



UPI Telephoto

This refugee tearfully told her decision to rejoin her husband in South Vietnam after the Camp Pendleton camp closes

Pendleton Viet Camp Closing

Camp Pendleton

"Little Saigon," the first and biggest of the Vietnamese refugee camps, yesterday received its last major arrival of 350 persons.

The South Vietnamese, arriving from Thailand at a nearby Marine Corps field, are all being sponsored by the state of Iowa. They will undergo about a week of processing here before flying on to the Midwest to begin their new lives.

"That's it — the last major arrival before the camp closes October 31," said a base spokesman.

Marines, meantime, were tearing down the tents of "Little Saigon," once a bustling city made up of eight separate camps which housed more than 50,000 persons.

"You wouldn't recognize it today. Two of the camps have been completely dismantled and another has been reduced to half," the spokesman said. "Next month all you'll see is wide open spaces."

Population of "Little Saigon" was down to about 4300 yesterday.

A base spokesman said refugees with sponsors are leaving the camp at a rate of 250 a day, and it is hoped by this attrition that the camp will be empty by the deadline October 31.