

---

## Guide to the Fort Chaffee Photographs of Vietnamese and Cambodian Refugees

### Collection number: MS-SEA025

Special Collections and Archives

The UCI Libraries

University of California

Irvine, California

Processed by:

Julia Stringfellow

Date Completed:

2005

Encoded by:

William Landis

© 2006 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

---

### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Fort Chaffee photographs of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees

**Date:** 1975

**Collection number:** MS-SEA025

**Collector:** Fort Chaffee (Ark.)

**Collection Size:** 0.4 linear feet(1 box)33 digitized images

**Repository:** University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.

Irvine, California 92623-9557

**Abstract:** This collection is comprised of black and white photographs and negatives taken of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees living at Fort Chaffee, a military base in Arkansas. The photographs document the daily life of the refugees, including the arrival of refugees by plane and bus, a visit from President Gerald Ford, refugee education and social activities.

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

Selected digitized images from this collection.

### Access

Collection open for research.

### Publication Rights

Property rights reside with the University of California. These materials are in the public domain. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the Southeast Asian Archive Librarian.

### Preferred Citation

Fort Chaffee photographs of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. MS-SEA025. Southeast Asian Archive, The UC Irvine Libraries, Irvine, California.

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Fort Chaffee, 2003.

### Alternative Forms of Material Available

A selection of thirty-three images from this collection has been digitized and is available in the Online Archive of California.

### Processing Information

### **Organizational History**

Fort Chaffee, a military base located in northwestern Arkansas, was a key military training installation from the early days of World War II until its closing in September 1997. Construction of the base began on September 9, 1941, with the first soldiers arriving on December 7, 1941. The mission of the post was to train U.S. soldiers for combat in Europe, America and the Pacific. Following WWII, Camp Chaffee became Fort Chaffee and continued to train U.S. Army personnel in a variety of military specialties.

In the late 1970s Fort Chaffee was a temporary home to over 50,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. From May 2 to December 20, 1975, these refugees came to Fort Chaffee to start their new lives. This task was handled very successfully and as a result, within five years, the post was called upon to help process more than 20,000 Cuban refugees.

On September 27, 1997, a change of command ceremony closed an era at Fort Chaffee. That day official command and control of the installation passed from the U.S. Army to the Arkansas Army National Guard when the U.S. Army Garrison was inactivated. The installation officially became known as the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center.

### **Collection Scope and Content Summary**

This collection is comprised of black and white photographs and negatives taken of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees living at Fort Chaffee, a military base in Arkansas. The photographs document the daily life of the refugees, including the arrival of refugees by plane and bus, a visit from President Gerald Ford, refugee education and social activities.

There are approximately 245 photographs of different sizes, and 35 millimeter negatives strips account for ten percent of the photographs.

### **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged topically.

### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Refugees -- Cambodia -- Photographs.

Refugees -- Vietnam -- Photographs.

Refugees -- Arkansas -- Fort Chaffee -- Photographs.

Fort Chaffee (Ark.).

### **Genre terms**

Photographic prints -- Arkansas -- Fort Chaffee -- 20th century.

### **Other terms**

*Southeast Asian Archive*

Box : Folder 1 : **1Cambodian dancers. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : **2Children living at Fort Chaffee. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : **3Christmas and New Year's celebrations. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : **4Dentist and staff educating refugees on dental hygiene. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : **5Drivers education. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : **6Funeral service. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : **7Halloween. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : ~~8~~**Housing for refugees. 1975**

Box FRAG 3 **Negatives of photographs. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : ~~9~~**President Gerald Ford's visit to Fort Chaffee. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : ~~10~~**Refugee activities at Fort Chaffee. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : ~~11~~**Refugees arriving at Fort Chaffee. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : ~~12~~**Refugees at meals. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : ~~13~~**Refugees receiving clothing. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : ~~14~~**Video. 1975**

Box : Folder 1 : ~~15~~**Volunteers teaching English to refugees. 1975**