

Report on the 29th Tells 'Nothing New'

7/12/68

Speculation that Hawaii's 29th Brigade will be sent to Vietnam has appeared recently with the regularity of sunshine in Waikiki.

But yesterday an international news service added a new twist to the coverage of the Island reserve unit.

United Press International quoted the Defense Department as saying the 29th "is not being deployed to Vietnam."

These were comforting words to some of the local reservists, but as they heard more of the story they realized it said nothing new.

Rep. Spark M. Matsunaga had asked the Pentagon to confirm or deny increasing

speculation and rumors that the 29th would be sent to Vietnam.

In response to Matsunaga's

request, UPI reported, a Pentagon spokesman said that "As of now, the 29th Brigade is not being deployed to Vietnam."

UPI said the Pentagon spokesman did not tell Matsunaga whether to send the Brigade to the war area.

Brig. Gen. Frederick Shafer, commander of the 29th said after he heard the news story, "This is nothing new. This is what we've been saying all along.

"We are ready for use where and when the Army wants us. But so far, our original mission remains unchanged. We are a strategic reserve force."