☒ Further background information on the feature is attached.

### Justification of Proposed Name

Describe the usage of the feature THE TEST RANGE IS OPERATED BY THE US ARMY. ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND AT FORT HUACHUCA. THEY ARE THE ARMY'S PREMIER ORGANIZATION FOR TESTING COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTER & INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS IN THIS REMOTE, ELECTROMAGNETICALLY QUIET PART OF AZ. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT YOU WOULD HAVE TO GO TO AUSTRALIA'S OUTBACK TO FIND A SIMILAR ABILITY TO DO ELECTRONIC TESTING.

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest (attach additional documentation if necessary)

PROTECTION OF THE RANGE, THEREFORE THE ARMY'S ABILITY TO TEST ALL ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS IS KEY TO THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF SIERRA VISTA, COCHISE COUNTY AND THE STATE OF ARIZONA. THE NEED TO PROTECT THIS NATIONAL TREASURE IS DOCUMENTED IN THE JOINT LAND USE STUDY WHICH WAS JOINTLY CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN 2007. ALL RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, COCHISE & SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES. AS A RESULT, SB 1387 (ATTACHED) WAS PASSED AND SIGNED INTO LAW IN 2008 BY GOVERNOR NAPOLITANA. THE MAGUIRE STUDY, FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, INDICATES THAT THE FORT HAS A \$2.3 BILLION DOLLAR ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE REGION AND STATE.

Please list all sources of information used for your research on the background and history relating to the proposed name (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc.)

- FORT HUACHUCA WEB SITE
- ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND WEBSITE
- NATIONAL BUFFALO SOLDIER MUSEUM
- JOINT LAND USE STUDY - AVAILABLE AT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
- SB 1387, 2008 - ATTACHED
- MAGUIRE STUDY - AVAILABLE ON DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WEBSITE

**Arizona State Board On Geographic And Historic Names**  
**NAME PROPOSAL / NAME CHANGE APPLICATION**

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom? (e.g. geologists, nature enthusiasts, local residents, land management agencies, property owner) THE TERM 'BUFFALO SOLDIER' HAS BEEN IN USE  
By THE US ARMY, HISTORIANS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS SINCE 1877

What type of local support is there for the proposed name (e.g. land owner or manager)? Cite evidence of this support. SEE ATTACHED LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM:

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA - MAYOR BOB STRAIN (4)  
COCHISE COUNTY - JUDITHA PAT CALL (3)  
FORT HUACHUCA - MG JOHN CUSTER (6)  
SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF BUFFALO SOLDIERS - MS. JOAN LAM PRESIDENT (7)

NOTE: 2 ADDITIONAL LETTERS ARE PENDING - SANTA CRUZ COUNTY & ARMY ELECTRONIC  
PROVING GROUND.

List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses and telephone numbers (please print) and his/ her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:

Name: Col (RET) LAWRENCE PORTOUW Association: PRESIDENT, FORT HUACHUCA SO

Address: PO BOX 2898 Telephone: (520) 226-4893

FAX: ( )

City: SIERRA VISTA, AZ Zip Code: 85636-2898 e-mail: PREJ@HUACHUCA.SO.ORG

Name: MR. MICHAEL AMABLE Association: GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADVISOR, NATURAL RESOURCES

Address: EXECUTIVE OFFICE Telephone: (602) 542-3391

1700 W. WASHINGTON ST FAX: (602) 542-7601

City: PHOENIX, AZ Zip Code: 85007 e-mail: AMABLE@AZ.GOV

Name: MR. MATTHEW WALSH Association: US ARMY, FT. HUACHUCA

Address: HQ, ICDE Telephone: (520) 533-9002

ALVARADO HALL, BLDG 62711 FAX: (520) 533-5008

City: FT. HUACHUCA, AZ Zip Code: 85613-6000 e-mail: MATTHEW.B.WALSH@US.ARMY.MIL

**Arizona State Board On Geographic And Historic Names**  
**NAME PROPOSAL / NAME CHANGE APPLICATION**

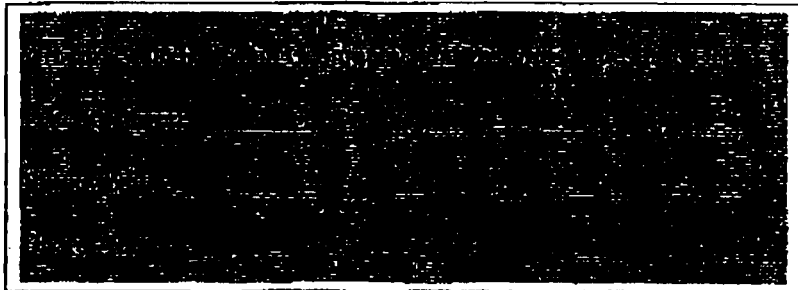
Application submitted by:	
Name: <u>THOMAS M. FINNÉGAN</u>	Affiliation / Agency / Company: <u>GOVERNORS' MILITARY AFFAIRS Commission</u> <sup>Co-Chair</sup>
Address: <u>4130 HAVASUPAI PI.</u>	Telephone: ( <u>520</u> ) <u>378-3527</u> FAX: (     )
City: <u>SIERRA VISTA AZ</u> Zip Code: <u>85650</u> e-mail: <u>TFINNÉGAN2@COX.NET</u>	
I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information (A.R.S. § 38-431.01)	
Printed Name: <u>THOMAS M. FINNÉGAN</u>	
Signature: <u><i>Thomas M. Finnegan</i></u>	Date: <u>APRIL, 2010</u>

Return to:

Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names  
c/o Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
1700 W Washington, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Additional Assistance:

Telephone: 602-926-4035  
Toll free (within Arizona, outside Phoenix): 1-800-255-5841  
FAX: 602-256-7984  
e-mail: [aznames@lists.lib.az.us](mailto:aznames@lists.lib.az.us)



## **General History**

Fort Huachuca is a product of the Indian Wars of the 1870s and 1880s. In February 1877, Colonel August B. Kautz, commander of the Department of Arizona, ordered that a camp be established in the Huachuca Mountains. This camp would offer protection to settlers and travel routes in southeastern Arizona while simultaneously blocking the traditional Apache escape routes through the San Pedro and Santa Cruz valleys to sanctuary in Mexico. A temporary camp was established at the post's current location on March 3, 1877, by Captain Samuel Marmaduke Whitside with two companies of the 6th Cavalry. The site was selected because it had fresh running water, an abundance of trees, excellent observation in three directions, and protective high ground for security against Apache tactical methods. Camp Huachuca was redesignated a fort in 1882.

In 1886, General Nelson A. Miles designated Fort Huachuca as his advance headquarters and forward supply base for the Geronimo campaign. Geronimo's surrender in August 1886 practically ended the Apache danger in southern Arizona. The Army closed more than 50 camps and forts in the territory, but Fort Huachuca was retained because of continuing border troubles involving renegade Indians, Mexican bandits, and American outlaws and freebooters.

In 1913, the 10th Cavalry "Buffalo Soldiers" arrived and remained almost 20 years. The 10th Cavalry joined General John J. Pershing in the 1916 expedition into Mexico and, during World War I, it was assigned the mission of guarding the United-States-Mexico border.

By 1933, the 25th Infantry Regiment had replaced the 10th Cavalry as the main combat unit for the fort. The 25th, in turn, was absorbed by the 93rd Infantry Division during World War II. When the 93rd departed for the Pacific in 1943, the 92nd Infantry Division arrived at the fort for training and subsequent assignment to the European Theater. During the war years, the troop strength reached 30,000 men at the fort, which in the 1930s had been described as suitable for a brigade-sized unit of about 10,000 men.

At war's end, the fort was declared surplus and transferred to the State of Arizona. It was reactivated during the Korean War by the Army Engineers.

A new era began in 1954 when control passed to the Chief Signal Officer, who found the area and climate ideal for testing electronic and communications equipment. The importance of the fort in the national defense picture grew steadily from that moment. In 1967, Fort Huachuca became the headquarters of the U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command.

Then, in 1971, the post became the home of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School, bringing with it the School Brigade.

The Strategic Communications Command became the U.S. Army Communications Command in 1973, subsequently changing to the U.S. Army Information Systems Command in 1984.

In October 1990, the post changed hands with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command became the new host command; the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca now operates the post.

Today, Fort Huachuca is a major military installation in Arizona, and one of prominence throughout the Southwest.

## **Thunder Mountain**

The post sits at the base of the Huachuca Mountains. That name comes from an obscure, local Indian language which, when loosely translated, describes a "place of thunder."

Thunder Mountain is the nickname of choice among locals and it's accurate as well, depending on the time of the year. The sight of dark clouds, cascading down the mountainside while electricity, thunderclaps, and water fill the air can be as awesome to modern man as it must have been to ancient Indians. The name must have referred to the visual spectacle rather than its frequency because, actually, Thunder Mountaineers enjoy some of the mildest and best weather in Arizona.

The original Fort Huachuca cantonment was declared a National Historic Landmark in March 1977 during a four-day centennial celebration. A rustic wooden sign and reconstructed artillery piece sit on the northeast corner of

Brown Parade Field, the center of post life during the days of horse soldiers. Surrounding buildings and homes are maintained with the appearance and flavor of the old days.

#### **Historical Museum**

When Captain Whitside led his column from the 6th Cavalry into southern Arizona and into the annals of history, he could scarcely be aware that the temporary post he was ordered to establish in the foothills of the Huachuca Mountains would survive to play a major role in the drama of the western United States.

The fascinating history of the U.S. Army in the Southwest, as well as the history of the Southwest itself, unfolds at the Fort Huachuca Historical Museum. Opened in 1960, the museum has grown rapidly and now houses one of the most representative collections in the state. The museum is one of some 500 in the country to be accredited by the American Association of Museums. Its goals have remained unchanged. Simply said, the Fort Huachuca Historical Museum endeavors to bring to the military community and general public a heightened awareness of, and an increased appreciation for, the colorful history of the Southwest and, especially, the prominent part played by the U.S. Army.

The exhibits are instructive, entertaining, and aesthetically satisfying. Some of the U.S. Army manuscripts and documents, dating back as far as 1861, can tell the viewer a great deal about the way of life on a rugged frontier.

The museum, in building 41401, is open to the public without charge. Civilian visitors are welcome. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. A leisurely walk through the museum has proven to be an enriching and stimulating experience for the thousands of guests who visit each month.

A Museum Annex across the street from the Fort Huachuca Historical Museum was officially opened in 1982, adding much-needed space to display some of the artifacts belonging to the museum. The renovation and reconstruction of the building, formerly a theater, took approximately two years to complete.

*For further information on the museum, donations of historical articles, or contributions to the museum fund, write the Museum Director.*

*U.S. Army Garrison  
ATTN: ATZS-TDO-M  
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613-6000*

*or call (520) 533-5736.*





PROPOSED AMENDMENT

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO S.B. 1387

(Reference to printed bill)

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

"Section 1. Title 9, chapter 4, article 8, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 9-500.28, to read:

9-500.28. Disclosure of filings in military electronics range:  
definition

A. A CITY OR TOWN THAT CONTAINS ANY PORTION OF A MILITARY ELECTRONICS RANGE AS DELINEATED IN THE MILITARY ELECTRONICS RANGE MAP PREPARED BY THE STATE LAND DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-102 SHALL NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF THE BASE COMMANDER WHEN AN APPLICATION IS RECEIVED BY THE CITY OR TOWN TO DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WITHIN ANY PORTION OF THE MILITARY ELECTRONICS RANGE:

1. REZONE THE PROPERTY.

2. ISSUE A BUILDING OR OTHER DEVELOPMENT PERMIT, INCLUDING AN APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OR INSTALLATION OF A PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY OPERATED UTILITY, FOR THE PROPERTY.

3. SUBDIVIDE THE PROPERTY OR OTHERWISE DIVIDE THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING ANY LAND DIVISION INTO FIVE OR FEWER LOTS, WHETHER FOR RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL OR ANY OTHER USE.

B. THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO ALLOW OR REQUIRE A CITY OR TOWN TO DENY ANY PERMIT, APPROVAL OR OTHER AUTHORIZATION BASED ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE MILITARY ELECTRONICS RANGE OR ITS PROXIMITY TO A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE.

C. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "MILITARY ELECTRONICS RANGE" MEANS THE GEOGRAPHICALLY DEFINED AREA IN WHICH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION, MONITORING OR OTHER DEVICES ARE ROUTINELY TESTED AS A PART OF THE MILITARY MISSION OF A MILITARY BASE.

Sec. 2. Title 11, chapter 6, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 11-812, to read:

11-812. Disclosure of filings in military electronics range:  
definition





# City of Sierra Vista

*Office of the Mayor*

April 6, 2010

Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names  
c/o Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Suite 200  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of the request to name the electronic range associated with Fort Huachuca, Arizona the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range. This designation supports State Senate Bill 1387, 2008, sponsored by then Senate President Tim Bee, which provided protection for the range and range activity in the form of real estate disclosure.

In June 2007, the Arizona Department of Commerce published the Fort Huachuca Joint Land Use Study under the sponsorship of the Arizona Military Regional Compatibility Project. This study defined the electromagnetic environment surrounding Fort Huachuca as an "unparalleled asset for the testing and training operations carried out under a wide variety of missions". The range boundaries extend well beyond the boundaries of the Fort. Some operations extend to the Tucson area and beyond.

With the electronic range now delineated and defined, it is desired that a name designating this space be formalized. Since Fort Huachuca is the "Home of the Buffalo Soldier", it is fitting and recommended that the name "Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range" be approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Strain".

Robert B. Strain  
Mayor

4



# Board of Supervisors

**Ann English**  
Chairman  
District 2

**Richard R. Searle**  
Vice-Chairman  
District 3

**Patrick G. Call**  
Supervisor  
District 1



**Michael J. Ortega**  
County Administrator

**James E. Vlahovich**  
Deputy County Administrator

**Katie A. Howard**  
Clerk

April 12, 2010

Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names  
c/o Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
1700 W. Washington, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 87007

Subject: Naming of the US Army Electronic Test Range

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to give my enthusiastic support to naming the electronic range at Fort Huachuca. It is appropriate and fitting that the range be named the "Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range."

Cochise County, in June of 2007, in cooperation with other cities and organizations, completed and adopted the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). Additionally, 2008 legislative statute extended protection of the range to require notification of developers and individual buyers that are within the boundaries of the range.

Cochise County and Fort Huachuca have been the home of the Buffalo Soldiers for well over a hundred years. During their years of service they have protected this nation, this state and this county. Naming this range in honor of their service is absolutely appropriate.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Call  
District 1  
Board of Supervisors



# Board of Supervisors Santa Cruz County



MANUEL RUIZ  
District 1  
RUDY MOLERA  
District 2  
JOHN MAYNARD  
District 3

April 29, 2010

Arizona State Board on Geographical and Historic Names  
Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
1700 West Washington, Suite 200  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Attn: Julie Hoff

**RE: Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range**

Dear Ms. Hoff:

As Santa Cruz County Manager I am writing to inform you that Santa Cruz County has no objection to naming the electronic test range that partially rests within Santa Cruz County the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range.

Should you have any questions concerning this correspondence please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Lucero", is written over a horizontal line.

Greg Lucero  
Manager



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND  
2000 ARIZONA STREET  
FORT HUACHUCA, AZ 85613-7063

19 April 2010

Office of the Commanding Officer

Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names  
c/o Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
1700 W. Washington, Suite 200  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Board Members,

The United States Army Electronic Proving Ground wholeheartedly supports having the Military Electromagnetic Range, as recognized by State Bill 1387, named the "Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range."

The ground breaking legislation, championed by the Governor and the Legislature in 2008, helps to ensure that this pristine test range so vital to supporting the developmental and operational testing of critical communication systems used by our Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, is protected to the greatest extent possible.

In the same spirit that the Buffalo Soldiers protected the western frontier over a century ago, the Military Electromagnetic Range sets the conditions to protect an environment for testing communications systems and networks today. It is only befitting to recognize those who went before and left such a lasting legacy with our Nation's efforts today for protecting a new frontier called cyber-space.

Recognizing the unique importance of this test range and naming it in honor of the courageous Buffalo Soldiers, who hallow the grounds of Fort Huachuca and our greater community, demonstrates the commitment of State and local leaders to secure our Nation's future while remembering its past heroes.

Sincerely,

*Christopher M. Rasmussen*  
Christopher M. Rasmussen  
Colonel, US Army  
Commanding

"Readiness Through Testing"





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
1903 HATFIELD STREET  
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA 85613-7000

April 14, 2010

Office of the Commanding General

Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names  
c/o Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
1700 W. Washington, Suite 200  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to give my support to the communities' application to name the Electronic Test Range, designated by the State of Arizona in 2008, as the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range.

Over the past few years the Fort and the communities have worked closely with the Governor's Office and the Legislature to get the Electronic Test Range on the map. We accomplished that in 2007 as we completed the Joint Land Use Study which has been fully adopted by the surrounding cities and counties. In 2008, SB 1387 extended some protection to the Range via the requirement to not only map it on State maps but also, to require the notification of both developers and individual buyers that they are within the boundaries of the Range.

Now the communities have proposed to give the Range an appropriate name. Naming it after the Buffalo Soldiers who have called Fort Huachuca home for over 130 years is both appropriate and fitting.

I am delighted that the State has taken such extraordinary actions over the past few years to protect our very critical Electronic Test Range and support the communities proposal its' official naming in honor of the thousands of Buffalo Soldiers who have served and trained here at Fort Huachuca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Custer", is written over a horizontal line.

John M. Custer  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding General

**SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF BUFFALO SOLDIERS, INC. (SWABS)  
POST OFFICE BOX 715, SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85636-0715**

Joan A. Way  
President  
Phone: 520-449-0871  
520-226-8452  
Email: [swabs.mycoc@gmail.com](mailto:swabs.mycoc@gmail.com)

Elton Greene  
Chairman, Bd of Dir  
Phone: 520-459-0881  
Email: [egreene9@cox.net](mailto:egreene9@cox.net)

Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names  
C/o Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
1700 West Washington, Suite 200  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Dear Board Members:

On behalf of the Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers, I am extremely pleased to offer our wholehearted support for the application to designate the Electronic Test Range as the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range.

At the end of the Civil War, the United States Army organized several regiments of soldiers, comprised of African-American fighting men commanded by white officers. Throughout the days of the western frontier and the Indian wars to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these tough, proud soldiers earned the title of respect as "Buffalo Soldiers". All four of these regiments (the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, and the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry) served in southeastern Arizona and Fort Huachuca.

Their enduring legacy was passed to the next generation of Buffalo Soldiers when two all African-American Army units, the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the 89<sup>th</sup> Infantry divisions trained at Fort Huachuca and the surrounding areas in Cochise County during World War II before deploying to Europe and the Pacific, respectively.

Buffalo soldiers have been associated with this part of the United States for over a century. Part of the heritage that those soldiers of the frontier days have passed to us is preserved in the motto "From sabers to satellites" when describing the activities at today's Fort Huachuca.

NATION'S FIRST MONUMENT TO THE BUFFALO SOLDIER  
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA  
HOME OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIER  
Web page: [www.swabuffalosoldiers.org](http://www.swabuffalosoldiers.org)



Naming the Electronic Test Range after the Buffalo Soldiers will help future generations understand the importance of the military heritage of this area and the contributions of these celebrated units of the United States Army. So the Southwest Association of Buffalo fully supports this effort and commends all those involved in honoring and preserving this important part of America's history.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan A. Way', written in a cursive style.

Joan A. Way  
President, SWABS