

Breaking The Siesta Habit

Tallahassee, Fla.

The Americanization of Vietnamese refugees can be as basic as teaching them that midafternoon snoozes are out in the land of hustle and bustle.

Florida education officials have designed a two-week Americanization course for the 4500 Vietnamese refugees living in a tent city at Eglin Air Force Base in the Florida Panhandle.

The course would prepare the refugees for some of the shocks of adjusting to a hectic new culture. It expands upon English language courses now being taught by Okaloosa-Walton Community College staffers and volunteers.

"One of the problems we are having is that they are in the habit of having a siesta every day," Earl Gullette, dean of instruction at the college, said yesterday.

"This is not part of the American way of life, and it's something that we have to get them out of the habit of."

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