

Volunteers Augment Guard 29th Brigade

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Hawaii National Guardsmen in units not called up by the recent mobilization orders are volunteering for duty with the activated 29th Infantry Brigade.

"We've had more than 50 men from other outfits come in and ask to be transferred to units that are included in the callup," a Guard spokesman said yesterday.

"A good many of them are from the 298th Artillery Group, a missile outfit."

The 298th has approximately 800 men excluded from the active duty callup, effective May 13, when the 29th Brigade augmented by the Army Reserve 100th Battalion is due to report at Schofield Barracks.

Another 120 men are in the Hawaii Army National Guard Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, the 111th Army Guard Band and the 117th Public Information Detachment.

Their requests will be considered in view of their qualifications and as soon as vacancies are determined due to deferments.

Col. E. M. Yoshimasu, Brigade chief of staff, also ordered a speed-up in Officer Candidate School drills. It will enable 19 Guardsmen and four reservists — three

from the 100th Battalion — to receive their commissions May 10, instead of Aug. 16.

All Guardsmen being called to active duty — and their dependents — will be briefed on their rights, privileges and benefits in a series of meetings starting April 27.

A team from Guard headquarters will visit each of the islands to explain and answer questions on pay and allowances, insurance, powers of attorney, wills, re-employment rights and coverages under the law.

The schedule of briefings:

April 27—Kōhala, Olaa, Honokaa and Pahala on the Big Island and Ft. Ruger, Oahu, for Brigade headquarters and Oahu elements of 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry and 1st Battalion, 487th Artillery.

April 28—Kona and Hilo on the Big Island, Ft. Ruger,

Oahu, for 29th Support Battalion.

May 4—Molokai; Hanapepe, Kekaha and Kapaa, Kauai, and Ft. Ruger, Oahu, for those missing previous briefings.

May 5—Lahaina, Wailuku and Kahului, Maui; Kaneohe, Wahiawa and Ft. Ruger, Oahu, for those missing previous briefings.

Yoshimasu yesterday dispatched to all unit commanders the reasons under which delays may be granted members of the mobilized units.

In addition to those already publicized for students and teachers, they include extreme personal or community hardship, medical and service injury cases.

The Adjutant General has the authority to grant delays or exemptions which normally may not exceed 30 days from the date of mobilization. In exceptional cases they can be extended up to 60 days but anything longer must be approved by the Department of Army.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin J. Webster, Adjutant General, has appointed a board of officers to consider all requests for delay or exemption.

A board decision can be appealed directly to the Department of the Army.