

# 29th's Leader Says

## Petition Misleading

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A deactivation petition being circulated among soldiers of Hawaii's 29th Brigade was written by "some one from the Mainland — a very clever individual and a very clever writer."

Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Schaefer III, the 29th's commander, yesterday made this comment on a petition which protests the possibility of a "forgotten and unmentioned" death in Vietnam for several hundred mobilized Army Reserve and National Guard troops.

"Do you really feel that our participation is an ill-defined political expediency wherein this has been our national policy as set forth by our President and Congress?"

U.S. Sen. Hiram Fong said he would withhold comment on the protest until he reads the petition being circulated.

Fong recently wrote to Army Secretary Resor asking for reactivation of the 29th. Fong said he has not received a reply from the secretary.

In his letter Fong protested the likelihood that all of the 29th would be sent to Vietnam on a piecemeal basis.

A sergeant of the 29th yesterday said the petition was not written by an Island soldier.

"It's kind of a shameful thing," he said. "The majority who signed that are not local boys. Island people have a pride in serving their country."

"What I can't understand is this: They knew their obligation and now they are protesting against fulfilling it."

"I saw the petition. It was passed around and I threw it into the trash can."



SCHAEFER

them?" he asked. "They are in the minds of the people here. We know they're here. We've made every effort to do all we can for them."

He said the petition mistakenly suggested that the people of Vietnam are not behind the war effort.

"Do you realize that the South Vietnamese have more than one million men in combat, are sustaining heavy losses and are participating to the fullest?" he asked.

ly at the phrasing and were not aware of some of the implications and serious allegations," he said.

Schaefer took issue with a suggestion in the petition that the Vietnam war is "an ill-defined political expediency."

"This is a direct defiance of our President and our national policy," he said. "I don't believe this expresses the real feeling of the men in the brigade — just a handful who hoped it might get them out of the Army."

He said many of the men who joined the 29th knew they might be drafted eventually.

"I think they are better off than if they had taken their chances of being drafted," he said. "This way, they will have six months or more before going into combat and they will be better trained and better able to take care of themselves."

Schaefer said there is no question that the call-up is legal. He said it has been tested many times in court. He also disputed the petition's contention that 29th soldiers are forgotten.

"Who has forgotten

what looked like picket signs. However, the demonstration had nothing to do with the petition circulated last week by dissident 29th Brigade soldiers.

The participants were members of the Protestant Youth of the Chapel organization who wished to remind

# General Orders Men To Hear His Rebuttal

The general discussed the petition and his reply to it during an informal meeting yesterday with newsmen.

He said he first became aware of the petition on Thursday morning after a sergeant who was asked to sign one of the copies gave it to his company commander.

"Our key officers had been on a four-day exercise in the field," he said. "We were out of touch and we had no indication of what was going on."

He said many of the men who signed the petition have admitted that they now wish they had read it more carefully.

"They didn't look too close-

the State comprises less than half of one per cent of the nation's population."

The document also said Army Secretary Stanley Resor had given assurances that the "29th Brigade was not to be deployed except in case of emergency and would not be broken up in any case."

Schaefer said the petition threatens the morale of the brigade and asked, "Do you want to see us disintegrate into a group of discontents without the resolve or character that has always so distinguished any unit from Hawaii?"

He said the brigade was activated as a result of the Pueblo crisis when "international tension was high and the United States urgently needed trained troops that could be used immediately."

The general said the Army has never denied it would send individual replacements to Vietnam, and he defended the levy system as "more efficient."

Schaefer said it would be "impractical" to send the brigade to Vietnam as a unit because it would increase U.S. troop strength beyond the limit set by Congress and a "switch of brigades would be far too costly."

He also said the possibility of heavy casualties from one unit would create "an unduly grievous burden for the community."

Schaefer added, "I know many of you are not overjoyed about being on active duty." But he said, "the petition notwithstanding, I and all of Hawaii have been proud of your service to the 29th Brigade."

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ing the nationwide reserve call-up last spring, Hawaii was ordered to produce 17 per cent of the 24,000 men activated "despite the fact that

## No... Just Reminding

For a short time yesterday it looked as though peace demonstrators had invaded Schofield Barracks.

A loud-speaker blared outside the base commissary,

and some young men in civilian clothes were seen handing out leaflets, while others paced up and down with

servicemen that Protestant and Roman Catholic services will be held on base on Thanksgiving Day.

"We hear so much about demonstrating," one of the leaflets said. "This year, let us demonstrate our faith and gratitude by attending the chapel services."

## Official Surprised

David McGiffert—undersecretary of the Army, who visited Schofield Barracks yesterday—was "very disappointed" to learn of the deactivation petition, according to Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Schaefer III.

"I know it came as a surprise to him, as we had gone for so long with no problems," Schaefer said.

He said McGiffert's visit was planned some weeks ago and was not connected with the petition.

"I don't think the petition was timed to coincide with the undersecretary's visit," he said.

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