

# Pentagon Denies Reserve Call Aim

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The Defense Department said yesterday that it has no intention of using the new authority Congress has given

President Johnson to call up trained men to active duty." Under Secretary of the Army David E. McGiffert, speaking for Resor, who was one of the Reserve Force's top officials, said that the law "was ambiguous. It was intended to express his recommendation that if ever there was a callup of individuals, it should be limited to certain individuals in the Ready Reserve pool and should not include individuals from units."

The President could call up individuals who were on a standby basis in the pool as well as active whole units under the new authority. Congress has voted. Men of draft age with less than 24 months' active duty and not training

in units would be particularly vulnerable. Army leaders in the past have recommended activating some reservists — especially those with special skills — to ease the manpower strain of the Vietnam war.

But the Pentagon's civilian hierarchy has steadfastly said it can meet the needs of the war without resorting to a callup. Only if another military crisis develops besides Vietnam, McNamara has said, will he turn to the reserves.

In that event, the civilian military leaders intend to rely on the Selected Reserve Force. This is comprised of units that have been kept in a high state of readiness through more in-

tensive drilling than other reserve groups.

There are 150,000 reservists and National Guardsmen in the Army's Selective Reserve Force. Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff, said yesterday that this intensified training had resulted in a "significant increase in combat readiness."

Because of this progress, Gen. Johnson said, the required weekly drills for most of the units in the Selected Reserve Force have been ordered cut from '72 to 58 a year. Of 423 battalions and companies tested, he said, 363 have passed tests designed to indicate their readiness. Those units which have not passed the tests will continue the higher drilling rate.