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MARINE CORPS BASE
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA 92055

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THE JOINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
PHONE No. 725-5202/5103/5891

BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY: SGT. J. JOHNSTON

CAMP PENDLETON, Ca., May 8 - The Reserve Liaison (RLU) based at Camp Talaga is still able to train Marine Corps Reservists even though there is an influx of refugees into their area.

With the coming of summer the RLU normally shifts into high gear and handles thousands of Marines who come here for summer Annual Training Duty (ATD), while continuing to coordinate weekend training for other reservists not involved with ATD.

During the winter months, the RLU coordinates weekend training for a wide variety of Marine Corps Reserve units, civilian police departments and other branches of service.

At the same time, RLU also found it not feasible to conduct summer training from their normal area of operation in the Talaga area.

-more-

BUSINESS AS USUAL
ADD 1-1-1-1
By: Sgt. J. Johnston

"We've found it necessary to move much of our operation to the Vado Del Rio area located in the southern portion of the base," stated Colonel Theodore T. Culpepper, Commanding Officer of RLU.

"We still have our headquarters building, supply office, one warehouse and living quarters for our permanent personnel at Talega. The reserve units will be billeted at or near Vado Del Rio," commented the colonel.

Approximately 1,500 reservists are expected at Camp Pendleton this summer. They should arrive here for their battalion unit training in August.

"None of the changes will effect reserve training either in length or quality," emphasized the colonel. "We will ensure that the base's mission of conducting reserve training will be accomplished."

The colonel made it clear that the RLU was not the only unit affected by the evacuee effort, nor the only unit adapting successfully, citing "the outstanding efforts of Base Range Facilities, the Fifth Marine Regiment and the continuance of the First Marine Division's training, including the 5,000 Marine amphibious exercise "Bell Buster" which began Sunday and has stayed on schedule."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASERelease No. 302-75
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PHONE No. 725-5202/5103/5891**QUONSET**

BY: CWO-4 R.J. COMBS

CAMP PENDLETON, Ca., May 6 - A week ago last Monday, there were just the old quonset huts at Camps Talega and San Onofre. Today, there exists a city built to house 18,000 people.

I didn't happen overnight...it happened day and night.

^{April}
Monday, ~~May~~ 28, 8:30 a.m., the word was passed. "Prepare to feed and house up to 18,000 Indo China war refugees." The work began immediately.

The first area to be readied for the refugees who would soon arrive was to be the huts at Camp Talega. They were already standing by for the expected influx of Marine Corps Reservists and their summertime Annual Training Duty. Bunks and bedding were moved and beds were made. New signs printed in English and Vietnamese were printed and posted in the appropriate places.

-more-

QUONSET
ADD 1-1-1-1
By: CWO-4 Combs

Additional food supplies were brought in, the mess hall was put into operation, and a sick bay processing center was set up. Telephones, dozens of them needed to be installed. The work ran into the night under flood lights.

Late Monday, steps were under way to erect the first tent city, just east of Camp Talega's quonset huts. At the same time, about 90 huts at San Onofre were being prepared for the impending arrival of the first refugees. The plan was to fill up the huts first and then, as they were filled to capacity, evacuees would be moved into the tents.

Just before noon, Tuesday, Marines, Navymen and civilian workers, and in fact, the entire world through the coverage by the nearly one hundred newsmen aboard, watched the first refugees arrive at Talega. They were bussed here from their aircraft which had landed at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, some 30 miles north.

Those first bus loads were only the beginning. Camp Pendleton received 813 refugees that day. The pace stepped up considerably the next day, which was Wednesday, as more than 2,300 refugees streamed into the base, day and night. Last Thursday there were 4,200 arrivals and then the pace settled into a daily schedule of about two thousand refugees per day.

-more-

QUINSET
ADD 2-2-2-2
By: CWO-4 Combs

They came with few possessions, from all walks of life, and each one with a story of escape from a war-torn country. There are Americans with Vietnamese families, employees of American firms, doctors, lawyers, university professors, newsmen, grocery clerks, farmers, businessmen, wives, children, mothers, fathers, nieces, nephews, and those who got out alone. They appeared slightly bewildered and were obviously tired from their long trip.

There were Marine Vietnamese language experts on hand to brief the refugees, show them to their new temporary quarters, show them the camp layout and answer questions. Many of the refugees spoke from a little to a lot of English. Soon, there were many scenes of happy reunions as bus after bus was unloaded. The children, as children do everywhere, seemed to be the first to venture out of their new homes, smiling shyly at their hosts. They settled their few possessions and had their first meal in the United States.

Meanwhile, the 500-600 Marines and Base employees continued their work around the clock. More and more tent camps sprung up along the Talega road toward Camp Christianitos. Yesterday, there was only grass, today there is part of a city. The ditches and pipelines for water and power lines were installed just ahead of the tents. Thousands of tent stakes, thousands of poles, thousands of lines later, the billeting tents were finally up.

-more-

QUONSET
ADD 3-3-3-3
By: CWO-4 Combs

The last tent camp was set up near the helicopter landing zone in the valley between Camps Christianitos and San Mateo. The work platoon from the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, finished nearly 24 hours ahead of schedule with some platoon competition and several cases of liquid refreshment as the prize for the winners.

The effort required hundreds of chemical toilets, miles of pipelines and electrical and communications wiring, tons of additional food, and the unslackened effort, sweat, muscle and dedication by not only those directly involved but the hundreds of others "in the rear" who are handling the support efforts for those in the northern end of the camp.

A lot of people at Camp Pendleton lost a lot of sleep during this initial effort. But morale remained high and everything which needed to be done was done ahead of time. The primary task was to see to the health and comfort of these refugees who had been through so much to get here.

One of the well-known television network news casters closed his broadcast from Camp Pendleton with the statement that, "there's a feeling here that the Marines can do anything."

Marines know he's right.

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FOOD FOR REFUGEES

By: Cpl. John Black

CAMP PENDLETON, Ca., May 7 - It takes 41,000 cartons of non fat milk, 21,000 lbs. of bread, 10,200 lbs. of meat, 5,400 lbs. of rice and 60 cases of soy sauce to feed the Vietnamese refugees each day.

This monumental task has been handled at the backup San Mateo Dining Facility in the 62 area at Camp Pendleton.

As of May 5, the San Mateo facility equipped, processed and transported food for 6,900 refugees who are staying in the tent areas. By May 7, the dining facility was able to feed 13,000 - 14,000 Vietnamese each day at the messing facilities established in the tent camp areas.

Because of the number to be fed, extra equipment and personnel were called in to assist in the project. There are 48-Marine cooks, 37 Navy cooks supervised by ten Navy supervisors whose home port is San Diego. A total of 220 messmen are on hand now and an additional 100 men will be added by the end of the week.

-more-

FOOD FOR REFUGEES
ADD 1-1-1-1
By: Cpl. J. Black

The Navy personnel, under Navy Chief Warrant Officer John J. Sitar Jr., are part of the Navy Food Management Team from San Diego.

According to Capt. Frank Towers, Officer-in-Charge of the San Mateo backup dining facilities, the attitude and enthusiasm displayed by all these men is indicative of their high morale. They realize they have been able to accomplish a tough job on short notice.

"We have to plan our meals according to the number of people on hand," says Capt. Towers. "Often, before it is time to serve, more refugees have arrived and we must revise upward."

Captain Towers stated the problem will soon be solved because most all of the expected arrivals should be here within the next few days.

Meal time is announced by one of the translators in each camp over the public address systems, at least one-half hour prior to serving.

The only rule set by the Marines is that there should be no food taken back to the tent areas except for those who might be too old or unable to get to the facility.

According to messhall supervisors, the restriction is based on strict sanitary standards which must be contained in the living areas.

-more-

FOOD FOR REFUGEES
ADD 2-2-2-2
By: Cpl. J. Black

Many of the refugees have never taken meals in this sort of system.

English speaking refugees are asked if there are any problems concerning the food and they all say it is very good and there are no complaints as yet.

For those persons desiring to use chopsticks, they have been placed on the serving lines, but for the most part, the people are using the plastic forks, knives and spoons.

As with all the Marines working on the refugee project, the working hours for the messmen were long and tiring.

"I know the men are tired, commented Capt. Towers, "and that is the very reason I would like to give them all the credit for the success of our mission. They know what has to be done and they do it without any complaints."



JOINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE (Bldg.1180)
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REFUGEES

BY: SSGT. G. MERIWETHER

CAMP PENDLETON, Ca., May 8 - More than 22,000 refugees have arrived here since April 29 and they have started the routine processing by medical and immigration officials. Of this number, more than 6,700 have already completed processing and departed.

-30-

NOTE: Photo captions on the back of the photos.

JOINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
Marine Corps Air Station
El Toro (Santa Ana), California 92709



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE NO: 041-75

For further information
call 559-3512 or 559-3514

MCAS, EL TORO, SANTA ANA, CALIF., May 2--"Freedom" was the name of the big Overseas National Airlines DC-10 which taxied into the passenger terminal here Tuesday, April 29. Appropriately, "Freedom" carried the first of thousands of Indochina refugees to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro and to freedom.

From El Toro these refugees and the thousands who followed on later flights were bussed to Camp Pendleton for processing and temporary quarters in tents and vacant recruit barracks.

The first passenger to emerge from the big airliner and into the hazy California sunlight was Miss Vu Thi Vui, 21, of Saigon. Her last name in Vietnamese, according to interpreters at the terminal, is roughly translated as "Happy." As she stepped down the ramp in her bright pink dress, she looked more harried than happy, more apprehensive than jubilant. Like most of the other passengers, she appeared fatigued by the long journey and the rapid transitions her life had undergone in a matter of weeks.

The other refugees who crowded through the terminal were of all ages, sizes and races. Some were Americans with Vietnamese families. From babies in arms to elderly mama-sans and papa-sans, most appeared dazed by their new surroundings. They said little as they stood in line to have their credentials checked.

-more-

2-2-2-2-2
Vietnamese Refugees

Medical officers and Orange County Health Dept. officials found the refugees to be in excellent physical condition, with no illnesses reported in the first groups that arrived.

"It went so smoothly we couldn't believe it," said a State Department official in describing El Toro's management of the situation. Apparently, the long hours of preparation and close coordination among personnel here prevented unnecessary delays which could have hindered the refugees from reaching Camp Pendleton as scheduled. Barely an hour elapsed from the time the 356 passengers left the first aircraft until the caravan of buses was on the way to Pendleton.

Later refugee flights into El Toro met with less fanfare. There were fewer reporters, whirring cameras or massive television vans. Most newsmen had gone to Camp Pendleton, where the evacuees were sent for processing and temporary housing. (USMC Photos by Cpl. H. F. Hall and Sgt. D. E. Campbell)

-usmc-



SUPPORTING ART FOR
RELEASE NO: 041-75

QUICK PROCESSING---Although MCAS El Toro was prepared to process the Indochina refugees through customs, most had already been checked earlier. After a routine medical records check, they were on their way to Pendleton in less than an hour.

-usmc-

SUPPORTING ART FOR
RELEASE NO: 041-75

A NEW LIFE, A NEW LAND--Sgt. Stephen Horner, who works in MCAS El Toro's air freight department, transports a tiny Vietnamese infant from the first plane that arrived here to the passenger terminal. Sgt. Horner saw a young mother burdened with luggage and children and rushed to offer his assistance. (USMC Photo by Cpl. Harrison F. Hall)

-usmc-

DECLASSIFIED



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SUPPORTING ART FOR
RELEASE NO: 041-75

'HAPPY'--Miss Vu Thi Vui, 21, whose name means "Happy" in Vietnamese, proceeds warily down the ramp of the Overseas National Airways DC-10 which landed at MCAS El Toro Tuesday, April 29. She was the first of thousands of refugees to be received at El Toro before being bussed to Camp Pendleton for temporary quarters.

-usmc-



SUPPORTING ART FOR
RELEASE NO: 041-75

A HELPING HAND--Capt. James V. DiBernardo (r), who spent over five years in North Vietnamese prisons, assists one of the 356 refugees who arrived at MCAS El Toro on the first flight from Guam Tuesday, April 29.

-usmc-

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WHAT NEXT?--Looking tired and a little bewildered, these Vietnamese children waited in the MCAS El Toro passenger terminal while their parents were processed by customs officials.

-usmc-

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SO THIS IS AMERICA--Waiting to board a bus to Camp Pendleton these
refugees get their first glimpse of Saddleback Mountain and the United
States.

-usmc-

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SUPPORTING ART FOR
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SOUTHBOUND--The first of thousands of refugees to fly into MCAS El Toro load into buses for Camp Pendleton. Few refugees spent more than an hour here before heading south for processing.

-usmc-

200 YEARS AGO

Upset by "scandalous drunkenness" among his troops, Britain's Gen. Gage orders that all women selling rum and other spirits in Boston be immediately seized.

107th YEAR

5 May 75
San Diego Union
P. 1

SADNESS HOVERS

Chill Mixes With Worry For Refugee

By GINA LUBRANO
Staff Writer
The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — It's not even dark and the Vietnamese refugees shiver in an unaccustomed chill that chaps their lips and dries their skin.

They shiver as they stand in line for dinner. They shiver as they talk with one another.

For Le Tu, it's her thoughts that make her cold. In the three days since her arrival, her depression has been such a weight she has been unable to do anything.

Her thoughts have been on brothers and other family members left behind in Saigon, she said.

The owner of a tailor shop, the unmarried, middle-aged, woman brought with her seven "adopted" children. One is a 5-year-old girl adopted when the child was 6 days old.

Two are children of a brother and an uncle, and the others are homeless orphans she took under her care.

Sadness Takes Its Toll

"I'm feeling not sick, but upset," she said in halting English. "I feel very sad."

But, she summoned enough energy to shake off her lethargy and wash clothes.

In Saigon, she washed by machine. Here, she washed by hand, using cold water from a tap near her tent in Area Six.

She was intent as she scrubbed the clothing, the look on her face a mixture of frustration, sadness and anger.

But as she talked about her "adopted" children, her face was transformed with a smile, erasing years. She does not expect her family to stay together, she said. Some of the children have relatives in Southern California and soon will be joining them, she said.

As for herself, she does not know where she is going. She hopes she can find work.

Le Tu said that after 7 p.m., the Vietnamese at Camp Pendleton expend all their energy in keeping warm. There are no heaters in the tents or Quonset huts.

"I talk to God," she said when asked what she did during the evening hours. "I pray to God they don't give a hard time to my family in Saigon."

NE COMMANDANT**arger Evacuee
enter Opposed**

San Diego Union Staff Dispatch

PENDLETON — posed, the four-star general said.

yesterday said he Asked why the Marine Corps was unable to return the bodies of two members of the Embassy guard from here beyond the announced total Saigon, Cushman said the remains were delivered to persons.

bert E. Cushman the Embassy and were left it would be very at a church there.

It would be more **THEIR PROBLEM**

question of erect- Cushman said the two nal tents, the for- were killed the day before mander of the the final evacuation. The base said. matter is in the State De-

are problems of partment's hands, he said. "It is their problem."

water, utilities "I feel keenly for the par- ing the needed ents of both lads," he said.

With money running out e population for supporting the evacuees, 4,000 mark yes- Cushman said he did not is expected to know whether any Marine ,000 ceiling by Corps money would be reprogrammed to continue the operation.

'LEASED'

Asked whether he was re- who flew here tiring early as commandant gton, said the because his own choice for evacuees he his successor was passed eemed pleased over in favor of Lt. Gen. hough this is a Louis H. Wilson, Cushman ironment than said, "No."

Earlier, Cushman said it r general met would cost him \$100,000 over 1 Vietnamese his expected life span if he en Cao Ky in delayed his retirement past ebbing center. Sept. 1. He became com- pleasantly dis- mandant in 1972.

n Confirmed

ON (AP) — with it four-star rank.

Confirmed yes- He will succeed Gen. Rob- nomination of ert E. Cushman, who asked H. Wilson to for early retirement from nt of the Ma- the Marines after recom- mending Gen. Earl F. An-

Mississippi na- derson as his successor. An- derson also announced plans n as the top to retire in July after Wilson y that carries was nominated.

"SUNSET"

**ALL
LING**
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EACH



Worries Of Those Behind

"I feel very sorry that I come here myself and they stay in Saigon," she said.

Her family is Chinese, she explained, and a brother, the younger one she helped raise, is a soldier. He has been in the service nearly a year.

"I don't know what is the matter with him that he did not want to come," she said shaking her head.

But the sad thoughts seem to surface only if reminded with questions.

In Area One, a Marine conducts running games for children. There is no mistaking their happy shouts.

A lone youngster rummages in a deserted field and finally emerges, triumphantly carrying a branch with a caterpillar on the tip.

Outside a Quonset hut in Area One, a toddler pulls a toy, while a few feet from him, two children play house in cardboard boxes.

It is nearing evening, and in the twilight, toddlers toss pillows to one another. They stop to shout "hi" as a reporter and a Marine escort pass by. Then they dissolve in a fit of giggles.

DECLASSIFIED

COLORFUL OUTDOOR BEDDING



PLANTS

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OR **3** FOR

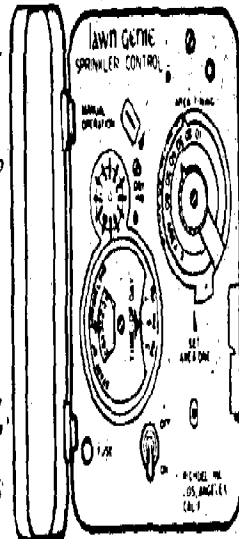
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