2 Former Generals Still in Refugee Camp

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif., May 16 (AP)—Two former South Vietnamese generals who reportedly got special treatment to leave Camp Pendleton were still in the refugee camp Thursday. (60 2007)

Immigration authorities declined to say if a dozen other former high-ranking Vietnamese officials said to have been released last week were here.

Brig. Gen. Truong Bay, former chief of staff of the national police, and Brig. Gen. Huynh Thoi Tay, former head of a special branch of the South Vetnamese police, were located resting in their tent Thursday.

They were unaware of news reports that said high-ranking former officials were released without sponsors or security checks, conditions that must be met by all refugees before release.

The Washington Post and Pacifica radio network reported Wednesday that Bay and Tay were among former South Vietnamese police officials who gained early release.

The reports said the officials who were released had been responsible for suppressing dissent in Vietnam and it was feared they might face retaliation from other refugees.

A State Department official with the refugee task force in Washington, D.C., said Wednesday that Brig. Gen. Trang Si Tan, former chief of Saigon's metropolitan police, left the camp here soon after his arrival and was living in Los Angeles. But the official denied that the government had a special policy for "high-risk" officials.

However, an Immigration and Naturalization Service

official here said certain high-ranking officials were placed in a special category of "identified, well-known, high-risk people" to be released under special arrangements.

Nick Thorne, a civil coordinator here who works for the State Department, said he had orders "to see that this does not happen again."

Bay, 44, and Tay, 42, laughed as they told a reporter that immigration officials had just come to their tent to see if they were in camp.

"We told them, 'Here we are, we didn't go anywhere,'" said Bay, who added he had no fear of reprisal.

"What we did in the past we did for the government, not for ourselves," he said. "Now it is time to put that behind us and start a new life."