

MAY 14 1968

Thousands Bid Farewell To 800 Guardsmen, Reservists



Among the 800 Guardsmen and Reservists from the Big Island who departed Monday and today for Schofield Barracks in the call-up to active duty was PFC Oliver Cabreira of Headquarters and Headquarters



Twin brothers Larry (l) and Jerry Yoshida of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, were among two known sets of twin brothers who left Monday with the Hawaii National Guard on active duty. Others were Andrew and Anthony Cantor of the Ground Surveillance and Heavy Mortar platoon in Kona.



State Senator William H. (Doc) Hill, one of 1,400 Big Islanders called to active duty 50 years ago with the Hawaii National Guard, was on hand Monday and paused to offer a little advice to PFCs Patrick Pavao and Moke

Rawlins (r) prior to their departure. Both Guardsmen returned home only last Wednesday following completion of six-months active service.
—T.H. Photos.

Company, who is pictured here with his wife, Shirley. The couple are among several Big Islanders who will be away from Oahu for less than a month after their marriage. The Cabreiras were married April 27.

Leis, Tears All Part Of Sendoff

By ANDY BACLIG
Thousands of Big Islanders turned out late Monday afternoon and in the wee hours of the morning today to bid farewell to more than 800 National Guardsmen and Army Reservists from the Island who reported for up to two years of active military service.
It marked the first call-up by the Pentagon of foot soldiers and sailors since the Berlin crisis in 1961, and the first time the Hawaii Army National Guard has gone on active duty in 28 years.

The call-up involves a total of 20,000 Military Reservists and National Guardsmen across the country who were notified April 11 and given 30 days to arrange their affairs.

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Farewell speeches, presentation of leis and tears were all part of the aloha ceremonies coordinated by the County and conducted at 4 p.m. at the National Guard hangar site at General Lyman Field on Monday.

From the time of the first departure—shortly after 6 o'clock Monday evening carrying members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry, Hawaii Army National Guard—to the end of the last scheduled flight today at 1:30 p.m.—with members of Company B, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, Hawaii Army Reserve—it was estimated that over 10,000 relatives and friends of the departing Guardsmen and Reservists would be on hand for the sendoff.

Unlike on Oahu, where Guardsmen and Reservists encountered Anti-Vietnam War demonstrators who blocked the roadway leading from Waikiki's Fort Derussy, there were no pickets or anti-war demonstrators in evidence here.

Upon their arrival at Schofield Barracks Monday night and today, the Big Island men were to join other members of the 29th Infantry Brigade and of the Guard and the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry of the Army Reserve for a settling period that probably will last the rest of the week. The 4,000 men at Schofield Barracks, some of whom will arrive today and later this week from California and Arizona, will occupy quadrangles B, C and D during their two years of active duty barring unforeseen circumstances.

"We hope to have another celebration like this on your return," County Chairman Shunichi Kimura told the Guardsmen and Reservists. "You have our deep appreciation as you leave us and leave for us," he said.

Abraham Piianaia, executive director of Hawaiian Homes Lands, representing Governor John Burns, told the departing men, "We should be thankful to have men ready to be counted on when our country calls on you."

Col. Lester Biehler, head of the U. S. Army Reserve in Hawaii, told the men, "we welcome you in the ranks of the Regular Army."

Lt. Col. Fred Koehnen, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry, on the Big Island, thanked the nearly 2,000 persons who attended the ceremony and the community for the excellent support received the past month in preparing for the call-up.

"All of us are sad in leaving home and we look forward in doing a good job," Koehnen told the crowd. "Every man in this unit recognizes that he is answering a call which he volunteered," he said.

The Rev. Kay Tagami of the Hilo Hongwanji Mission gave the opening blessing and the Rev. Edward Flemming of St. Joseph's Church offered the closing benediction.

Deborah Ynez Gime, the new Miss Aloha Hawaii, presented leis to the speakers at the ceremony and later to the Guardsmen and Reservists in her first official duty since capturing the title last Saturday night. She was joined by other contestants of the Miss Aloha Hawaii Pageant in presenting leis to the departing men.

The Hawaii County Band also took part in the ceremonies, emceed by Arthur Herbst, Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce president.

Following the ceremonies and up until the arrival of the first aircraft, the Los Muchachos, a popular teen band, kept the crowd occupied with Herb Alpert style music which drew praise from Guard officials and the public.

Members of the Ground Surveillance section and Heavy Mortar platoon, HHC (Kona units), and 29th Brigade officers made up the second flight, which departed at 7:30 p.m.

Departing early today at 6 a.m. were members of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry, Hilo; followed at 7:30 a.m. by Company C, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry, Honokaa and Kohala; Company A, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry, Oloa and Pahala, at 11:30 a.m.; and the Army Reserve at 1:30 p.m.