

Guam can't keep pace

Examiner News Services

AGANA, Guam — Guam braced for a new wave of Vietnamese refugees today after a 36-hour break to allow construction crews to catch up.

Incoming flights were temporarily suspended yesterday with 20,000 refugees already on the island. There

was no break in the evacuation from Southeast Asia. A new refugee camp opened on Wake Island to absorb as many as 8,000 refugees.

Refugees were expected to resume flocking here at the rate of 6,000 per day beginning late tonight.

The temporary halt provided no respite for weary

military crews, which labored into the night laying water lines, building latrines and showers, and erecting tents.

Most activity was on the dusty, nearly cleared fields of Orote Point, where a tent city sprang up around an old World War II Japanese airstrip.

with Viet evacuation

Little food and no water or toilets were waiting for the first arrivals, and cots were not yet installed in the rows of olive drab field tents.

New arrivals sought relief from the broiling tropical sun under sheets of cardboard scrounged from obliging Marines.

Refugees tussled with

each other for the mattresses available, complained about the long walk from their tents to the kitchen, and were not happy to find their meal was just one helping of rice.

Three thousand refugees were moved into Orote Point by nightfall. About 150 were added every hour thereafter.

Teams of immigration officials arrived yesterday to try to move more refugees to the United States. More than 700 American citizens and dependents departed yesterday on three charter flights.

Although Americans apparently will be the first to leave, plans for additional outbound flights were indefinite.

Some Americans complained bitterly yesterday about the red tape. "We can't get anyone to do anything," said the John Thomson, who wanted to go to Florida.