

Three soldiers' views on life in 29th Brigade

By Lyle Nelson
Star-Bulletin Writer

This is a tale of three soldiers in the 29th Infantry Brigade—one who likes it, one who accepts it and one who doesn't like or accept it.

Second Lt. Victor Chun of 3944 Pili Place in Kaimuki finds he has so much to do that time flies and he doesn't mind being a soldier. Being an officer instead of an enlisted man undoubtedly colors his view of things.

Spec. 4 Richard D. Leong of 3040 Diamond Head Road thought getting in the National Guard was a clever way to avoid being drafted. But he got caught in the call-up and he figures, why fight the system?—accept it.

Spec. 5 Cecil Worthington of Highland Park, Los Angeles, is one of more than 100 Army Reserve soldiers who once were members of the 63rd Division of California. Out of the blue he was called up and he doesn't like it. He



Victor Chun

is annoyed at how the fickle hand of fate turned over his number. He wants out.

CHUN, A BACHELOR, runs the post office for the 29th.

"I have so much work to



Cecil Worthington

do that time goes fast," he said. "There is not enough time to get things done."

He has nine enlisted men working for him, all but one are Island men (the others are from Ohio). He is responsible for 26 mail rooms around the brigade.

At the time of the call-up, Chun was in his fourth year at the University of Hawaii. He wants to be a landscape architect someday.

"I don't mind the call-up," he said.

And he is willing to go to Vietnam if that is in the works.

"I'm willing to do my share," he says. "I believe we have a commitment to the Vietnamese people and should see it through."

LEONG WAS in his second year at the University, hoping for a degree in business. At Schofield Barracks he is one of four clerk-typists in the personnel section at headquarters.

He doesn't have to tote a rifle around the Koolau hills.

His weapons are a typewriter, adding machine, a file cabinet, a jeep to run paperwork around in and occasionally a 2½-ton truck that can move the "office" to the field.

What bugs him about the



Richard D. Leong

Army most is "that as a student I was free to do what I wanted to do."

If Vietnam is in the works, he'll go.

"I have the philosophy of resignation," he said. "If I have to go, I'll go. I don't agree 100 per cent with what is being done in Vietnam."

WORTHINGTON'S story smacks more of personal frustration, of being caught up in bureaucracy. Yet he laughs about it more than he complains. And he has something to complain about.

He joined the Army in March 1963, on the six-month active duty, six-year reserve program now no longer in practice.

He took basic and clerical school training and became a member of the 63rd Division. "Then McNamara ordered a shakeup and the division was disbanded. I was out," he said.

Since then he had completely forgotten the Army. He had gone to no drills and no summer camp. But his six-year reserve status doesn't end until March 1969.

In recent years Worthington worked for the State of California's Highway Division as a right-of-way property management specialist.

HIS WIFE was employed as a collector of unpaid accounts for \$150 a week.

ter telling him he was called up.

WORTHINGTON reported in May, sat around Ft. Ord and the Oakland overseas replacement depot, and finally found he had a ticket for the 29th Brigade.

He's in personnel management at Schofield, "moving people into the right spots, transferring soldiers, etc.," he said. "I'm doing almost what I was doing in civilian life."

Worthington has almost four years of college work behind him in the social sciences and hopes to pick up the GI Bill for two more years at California State in Los Angeles.

Since Worthington is a short-timer, sweating out the rest of his reserve obligation which ends next March, he doubts that the Army will send him to Vietnam.

AND HE FEELS he and others from the Mainland like him may have a legal case for getting out sooner.

He said the call-up was so disruptive of his civilian routine that he often cannot believe that he is actually in uniform and at Schofield.

This treatment by Uncle Sam colors much of his thinking.

"Waikiki? I find it depressing," he said.

"Hawaii? I don't like it. Sort of hot, like Missouri with a beach."

"Vietnam? It's a worthless cause. The Soviets used the same excuse in Czechoslovakia," Worthington said.

Chun was commissioned at the National Guard's last Officers Candidate School class.

He probably is in the mail business because he saw a note on a University of Hawaii bulletin board saying that the government needed part-time mailmen. Chun signed up and spent his weekends filling in on routes for vacationing regulars.

CHUN DATES once in a while but says, "I can't afford to get married."

About three times a week go to the beach and relax to

he said. When Worthington leaves the base, he goes to Makapu'u Beach for a swim.

"After work, my routine is the same every day," he said. "First I check the mail, then eat, then change clothes, then meet my friends at the club and drink beer."

LEONG LIKES to go home when he can. He said the bed he has at Diamond Head is much better than the one he

has in Quad F.

He drives home in his F65 Olds twice a week usually.

He has a regular girl to date although they are not engaged.

All three soldiers think

Nixon is going to win the election. Chun is a Democrat.

Leong plans to vote but doesn't know who for yet. Worthington says, "Frankly, I don't care who wins."

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today she also collects rent
from seven apartment units
the couple owns.

Last April Worthington
came home from work the
day before he was to start a
two-week vacation to visit his
birthplace, Caplinger Mills,
Mo.

There was a registered let-

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