

Kauai company holds war games in Koolaus

By Lyle Nelson
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The 29th Brigade's 2nd Lt. Zenon Wong was jumped nine grades up the military ladder and promoted to general last week.

But it didn't last long, and "General" Wong spent most of the time hiding with his four stars in the Koolau Mountains near Kahuku.

And his fellow soldiers from Kauai's Company B spent their time hunting for him.

It was all part of their guerrilla warfare training.

Wong, a native of Kapaa, wore a green shirt not too unlike the regular uniform worn by members of the 29th.

On his shoulders were the four red stars of "Gen. Min Ho."

Wong led "enemy" forces in the hills. They were under attack by fellow Kauai soldiers who was learning typical infantry sweep techniques.

Watching developments as a referee was Capt. Fred deBusca of Lihue.

"We've been working on these simulated platoon attacks both day and night," he said. "We'll work at company strength next."

"Try not to get captured," deBusca warned Wong who then disappeared in the woods.

The attacking force appeared over a ridge line, whooping like Comanches.

As a general, Wong outranked his father and brother, both enlisted men in the Kauai outfit, but then he does anyway.

deBusca ordered one of the "enemy" soldiers hidden



WANTED "GENERAL"—2nd Lt. Zenon Wong, right, playing the role of "Gen. Min Ho," talks to Capt. Fred deBusca.—Photos by Bob Young.

behind a tree with a M-14 loaded with blanks to let himself get captured.

So Spec. 4 Robert Ornellas of Wailua Homestead soon put his hands on his head and surrendered.

He was frisked and guarded by Pvt. Mauro Madrid of Lihue.

Madrid was left behind with prisoner Ornellas while the rest of the platoon sought out the rest of "Gen. Ho's" men.

A little later three of Ornellas buddies in green shirts slipped back through the woods and "shot" Madrid, thus releasing Ornellas, the prisoner.

When Madrid realized how he had been victimized he had a "horrified" look on his

face, as if he had been demoted for incompetence.

And so the action moved here and there.

deBusca's own son, Patrick, was a sergeant with Wong's forces.

"We talk to each other on weekends like we do normally around the house," deBusca said.

"The rest of the time it's 'sir' this and 'sir' that," deBusca said.

They have managed to go home three times since the 29th was activated.

They leave Saturday afternoons and return from Lihue on the late plane Sunday, he said.

Then they go back to being soldiers and learning the tricks of the infantry trade.



TAKEN PRISONER—Spec. 4 Robert Ornellas, playing the role of an "enemy" soldier, is taken prisoner. On the right is Pfc. Walter Shafer. On the left is Pvt. Wayne Ayudan.