

# Volunteers Bolster Guard Units

By EDWARD N. INOUE  
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When the 3,200 men of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Brigade begin their active duty tomorrow in response to the Defense Department's call up, a number of them will be voluntary transfers from units that are staying home.

One of these men will be Capt. Nelson M. Kunitake, 30 of Holiualoa on the Big Island.

Kunitake will be going with the 29th Aviation Company in Hilo, a unit he had been with for a long time.

Up until a few weeks ago, Kunitake had been with the Montana National Guard

and attending the University of Montana where he was completing his junior year in forestry.

The Montana National Guard, considered a low priority force and not a select reserve force like the 29th, was not included in the callup last month of 24,000 guardsmen and reservists.

"I got a letter from my girl friend telling me my old unit was being called up," he said.

Kunitake withdrew from school, obtained his release from the Montana National Guard and flew back home to join his old unit.

"I've been pretty close

with the men in my home unit. I wanted to go with them," he said.

Another is 1st Lt. John R. D'Araujo, who transferred from the 298th Artillery to the 487th Field Artillery so he could go on active duty.

"Uncle Sam has been taking good care of me for the past few years and I thought I could return the favor," he explained.

How does his family feel about it?

"My dad is commander of the 1st Battalion of the 299th Infantry, (part of the 29th Brigade) so we've always lived with the possibility of being called up."

One of the men, a 32-year-old platoon sergeant who preferred to remain anonymous, said he was called "stupid" and "dumb" by his family for volunteering for active duty.

He said he will be losing about \$30 a month in income because of the transfer.

Why did he do it?

"I felt there would be a shortage of field artillery personnel. I thought I might be of assistance."

The sergeant, who enlisted in the guard at 17, serves as a fire control mechanic with the 298th Artillery Group where he also works as a full-time civilian work-

er. Like D'Araujo, he will be going with the 487th Field Artillery Battalion.

How do most of these transfers feel about the possibility of ending up in Vietnam?

Capt. Richard Murakami, who also transferred from the 298th and will be seeing service with the 29th Support Battalion, probably explained it best by saying "I accepted that possibility when I transferred to the (29th) Brigade."

Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Schaefer III, commander of the Brigade, said "we're happy" to have these volunteers.

"We've had more volunteers in the officer category than there were vacancies," he said.

Asked about the overall morale of the brigade, Schaefer said it is "very high."

Naturally there were a few unhappy ones at first.

These are lower ranking enlisted men, who will be facing a financial hardship. However, Schaefer said, they've accepted it and are going with the attitude, "If my unit is going, I'm going with them."

Schaefer said there were quite a few whose terms of service were up after an-



D'ARAJOJO

up the feeling of most of the men when he said, "We just want to go, do our best, and come back safely."



MURAKAMI

ouncement of the callup, but re-enlisted so they could go with their units.

One enlisted man summed