

Refugees JUN 2 1975 Reunited by Ham Radios

Levittown, Pa.

A Vietnamese mother of five at the Ft. Chaffee, Ark., refugee camp had given up hope of ever seeing her husband again. But a barrage of ham radio communications located him, and the couple is reunited.

The radio network was established by the Vietnamese American Refugee Association, a nationwide group of American men married to Vietnamese women who are trying to get their wives' families out of Vietnam.

Bob Bentz, a co-founder of the organization, said the woman thought her husband had been killed during the communist takeover of South Vietnam. Ham radio messages were relayed last week to other refugee camps and it was learned her husband was living at Camp Pendleton.

Bentz lined up an amateur radio operator, Bill Zaehring of Levittown, who sends the messages. "There is a similarity in names and Americans are unfamiliar with Vietnamese names," he said. "In some cases, we have sent the Vietnamese identification number to the camp but that hasn't helped because they aren't listed by it."

"We have found that we cannot get help from any government office or government officials," Bentz said. "We feel that the government should be a little more willing to assist the people."

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