

Army plans to disband, reassign 4th Brigade

By Lyle Nelson
Star-Bulletin Writer

The 1,000-man 4th Brigade at Schofield Barracks will be inactivated.

Army officials here said that 4th Brigade personnel "will be reassigned to other units in Hawaii to the extent needed."

This presumably means that many will be transferred to Hawaii's recently activated National Guard 29th Brigade. The 29th is now under manned.

"Surplus personnel will be reported to the Department of the Army for reassign-

ment," officials said.

The announcement inactivating the 4th came yesterday from the Pentagon in Washington, where Defense Secretary Clark Clifford said plans for forming a 6th Infantry Division had been dropped.

The 4th Brigade, headed by Brig. Gen. George S. Beatty Jr., was a part of the 6th. Two other skeleton brigades of the force are at Ft. Campbell, Ky. The 4th is only at one-third strength.

Only a few days ago 71 men of the 4th were transferred to the 29th Brigade, activated here May 13.

All 71 were in critical skills needed by the 29th which is about 1,000 men short.

The Star-Bulletin predicted recently the men of the 4th would be transferred to the 29th when the future of the 6th appeared to be in doubt.

Clifford said the cost factor was the major reason for not going through with activation of the 6th Division.

He said more could be done by beefing up existing divisions in the continental U.S.

Clifford said it is "advisable to bring four and one-third Army divisions in the active strategic reserve to a higher state of readiness promptly, rather than spread resources over five divisions."

The decision to create the 6th Division was made by former Secretary Robert S. McNamara last September.

Many of the men in the 4th Brigade are Vietnam war veterans with combat experience and the higher ranks among noncommissioned officers.

Of late, troops of the 4th have been helping train Island men in the 29th.

The 4th started taking shape early this year at Schofield but troop procurements moved at a snail's pace due to the pressure of manpower needs in Vietnam, among other things.