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Pentagon Firm on Hawaii's Quota in Callup

By GEORGE WEEKS

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Defense Department has "not reopened" the question of Hawaii's quota in the May 13 callup of Reservists and National Guardsmen, a high-ranking Pentagon official said today.

The comment was made to United Press International after a detailed account of the controversy was published in the Congressional Record at the request of Sen. Hiram L. Fong, R-Hawaii.

Fong urged the department to "reanalyze and review the present quota, with a view aimed at a reduction in the allotment of Reserve troops from Hawaii."

Late today, the Air Force did rescind a callup for 1,250 of the 3,500 Air National Guardsmen and Air Reservists who were scheduled to report for active duty Monday.

This reduced the combined services callup scheduled for Monday to 23,300 men — including more than 4,000 from Hawaii.

Asked if the Pentagon had any comment on Fong's re-

mark, a spokesman said the Defense Department had explained its position to Fong and had no further comment. One official, however, said the Hawaii callup was proceeding. And Fong's office said "as of tonight, we have heard nothing further."

The Air Force announcement said the deleted units

involve support groups who will not be needed because the combat units with which they were associated "will be located at bases where adequate support is already available." The deleted units were from Maryland and New York.

Among the material published in the Congressional Record was an April 18 letter to Fong from Alfred B. Fitt, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower.

"Throughout all the planning and decision making concerned with this mobilization, the effect upon the localities from which units were to be taken was, of course, considered," Fitt said. "But the dominant factor had to be the collective need of the nation."

Fong maintained that Hawaii had a proud record of responding to the need of the nation but he said it was unfair for Hawaii to be ordered to provide the largest state quota for May 13 — a quota that represented 17 per cent of the original total as announced April 11.

Fitt said reserve unit callups in recent years "have been balanced as much as possible to share the load. For example, the five major calls of reserve units since Jan. 1, 1965, have totaled 66,996 Reservists, of which Hawaii's pending call of 4,070 men will represent 6.1 per cent."

Fitt noted that units from Hawaii will constitute the 29th Infantry Brigade, which will be stationed at Schofield Barracks.

Fitt said the 29th "has been given special priority for personnel, equipment and training. As such it has become one of the best units in the National Guard." He

said the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, USAR, although not a part of the selected Reserve force, was designated for attachment to the 29th and "enjoys a reputation as one of the best units of the Army Reserve."

Fong said there was no way to "justify the order to a state with less than one half of one per cent of the national population to provide 17 per cent of the nationwide callup. . . . Hawaii has been ordered to provide a force that is more than 45 times what would normally be considered a just quota."

Fong gave this assessment of the impact of the callup: "According to the personnel office of the Honolulu Police Department, about 125 police officers are members of Reserve units. Police Chief Dan Liu said that the callup may involve up to 100 men on the force which has about 1,000 uniformed police-

men.

"If close to the expected number is called up, this would mean that the Honolulu Police Department would lose about 10 per cent of its officers."

"The State Department of Education estimates that as many as 150 teachers may be called to duty. This figure represents more than 2 per cent of its 7,000-plus members."

"Hawaiian Electric Company will be losing about 35 men out of a total force of just under 1,400."

"Hawaiian Telephone Company has approximately 75 men that will be affected by the callup."

"The over-all disruption and damage to the Islands' economy as a whole will also be substantial."

"The May 13 callup of 4,070 Hawaii National Guardsmen and Army Reservists will directly affect

1.3 per cent of the State's civilian labor force.

"The economy of the Big Island of Hawaii will be the hardest hit by the callup. It will be losing 3.33 per cent of her labor force. This an equivalent of 2,474,190 men being taken out of the national labor market."

"The sugar industry — Hawaii's largest industry — on the island of Hawaii will be especially hard hit, with about 100 men from the Brewer Plantations alone being called."

"Many Kona coffee farmers and hotel workers will be affected."

"The Hawaii County government will lose 40 men, nearly half from the police and fire departments."

"With the booming resort and construction industries already hard pressed for men, the highly disproportionate and unjust call for Hawaii's men will further

compound and aggravate the already tight labor market in the islands.

"The following is a breakdown by islands of the number of men that will be affected by the May 13 activation of the reserves:

● Oahu: 1,978 Guardsmen and 158 Reservists, a total of 2,496 — 1.06 per cent of the labor force.

● Lanai — Molokai: 47 Guardsmen — 1.82 per cent of the labor force.

● Hawaii: 717 Guardsmen and 117 Reservists, a total of 834 — 3.33 per cent of the labor force.

● Maui: 303 Guardsmen — 1.92 per cent of the labor force.

● Lanai — Molokai: 47 Guardsmen — 1.82 per cent of the labor force.