



FEB 14 1969

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# Army Levy On Brigade Is Reduced

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Hawaii's 29th Infantry Brigade has been tapped for far less manpower for Vietnam than had been predicted.

The Brigade — one of the nation's elite Special Reserve Forces among Guard units — was called into active service May 13. Defense department officials said at the time that it might be called on to contribute up to 15 per cent of its highly trained troops in any one month.

"The levies on the Brigade have not been nearly as great as we had at first thought they might be," Col. Clyde W. Woods Jr., acting commander, said yesterday.

## 20% in December

"It's been nowhere near the 15 per cent figure. As a matter of fact, it ran about 2 per cent before Christmas and has been running between 8½ and 9 per cent since then.

"The levies were heavier in January and February — about 400 men for each month. But we're getting replacements all the time.

"Frankly, with the deactivation of other units elsewhere, we're really over-strength, but we have too many of certain kinds of trained specialists and too few of others, so they have to be integrated into our program.

"They have to do some basic, fundamental training as individuals and with new units."

The Brigade strength stands now at about 4,600 officers and men.

Some of the heaviest levies are in the ranks of top officers and lower enlisted ranks, Woods said.

## Officer Calls

"Most of our local officers are receiving orders," he said.

"I've been told to expect my orders. Col. Mickey Bowers, ~~the~~ deputy commander, is scheduled to go.

"But there's no morale

problem in the 29th. I don't think the morale of the Brigade suffered a great deal during the various controversies it's been through since it was activated.

"Our soldiers are doing a good job they're coming along fine. You don't hear anything adverse among them except from the same old group."

All units of the Brigade have been getting intensive training at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island. The 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry, has been there for the past month and is in the process of being airlifted back to Schofield Barracks this week.

Those troops deplane from 61st Military Airlift Command C-124 Globemasters at Hickam Air Force Base at about 90-minute intervals. They are replaced by troops of the 100th Battalion, 42nd Infantry, and their equipment who now are taking over the training area.

## Ends Training

The 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry, went through the Big Island training course in December.

"Each outfit has an artillery unit with them and are getting training that they can't get here, especially in the firing of all the weapons, and particularly, long-range weapons," Woods said.

"They're also getting in guerrilla training and long-range patrol and sweep operations in the Waipio Valley area.

"Also, we've been able to tie in tactical air support missions with the units of the Massachusetts and Ohio Air National Guard that have been training out here."

In June, a full brigade-size exercise will be held at Pohakuloa.

Woods said that preparations already are in the planning stage for the scheduled Dec. 15th deactivation of the 29th. Physical examinations and the paper-work necessary for the release of the men from active Army duty will be completed in advance whenever possible, he said.