

Schaefer denies committee's charge

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By Gregg Kakesako

Star-Bulletin Writer

The commander of the 29th Brigade today labeled as "absolute falsehood" and "slanderous" charges that petitions bearing the signatures of 1,000 soldiers seeking deactivation of the brigade were destroyed with his approval.

Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Schaefer III said he had no idea where the Committee for the Deactivation of the 29th Brigade got their figures.

"To say that 1,000 signatures were destroyed under my approval is an absolute slanderous statement," he said.

THE VIETNAM-bound general said his staff recently undertook a fact-finding study to investigate the matter, and did find that two petitions were destroyed.

"But," Schaefer added, "the two petitions contained only eight names, and were destroyed without my approval or knowledge."

The committee claimed that petitions containing more than 1,000 signatures had been confiscated, burned or destroyed by various unit commanders, executive officers and sergeants.

"IF ANYTHING of such a magnitude had actually taken place, I would at least have some knowledge of it . . . but the committee is just grasping."

The committee's final statement, released Sunday before it disbanded, main-

tained that "open threats of loss of Christmas leave, extra duty including KP and disciplinary action kept many from signing."

"That too is completely false," Schaefer said, "If anything else I've bent over backwards to take care of my men."