

MAUI NEWS  
APR. 24 1968

# 'Processing' Goes Well

Close to 300 Maui dependents of National Guardsmen being pressed into active Army service on May 13 were "processed" last Saturday at the National Guard Armory in Wailuku.

Processing went "real good, better than we expected," said one Guard official.

Ten National Guardsmen assisted in the processing, which began Saturday and ended at about 2 p.m. Sunday.

The sessions were designed to assist Guard dependents in adjusting personal and family affairs, including the preparation of wills, re-arrangement of credit and home mortgage payments, and other similar matters.

Many Guardsmen called to active duty will take a "pay cut." In other words their Army pay will not measure up to what they have been receiving as civilians. Obviously, Guard offi-

cialists are anxious to help the Guardsmen and their families make the necessary adjustment.

Dependents will be called in again . . . on Sunday, May 5, for additional information, a Guard spokesman reported.

He said a team from the Guard's Judge Advocate General's office will be on Maui to conduct the sessions.

The time schedule established shows that the team will meet with Lahaina Guard dependents at 9 a.m. on Sunday and with Wailuku dependents and others at the Kahului Armory at noon, the same day.

An interesting sidelight to the recent Guard call-up is the fact that the Maui Guard has re-

ceived calls from a number of men not in the Guard who want to "volunteer."

Ten are being processed at the present time.

The call-up has affected between 350 to 400 Maui men, many of whom served in World War II and the Korean conflict.

Officials have explained that one reason a high percentage of the men in Maui, Molokai and Lanai have been activated is because the local Guard is in a "high state of combat readiness," compared to many units elsewhere.

## 'Call-Up' Committee Works Hard

Maui County Chairman Elmer F. Cravalho had County and State officials busy over the past few days checking into matters which will affect National Guardsmen involved in the May 13 call-up.

Mr. Cravalho rapidly organized a "call-up" committee and ordered it into action shortly after the announcement of the activation was made.

According to reports filed with him by committee members this week, Guardsmen need not worry about loan payments. Extensions, apparently, will be granted by local banks and loan companies.

This picture developed as a result of a survey of four banks, and five finance companies.

The only "tough" area for Guardsmen may be in the auto loan department. Apparently, Hawaii's stringent laws on auto loans, and the rapid depreciation factor, make it difficult to permit extensions.

One committee member working on "operation call-up" for Mr. Cravalho indicated that "our biggest concern for the men is insurance . . . medical insurance for the dependents."

This matter has not yet been resolved.

Another committee member made a strong recommendation that Guardsmen not resign from the State or County's retirement system.

There is a law on the books which requires either the State or Maui County to pick up the retirement system's monthly dues tab in the event of emergencies such as the existing call-up.

Still another committee member reported that all Guardsmen called up will be eligible for Veterans Administration benefits after a period of 181 days of service.

It was learned too that a Specialist Four, activated, will earn a base pay of \$440 per month, plus the usual family allowances . . . and not \$519 as reported earlier.

A committee survey showed that Maui's business community will not be as hard hit as earlier anticipated.

The major exceptions were the hotels on the West Side. They are currently mounting a major campaign to secure personnel . . . not only due to the call-up, but because of the rising visitor industry.