

Language Lessons Set Rumors Flying in the 29th

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Nguyen Cao Ky, the name of the flashy vice-president of Vietnam, is pronounced WIN COW KEY.

This lesson and an introduction to thousands of other Vietnamese words is being taught to a group of 29th Infantry Brigade soldiers at Schofield.

When the Vietnamese language class was introduced in mid-July, many of the 29th soldiers hastily decided

it meant the brigade would be sent to Vietnam after their training.

Not necessarily though, because the class of six students represents a tiny percentage of the 4,000-man brigade.

The Vietnamese teacher is Miss Ngo Thi Thanh, a 25-year-old former resident of Saigon. Petite and attractive, Miss Ngo has lived in Wahiawa for the last three years.

The first hour in each class in her 16-week course is devoted to a language lab

happened to be sent to Vietnam," said Sgt. I.C. Gerald Shigemura, of 41-506 Flamingo St., Waimanalo.

Shigemura is in the civil affairs section of the 29th's headquarters company; a job which would bring him into close contact with Vietnamese peasants should the brigade be sent to war.

Spec. 4 Alan Ishihara, who was an art major at the University of Hawaii before the brigade was activated, is also in the course.

"The sentence structure of Vietnamese is easy, be-

cause I know Japanese," Ishihara said. "The big problem is the amount of words we have to learn."

Vietnamese, like Chinese, is a tonal language. One word can mean five different things depending on how it is pronounced.

Others in the class are Spec. 4 David Davenport, Pfc. David J. Heuser, Spec. 4 Bobby Mougout, Spec. 4 Alan J. Sloan, and Spec. 5 James G. Warren.

An announcement that a Thai language course will

are working together much better as a group now," Gen. Schaefer has been commuting between his Schofield headquarters and Kahuku in a helicopter all week to watch the different brigade units in battalion field training.

But the Thai class will also be a small one. It will be limited to 10 soldiers.

The 1st Battalion of the 299th Infantry commanded by Lt. Col. Manuel DeMello Jr., completed its Army Training Test at Kahuku Thursday.

"The men are doing a fine job," said Brig. Gen. Frederick Schaefer. "They

men from the 29th formally graduated Wednesday afternoon from a 90-day on-the-job training course conducted within the Schofield medical facilities. They are the first group in the brigade to complete the accelerated medical training course.



and then followed by seven hours of grammar and vocabulary study.

"I decided to take the class so I would know how to speak the language if we