

29th Brigade petition is criticized 11/20

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selves, he said, but he added that he agrees with the petition as it stands.

The author of the original document charged that the 29th Brigade was activated merely to keep down draft calls as this month's election approached.

He declined to reveal his position on the war in Vietnam, claiming that this consideration is "not connected with this at all."

He said "99 per cent" of the men in the 29th Brigade are "doing our job honestly" but don't think the callup was justified.

A lot of Guardsmen and reservists who agree with the words of the petition "may not have the courage to sign the petition," he said.

The petition author said he is not leading the movement and that it was "a Hawaiian idea."

He pleaded for support of the petition in Hawaii and expressed hope "Mrs. Joe Citizen" would seek support of the petition from Hawaii's congressional delegation.

If 29th Brigade men go to Vietnam, Hawaii will get nothing but a "bunch of graves, more than it should," he said.

29th Brigade petition form is criticized 11/23

Full text of petition and
Gen. Schaefer's statement
on Page A-12.

Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Schaefer III, commanding general of Hawaii's 29th Infantry Brigade, now mobilized at Schofield Barracks for active duty, today criticized the form of a deactivation petition being distributed within the unit.

One report is that some 1,500 men, nearly one-third of those mobilized, have signed the petition to return to civilian life.

The signers reportedly hope for twice that many.

SCHAEFER NOTED that troops have the right of petition and said he is not criticizing the exercise of this right.

He said he is concerned, however, at the text of the petition and doubts that all of the signers have read it.

He took exception to statements that the brigade has been forgotten, that its men would be sent to Vietnam "forgotten, unmourned and alone" and to inferences that the South Vietnamese are not doing their part in the war.

Schaefer also said that the "levies" being made on the 29th for Vietnam service are within the limits previously announced and constitute no breach of faith on the part of the Army.

HE SAID AN original limit of 15 per cent of the men to be assigned out of the unit and to Vietnam in any one month has since been lowered to 10 per cent, and even this lower ceiling has not been touched.

Indications from Schofield, where the 29th has been in training since May, are that the unit remains the crack unit it always was and that morale is generally high — but that the desire to return to civilian life is nonetheless widespread.

Concern also has been heightened by the decision to break up the 29th for combat service rather than keep it intact. Schaefer told the troops in his letter read today by unit commanders that the assignment of skilled troops can save lives and make for more efficient units in Vietnam.

HE NOTED THAT the activation of the unit was prompted by the Pueblo incident and not, as suggested in the petition, in an effort to reduce draft calls.

The 29th was visited yesterday by more than 100 Honolulu civic leaders including U.S. Sens. Hiram L. Fong and Daniel K. Inouye.

There had been no public announcement of the petition at that time.

The visitors were impressed at the proficiency shown by the 29th, by the wide variety of training in jungle warfare and by the modern equipment with which the unit is working — much of it capable of being airborne.

Reached at Schofield, the Mainland man who wrote the original draft of the petition said he preferred not to be identified in print.

He claimed that "three or four" 29th Brigade men from Hawaii approached him and asked him to help them word the protest statement.

These men then rewrote the statement to suit them.

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