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# Army moves to demobilize 20,000 guardsmen, reservists

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army moved today to demobilize 20,000 National Guardsmen and reservists by the end of next year and indicated an easing of the Vietnam war might bring earlier release.

At the same time, the Army said draft calls will be raised by about 3,000 men a month from March through July to replace the guardsmen and reservists and keep readiness of the regular forces from slipping.

It takes about five months to train a new man before he can be assigned to a unit.

The announcement said about 10,000 of the guardsmen and reservists called to active duty last May will be returned to civilian life by next Oct. 31, the other 10,000 by Christmas, 1969.

THIS WILL lop off at least five months from the 24 months they could have served under President Johnson's callup action.

If the Paris peace negotiations are fruitful, the schedule could be moved up.

"Should conditions in Vietnam permit," the Army said, "consideration can be given at a later date to a final release of all Army reserve members and guardsmen earlier than Dec. 15, 1969."

It is also possible that the new administration might decide to reduce the over-all size of the Army, now at about 1.5 million men, in the event of a Vietnam settlement.

If that should happen, it is conceivable that draft calls might not have to be raised.

THERE HAS been no announcement yet of the number of men due to be inducted beyond January. The January quota totals 26,800.

Army authorities said that if there is a five-month draft increase to compensate for loss of the 20,000 guardsmen and reservists, they expect a corresponding decrease in draft calls next fall.

The 20,000 Army guardsmen and reservists from the bulk of 38,000 citizen soldiers, airmen and Navy men mustered last January and May following the enemy winter offensive in Vietnam and the flareup of a crisis in Korea following seizure of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo.

The Air Force will have all of its 16,127 reservists and guardsmen back out of uniform by next June 30. The Navy has released some 600 of the 1,600 reservists it ordered up. Nothing has been said about deactivation of the remainder, mostly Seabees.

THE ARMY has sent some 7,600 of its mobilized guardsmen and reservists to Vietnam in units and an undetermined number of others as individual replacements with regular outfits.

The first Army guard units went to the war zone in August and others followed in



29TH BRIGADE — Oahu troops were activated on May 13 and have been on duty since then at Schofield Barracks. Troops were assembled at Fort DeRussy on that day.

## What it means to 29th GIs

Today's Army announcement won't keep men of the 29th Brigade from going to Vietnam — but they will stay there only briefly.

To soldiers in the Schofield Barracks brigade, the announcement means:

—Men of the 29th Brigade will return to civilian life earlier than they originally figured.

—They still will have to go to Vietnam; but most will serve less than the normal one-year tour that Army draftees, volunteers and regulars have been putting in.

—That Hawaii's draft quota, now rising again after hitting a very low figure of 24 last month, will increase only slightly next spring.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT also means that the 29th's release from mobilization could come even earlier than the Army's plan announced in today's statement.

But that depends upon what is accomplished in the Paris peace talks and a change in the military situation in Vietnam where there has been sporadic heavy fighting in recent weeks.

When the 29th was called up the ex-guardsmen and Army reservists from Ft. Ruger and Ft. DeRussy knew that they faced two years of duty.

They also knew that there was a chance of an earlier release and they knew there was a slim chance of an extension beyond a two-year term.

BUT TODAY'S announcement means that instead of the 4,500 troops serving until May, 1970, half of them will get out by next October and the other half by Dec. 15.

In essence this could mean the Vietnam tour for many Island soldiers could be closer to six months instead of a year.

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The first Army guard units went to the war zone in August and others followed in September and October.

The Army announcement said all guardsmen and reservists who serve in Vietnam will complete the normal one-year duty there before being brought back and deactivated.

Some reservists and guardsmen will get out earlier than the rest because their reserve obligation will expire in the normal course.

Units that were called up will be re-established in the reserve and National Guard beginning in January 1970, the Army said.



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