

Reserve, Guard Out By Christmas '69

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Army announced an early release plan yesterday assuring that nearly all the 38,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen called to duty after the USS Pueblo was seized will be home before Christmas, 1969.

The Army said draft calls will be "adjusted by an amount sufficient to cover the releases," meaning a boost in the monthly draft call from about 25,000 to 28,000, starting next spring.

Yesterday's announcement said the 20,000 Army National Guardsmen and Reservists, all called to active duty last April for a maximum of two years, would get out 5 to 12 months early, with the earliest releases going to those who served in Vietnam.

The last of the 20,000 will be released by Dec. 15, 1969, the Army said.

Should conditions in Vietnam permit, considerations can be given at a later date

to a final release of all Army Reserve members and Guardsmen earlier than December, 1969," the Army said.

About 14,000 Air Force Reservists and 600 Navy Reserve airmen were called up for a two-year maximum immediately after the Pueblo was seized by North Korea last January. In April, the Army called up its 20,000 men, the Navy mobilized 1,028 Seabee Reserves and the Air Force called up 2,250 more Reservists.

The announcement, following similar early release plans by the Air Force and Navy, means approximately 37,000 of the 38,000 men called up have been promised early releases. The exceptions are the 1,028 Navy Seabees, all serving in Vietnam. The Navy said it had not decided when to let them go.

The Army said Reservists and Guardsmen who served in Vietnam will be released as

soon as they finish one-year tours of duty there, putting about half the 20,000 back in civilian clothes by next Oct. 31. The other 10,000, it said, will be let out between Dec. 1 and Dec. 15, 1969.

The Air Force Reservists will get out 7 to 17 months early under a plan announced previously. About 3,000 will be home before Christmas this year and all 16,000 are scheduled for release by next June 30. The Navy already has released all but a few of its 600 air reservists.

The Army said it would increase draft calls early so draftees can be trained and ready to replace the reservists and Guardsmen.

In connection with the move, the Army announced it was canceling a plan to disband 30 basic training companies by eliminating 2,837 military positions and 186 civilian jobs at Ft. Bliss, Tex., and Ft. Dix, N.J.