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DATE

29th Will Be Demobilized Saturday

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The active duty of the National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade ends at 10 a.m. Saturday with a demobilization ceremony at Schofield Barracks.

About 2,000 men of the 29th and the Army Reserve's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, will march in review at Lightning Field.

Demobilization comes almost 19 months after the Guard and Reserve units, including attached units from California and Arizona, were called to active duty. Eighteen Island members of the 29th were killed in Vietnam.

How many Mainland members of the brigade were killed in combat is not known.

Of the more than 2,000 members who survived Vietnam, all are back home today.

THEY HAVE been undergoing processing this week at Schofield in preparation for returning to Guard status or for separation from service.

Next week the 29th will resume its role as the major unit of the Guard at Ft. Ruger while its job as Pacific strategic reserve force will be taken over by a new brigade, the 4th Brigade of the 25th Division.

The 4th is a new outfit, made up largely of newcomers to the 29th Brigade, men who were not with the Island combat force when it was activated at Ft. DeRussy on May 13, 1968.

The 29th was called up in a storm of controversy.

PETITIONS WERE circulated for deactivation and Hawaii politicians in high places sought to have the Defense Department reverse itself and return the 29th to Guard status.

The 29th was called up in the wake of the USS Pueblo seizure at a time when the Army claimed its reserve strength in the Pacific was dangerously low.

Several members of the 29th even went to Washington to argue for prompt deactivation.

The controversy was a major political issue in the State for a while, particularly a year ago when the soldiers were shipped to Vietnam one by one as individual replacements, rather than as a unit.