



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

January 24, 2023

Buffalo Soldier Electronic Testing and Training Range

Background

Major General Anthony R. Hale, Senior Commander of the United States Army Intelligence Center of Excellence and Fort Huachuca, is applying to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names to request a change in the name of the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range, a military electronic test range administered by Fort Huachuca. The range is centered on the fort, which is in Cochise County, but the range includes lands in adjacent Santa Cruz and Pima counties. In 2010, shortly after the range was created, it was given its current name to honor the Buffalo Soldiers, the African-American cavalry and infantry regiments stationed historically at Fort Huachuca as early as 1892. The name Buffalo Soldiers was originally used by Native Americans of the Great Plains in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to describe African-American soldiers and cavalymen out of respect for their abilities as warriors. Over the years, the name has been extended by Army veterans to include servicemen of all of the original African-American regiments.

The evolving mission of the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range, which multiple organizations now use for training as well as testing, has prompted a desire to change its name to the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Testing and Training Range. With the proposed change, the name will reflect the full scope of programs that rely on the facility. The office of Major General Hale has requested a written recommendation from Pima County in support of the name change. In 2010, Pima County provided a similar letter of support to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names for the current name of the range.

Recommendation

I respectfully recommend that the Board of Supervisors direct County staff to transmit a letter to Major General Hale supporting the renaming of the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Testing and Training Range so it can be included in the application to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Lesher", is written over a white background.

Jan Lesher
County Administrator

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: Buffalo Soldier Electronic Testing and Training Range
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c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Linda Mayro, Director, Office of Sustainability and Conservation
Yves Khawam, PhD, Senior Advisor, County Administrator's Office
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