

MAY 15 1968

For Soldiers of the 29th, It's Time for Adjustment

By WALLACE MITCHELL
Advertiser Military Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS—There's no such thing as an "instant army" and the soldiers of the 29th Infantry Brigade are about to learn it.

As an Army-designated Special Reserve Force, the 29th was at the peak of the nation's Guard units in manpower, equipment and training. It was one of two Guard outfits tapped in the President's April 11 callup.

But the program will be training and more training. It will start Monday, after this week of getting settled here at Schofield.

There are gaps in manpower and equipment. M-14 and M-16 rifles will start to arrive next week to replace the M-1s the men now have. All ranks will take turns on the rifle range to qualify on the new weapons.

There were 320 guardsmen whose reporting for active duty was delayed because they are finishing high school or the college semester.

There are about 100 more who are in various stages of finishing their six-month recruit training at such places as Ft. Ord, Calif.

"We've also got more than 1,000 'fillers' coming here in a month," said Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Schaefer III, the 29th's commanding general. "These will be men from the Mainland, supplied by the Army, to fill vacancies in our authorized strength.

"Some of these may be untrained and some may be veterans of Vietnam duty—we don't know."

It is the men at Schofield who are the immediate training problem.

"A lot of these guys think



SGT. JOHN SAMSON

this is like summer camp," said one officer.

"I walk down a corridor and some enlisted man I've known as a civilian for a long time just naturally is apt to greet me with 'hey, brudda—howzit?' but I'm not going to chew him out right there.

"This is just one example of the adjustments that have to be made."

Sgt. John Kehiwaioiole of Aiea is a veteran of the 1940 National Guard callup, so he's been through it before. Yesterday, he stood in a corner of the shed where the 4th Mobile Section of Company D was getting an operations lecture.

"We have many young boys in here," he said, nodding at the group.

"We can help them out. I try to tell them what to expect in the Army life and how they have to learn to adjust.

"I try to help and reason with them about Army regulations and ways of doing things."

Another old-timer is 1st Sgt. Feliciano Samson of



LT. MICHAEL SAMSON

Waipahu. He's had some personal experience in passing on some of his Army savvy—son John, 23, is a sergeant in B Battery, 487th Field Artillery, and son Michael, 21, was commissioned a second lieutenant Friday and is with A Battery of the 487th.

"Physically, they are al-



FELICIANO SAMSON

most above average," he said of the men in his Company A, 1st Battalion. "And they are eager to learn. But most of them are young and so need a little extra training."

And so it runs throughout the 29th.

About as fast as the youngsters here now are brought to a peak in their training course, spots will be taken over by the incoming "fillers" and delayed students.

Schaefer emphasized in several troop talks yesterday that they should take pride in their new role as Army soldiers. He stressed the word Army.

"They're former national guardsmen, now," he explained.

The troops will finish their first week of active duty on Saturday, with a brigade parade at 11 a.m. at Lightning Field. It will be open house on the post for families of the men, and they'll have the weekend off to spend at home.