

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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29th's original officer corps in war zone

All 11 of the top officers of the 29th Infantry Brigade when it was activated a year ago are now in Vietnam.

The complete turnover of the top staff officers occurred a week ago when Lt. Col. John E. Ahnoa Jr., the last of the former National Guard commanders, turned over the brigade's support battalion to Lt. Col. Thomas P. Geary III. Many of the new leaders of the 29th are Vietnam veterans. Now in Vietnam are these former Brigade leaders:

Mal. Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Schaefer III, the original commander of the brigade, Col. Clyde W. Woods Jr., deputy commander.
Lt. Col. Manuel De Mello, who headed the 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry.
Lt. Col. Fred J. Koehnen of Hilo, who headed the 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry.
Lt. Col. Bert Tokairin who commanded the 100th Battalion, 42nd Infantry.
Lt. Col. Francis A. I. Bowers Jr., who headed the 1st Battalion, 487th Artillery.
Lt. Col. Sol Kaulukukui who was executive officer.
Mal. Henry S. Hara, former brigade personnel officer.
Lt. Col. Marvin Ferreira, former intelligence officer.
Lt. Col. John R. D'Araino, former staff supply and logistics officer.
Their replacements are:
Brig. Gen. James K. Terry, as commander, Lt. Col. Richard K. Blackledge (1st Battalion, 299th), Mal. Clement K. Hauamo of Hilo (2nd Battalion, 299th), Lt. Col. John D. Crowley (422nd), Lt. Col. Michael N. Bakarich (487th Artillery).
Also Lt. Col. James D. Currie (executive officer), Mal. Stephen Schor (personnel), Lt. Col. John A. Heflinger (operations and training) and Mal. James H. Archer (supply and logistics).
About 2,000 of the original brigade members are now in Vietnam. Orders to go there, the Army said.