

Draft Prone? Seek a Safe 29th Berth

By Lyle Nelson
Star-Bulletin Writer

Local reaction to the lottery indicates the ranks of the Hawaii National Guard will be swelled by the men facing early draft calls.

This is happening at a time when the Guard needs to recruit about 2,000 men for its 29th Infantry Brigade, which will be deactivated from active duty with the Army next week.

The first national draft lottery since World War II was held last Tuesday.

Men most susceptible to a draft call were those whose

birthdays were among the first 120 picked (the first drawn three were Sept. 14, April 24 and Dec. 30).

"Those who drew low numbers in the lottery will be looking around for a place to land if they don't want to go in the Army," a guard spokesman said.

The 29th, now that it's done its active duty stint, should be safe from any future call up of reserve units, barring a national emergency.

"We have many openings in the enlisted ranks," the spokesman said, "as we will retain only about 30 per cent of the enlisted men now in the 29th."

Col. Edward Yoshimasu, who will take command of the 29th when it returns to the Guard, has taped a recruiting pitch for radio, in which he says the door is open for new men.

The State Selective Service office reports it's been "swamped with calls" from young men wanting more information about how the lottery works.

Edward Green, an assistant director of student affairs at the University, said counselors on campus are receiving many inquiries from students about the lottery.

"It looks like those with low numbers, or draft vulnerable, will jump into the National Guard next month," Green said.

Maj. Raymond Bane, Air Force recruiter for Honolulu, said, "We got about 15 calls the first day after the lottery,"

"We had two out of 14 scheduled to go in December, who backed out because their numbers were near the end of the list," he said.

Col. John Kent, an associate professor of military science at the University, said the Army ROTC office on campus "received no reaction" from students.