

5/15/68

Modern weapons for 29th Brigade

By Lyle Nelson
Star-Bulletin Writer

The 29th Brigade at Schofield Barracks is being given the Army's latest combat equipment — including the new M-551 Sheridan tank, the *Star-Bulletin* learned today.

The fact that the new tank weapon will be delivered to the Hawaii-based brigade was seen as adding to the likelihood that the troops eventually will be sent to Vietnam.

The new weapon system is now coming off the assembly lines of the Allison Division of General Motors.

The M-551 Sheridan is an armored reconnaissance and airborne assault vehicle and a major advance in the Army's family of tanks, an Army publication explains.

It has greater firepower and first-round-hit probability than earlier models. It can "swim," be dropped from aircraft and be used in darkness or dim light.

An Army spokesman at Schofield Barracks said today there will be a conversion of other equipment in the months ahead for the 29th.

All National Guard units in the country have some obsolete equipment — and the 29th is no exception.

But the 29th is expected to be up to date in weapons before long.

The men of the 29th will be converting from the M1 (World War II) rifle to the M-14 soon.

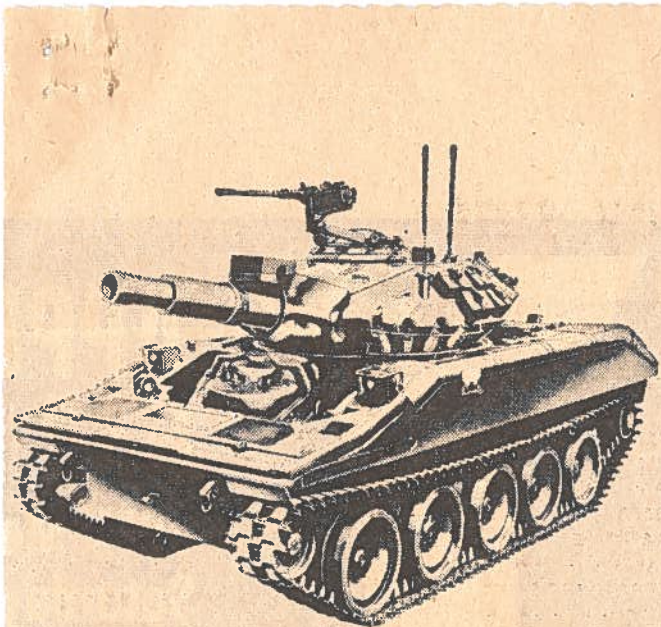
An Army spokesman could not say if the 29th will get the M-16 later. It is being used by the U.S. Army in Vietnam and is going now to South Vietnam Army units.

The last Neighbor Island units of the brigade arrived at Schofield yesterday.

The 4,000-man force is still minus about 200 university students and two high school students who will be allowed to graduate before donning a uniform.

Also included in that number are 17 teachers.

About 100 men of the 29th
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M551 Sheridan tank

New tanks for brigade

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are at Ft. Ord, Calif., taking basic training after joining the Guard prior to the call-up.

But a Guard spokesman said these men may later enter the Army manpower pool and face eventual assignment to Army forces anywhere, not necessarily back to the 29th.

The 29th today received an orientation briefing from Maj. Gen. Roy Lassetter Jr., commander of the U.S.

Army, Hawaii.

His command serves as support forces for the new tenants who were Hawaii National Guardsmen and Army Reservists until Monday morning.

An Army spokesman said the 29th soldiers will spend the balance of this week cleaning up barracks and putting their equipment away.

The tough combat training will begin later, probably next week.