

## **Guide to the Fort Chaffee Photographs of Vietnamese and Cambodian Refugees MS.SEA.025**

Julia Stringfellow, 2006.

Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

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**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

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

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

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.SEA.025

**Physical Description:** 0.4 Linear Feet(1 box) and 33 digitized images

**Date (inclusive):** 1975

**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.

**Language of Material:** English .



#### **Access**

Collection open for research.

#### **Publication Rights**

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#### **Preferred Citation**

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

For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

#### **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**

Processed by Julia Stringfellow, 2005. Processing was supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant.

#### **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.

#### **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Refugees -- Vietnam -- Photographs.

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Refugees -- Cambodia -- Photographs.  
Refugees -- Arkansas -- Fort Chaffee -- Photographs.  
Fort Chaffee (Ark.).  
Photographic prints -- Arkansas -- Fort Chaffee -- 20th century.

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box 1, folder 1	<b>Cambodian dancers 1975</b>
box 1, folder 2	<b>Children living at Fort Chaffee 1975</b>
box 1, folder 3	<b>Christmas and New Year's celebrations 1975</b>
box 1, folder 4	<b>Dentist and staff educating refugees on dental hygiene 1975</b>
box 1, folder 5	<b>Drivers education 1975</b>
box 1, folder 6	<b>Funeral service 1975</b>
box 1, folder 7	<b>Halloween 1975</b>
box 1, folder 8	<b>Housing for refugees 1975</b>
box FRAG 3	<b>Negatives of photographs 1975</b>
box 1, folder 9	<b>President Gerald Ford's visit to Fort Chaffee 1975</b>
box 1, folder 10	<b>Refugee activities at Fort Chaffee 1975</b>
box 1, folder 11	<b>Refugees arriving at Fort Chaffee 1975</b>
box 1, folder 12	<b>Refugees at meals 1975</b>
box 1, folder 13	<b>Refugees receiving clothing 1975</b>
box 1, folder 14	<b>Rodeo 1975</b>
box 1, folder 15	<b>Volunteers teaching English to refugees 1975</b>