

15 March 05

**The Vietnam Center
Texas Tech University**

**5th Triennial Vietnam Symposium
Draft Agenda**

Wednesday, 16 March

All day Participants arrive in Lubbock.

3:45 p.m. Bus departs Holiday Inn for tour of Vietnam Archive

4:00 p.m. Briefing/Tour of Vietnam Archive

5:00 p.m. Bus departs from Vietnam Archive, to Holiday Inn

7:00 p.m. Welcoming reception at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza

Thursday, 17 March

8:00 a.m. (Until 4:30) Registration/Information desk open at Holiday Inn Park Plaza, in the Atrium

8:00 a.m. (Until 4:30) Book and Museum displays: Magnolia Room

8:30 a.m. Dr. Jon Whitmore, President of Texas Tech University, opens symposium Sycamore Room

8:45 a.m. Plenary Session 1: "Searching for our MIAs: The Department of Defense's Accounting Efforts and the Evolution of U.S. Relations with Vietnam."

Moderator: Gary Sydow, DPMO Sycamore Room

Panel:

Gary Sydow, Director, Research & Analysis Directorate, Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)

Gary Flanagan, Casualty Resolution Specialist, Det. E, Hanoi, Joint POW/Missing Personnel Accounting Command (JPAC)

James Coyle, Senior Analyst and Researchers, JPAC

Ronald Cima, Senior Analyst for Southeast Asia, Research & Analysis Dir., DPMO

10:30 a.m. Questions & Answers

10:45 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. Plenary Session 2: The Continuing Process of Normalization

Ambassador Raymond Burghardt
Room

Sycamore

Noon Lunch at Holiday Inn Park Plaza.

Atrium

Speaker: Ambassador Michael Marine; Current US Ambassador to Vietnam

1:30 p.m. Session 3a: Vietnam and Iraq: Déjà vu All Over Again, or Not?

Chair & Commentator: Earl H. Tilford, Grove City College

Mahogany Room

"Power and Secrecy: Vietnam and Iraq." John Prados, National Security Archives

"Tonkin Gulf and the WMD Issue." Edwin Moise, Clemson University

"The 'Other War' in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq." Marc Jason Gilbert, North Georgia College and State University.

1:30 p.m. Session 3b: Precursors

Moderator: Ron Frankum, Millersville State University

Aspen Room

"Railroads in Indo-China: Symbol of Western Mercantile Intrusion; Object of Vietnamese Anti-Colonial Revolt." Walter Jones, University of Utah.

Prelude to Disaster: France's Inability to Learn from the Hell of Hoa Binh." Jeffrey D. Wilhelm, Doctoral Candidate, Texas Tech University

"The Path to War: Communist Activities in the South, 1959-1960." Mark Moyar, Marine Corps University

1:30 p.m. Session 3c: Voices of the Vietnamese Diaspora

Moderator: Kiem Do, Independent Study Group of the Vietnamese Community

Redwood Room

"The Diaspora, Its Formation, Growth and Its Distinctive Character." Kiem Do, former Captain, South Vietnamese Navy.

"The Attitude of Communist Vietnam vis-à-vis the Vietnamese Diaspora." Can Thi Bich Ngoc, MD

"The Reaction of the Vietnamese Diaspora." Vu D. Hieu, Author

3:00 p.m. Coffee break

3:15 p.m. Session 4a: Teaching about the Vietnam War

Moderator: John Clark Pratt, Colorado State University

Mahogany Room

"Teaching the Vietnam War through Film, with Particular Emphasis on the Ia Drang Valley and the Film 'When We Were Soldiers'." Brian Gurian, Harrisburg Area Community College.

"The American-Viet Nam War: Telling the Story to Our Children." Ted Engelmann, Documentary Photographer/Independent Scholar

"Engaging Dropout Prevention Students with Active Learning Techniques: The Oral History of the Vietnam War as a Case Study." Thomas E. Murray, Bayside H.S., Clearwater, Florida

3:15 p.m. Session 4b: Vietnamese Diaspora

Moderator: Ambassador Nguyen Xuan Phong, Texas Tech University **Aspen Room**

"Vietnamese Diaspora: In Search of Identity." Nguyen Le Hieu

"The Plight of Vietnamese Fishermen along the Texas Gulf Coast." Son H. Mai, Doctoral Candidate, Texas Tech University

3:15 p.m. Session 4c: Entertaining the Troops

Moderator: Richard Verrone, Texas Tech University

Redwood Room

"Command Military Touring Shows Vietnam, 1966-1973: Litmus Test for Morale." Rick Holen, Vincennes University

Panelist: Ann Kelsey, County College of Morris Learning Resource Center

4:45 p.m. Second afternoon session completes

4:50 p.m. 2 buses and vans begin shuttle runs from Holiday Inn Park Plaza to American State Bank

5:00 p.m. Civic Reception at American State Bank

5:30 p.m. Beginning of Official Reception

(a) Opening Comments by Mr. W. R. Collier, President, ASB

(b) Comments, Proclamation by Mayor Marc McDougal

7:00 p.m. (Approx) 2 buses and vans begin shuttle runs to Holiday Inn Park Plaza**8:00 p.m. Screening of "In the Shadow of the Blade" in Sycamore Room****Friday, 18 March****8:00 a.m. (Until 4:30) Registration/Information Desk open at Holiday Inn Park Plaza, in the Atrium****8:00 a.m. (Until 4:30) Book and Museum displays: Magnolia Room****8:45 a.m. Session 5a: After Paris Mahogany Room****Moderator: Larry Berman, University of California DC Center**

"US Policy toward Vietnam, 1973-1975, and the Evacuation from Saigon." Richard Sears, Wake Forest University.

"The Collapse of the 1973 Peace Process in Vietnam: A Critical Analysis." Amir A. Samardar, Southwest Tennessee Community College.

"Beyond Quagmire: The United States and Vietnam From Animosity to Friendship" Kim-Thien T. Nguyen

8:45 a.m. Session 5b: Ngo Dinh Diem Era Aspen Room**Moderator: Ed Miller, Dartmouth University**

"Ngo Dinh Diem & American Imperialism." Daniel Tu, Undergraduate student, University of Tulsa

"Seeing Self in Others: The Ironies of US Advocacy of Agrarian Reform in Diem's South Vietnam." Major Nathan Haas, US Military Academy, West Point

"To Move a Nation: The USOM and the Refugee Crisis of 1954-1955." Ronald Frankum, Millersville State University

8:45 a.m. Session 5c: Vietnam: Religious & Cultural Perceptions**Moderator: Patricia Pelley, Texas Tech University. Redwood Room**

"JFK's Cold War Orientals: Representing the 'Vietnamese' as Allies, Enemies, and Others." Ginger Davis, Doctoral Candidate, Temple University

"Millenarianism and the Politico-Religious Sects of Vietnam." Carmen K. Steigman, Graduate Student, American Military University

8:45 a.m. Session 5d: Literature and the War

Moderator: Ron Milam, Texas Tech University

Mesquite Room

"My Anniversary: 15 Years of Teaching the Fiction of the Vietnam War." John Clark Pratt, Colorado State University.

"Reconciliation, Multiculturalism, and the Repositioning of the 'Vietcong' in Lan Cao's *Monkey Bridge*." Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University

"Literature, Plays, and the War" James McDermott, Doctoral Candidate in Theater and Performing Arts, Texas Tech University

10:15 a.m. Coffee break

10:30 a.m. Session 6a: Diplomacy & Decision-Making

Moderator: Larry Berman, Univ. of California, DC Center

Mahogany Room

"New War, New Strategies: The Diplomatic Struggle in the Post-Tet War." Lien-Hang T. Nguyen, Doctoral Candidate, Yale University.

"Before the Flight: Secret American Diplomatic Exchanges with President Thieu during the Peace Negotiations." George Dalley

"After the Paris Accords: Politburo Decision-Making & the Spring of 1975 Offensive." Jay Veith, Independent Scholar.

10:30 a.m. Session 6b: Vernacular Voices and Surprising Bedfellows

Aspen Room

Moderator: Marc Jason Gilbert, North Georgia College & State University

"The Rhymes, They Are A-Changin': Vernacular Voices from the Vietnam War." Matthew K. Irwin, Doctoral Candidate, Texas A&M University

"What's in It for You, GI?": The Surprising Relationship Between GI and Civilian Anti-Vietnam War Activists." Heather Marie Stur, Doctoral Candidate, University of Wisconsin—Madison

10:30 a.m. Session 6c: Vietnamese Trials & Achievements

Moderator: Former Amb. Nguyen Xuan Phong

Mesquite Room

"The Vietnamese-Americans: The Best Outcome of the Vietnam War." Nguyen Y Duc, MD, Vietnamese-American Heritage Foundation

"Re-education and Its Aftermath." Quang X. Pham, former USMC pilot and author of *A Sense of Duty: My Father, My American Journey*

Noon Lunch. Speaker: Bao Ninh, "The Vietnam War in Fiction"

Moderator: John Clark Pratt, Colorado State University

Atrium

"A Novel Approach to War." Hoang Au Phuong (Bao Ninh), author of *The Sorrow of War*

1:30 p.m. Session 7a: New Interpretations

Mahogany Room

Moderator: Dr. Larry Berman, University of California, Washington DC Center

"When Americans Hate Themselves: Another Way to Remember the Vietnam War." Keith Taylor, Cornell University

"The *New York Times*' Editorial Opposition to Lyndon Johnson's Vietnam Policies, Spring 1965." Louis J. Campomenosi, University of Southern Mississippi

"The Tactical Nuclear Weapons Option in Vietnam." Ron Milam, Texas Tech University

1:30 p.m. Session 7b: Agent Orange - I

Chair & Commentator: John F. Guilmartin, Ohio State University

Aspen Room

"The Capitalist Dilemma of Agent Orange." Jessica Kunkel, Doctoral Candidate, Texas Tech University

"Operation Ranch Hand: 1961-1971." Col. Ralph Dresser, USAF (Ret)

"The Many Myths Concerning 'Agent Orange'." Maj. Jack Spey, USAF (Ret), President, Ranch Hand Viet Nam

1:30 p.m. Session 7c: DASPO (Department of the Army Special Photographic Office)

Moderator: Steve Maxner, Texas Tech University

Redwood Room

"The History of DASPO," followed by DASPO film: *What is a Combat Photographer?*

Panel discussion: BG (Ret) Bob Gaylord, Carl Conn, Charles Abbott and Edgar Lewin (DASPO Vietnam veterans)

1:30 p.m. Session 7d: Vietnamese Communism

Moderator: Dr. Ron Frankum, Millersville State University

Mesquite Room

"On the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam." Abraham Leong, National Chi Nan University, Taiwan.

"Toward Revolution: A History of the Thought of Vladimir Lenin & Ho Chi Minh." Rusty Hawkins, Doctoral Candidate, Texas Tech University

 3:00 p.m. Coffee break

3:15 p.m. Session 8a: Army of the Republic of Vietnam

Moderator: Earl H. Tilford, Grove City College

Mahogany Room

"Were the ARVNs Any Good? (Before, During and After the Americanization)." Nguyen Tin, Author

"VNAF: The Rise and Fall of the World's Fourth Largest Air Force." Quang X. Pham, former USMC pilot and author of *A Sense of Duty: My Father, My American Journey*.

3:15 p.m. Session 8b: Agent Orange - II

Moderator: John H. Guilmartin, Ohio State University

Aspen Room

"Assessment of Friendly Ground Forces' Exposure to Herbicide Spraying in Vietnam." John F. Guilmartin, Ohio State University

"Were Friendly Forces Directly Exposed to USAF Herbicide Contamination in Vietnam?" Paul F. Cecil, Historian, RANCH Hand Association

"Herbicidal Dissipation and Degradation in Relation to the Assessment of Indirect Exposure of Ground Troops." Alvin L. Young, Institute for Science and Public Policy, University of Oklahoma.-

3:15 p.m. Session 8c: River Forces in Vietnam

Moderator: James Reckner, Texas Tech University

Redwood Room

"Changing Tides: Riverine Warfare in Vietnam." Robert Tidwell, Doctoral Candidate, Texas Tech University

"The Factors at Work in the Construction of the Base at Dong Tam." Reagan Grau, Graduate Student, Texas Tech University.

3:15 p.m. Session 8d: Personal Experiences

Moderator: Richard Verrone, Texas Tech University

Mesquite Room

"Hero Mama, Daughter of a Vietnam Soldier KIA." Karen Zacharias

"Bring Joy to Vietnam: My Time in Country and Since." Joy Wilkerson

 4:45 p.m. Second afternoon session completes

7:00 p.m. Reception at **Holiday Inn Park Plaza** **Atrium**
Cash bar: beer & wine only

8:00 p.m. Conference banquet at Holiday Inn Park Plaza **Atrium**
Recommended attire: Dinner dress with small medals, or
Civilian equivalent; or business suit/coat & tie

9:00 p.m. (Approx) Keynote speaker: Major General Ken Bowra, USA (Ret)

9:40 p.m. (Approx) End of banquet

d. Saturday, 19 March

8:00 a.m. (Until 4:00) Registration/Information Desk open at Holiday Inn Park Plaza, in the Atrium

8:00 a.m. (Until 4:00) Book and Museum displays in the Magnolia Room

8:45 a.m. Session 9a: The Vietnam War and the Election Year

Moderator: Scott Swett **Mahogany Room**
Webmaster-Wintersoldier.com & SwiftVets.com

Panelists: Jerome Corsi, Co-author, "Unfit for Command"
B.G. Burkett, served with 199th Light Infantry Bde (1968-69), Co-author "Stolen Valor"
Larry Bailey, served as Navy SEAL, Organizer, "Kerry Lied"
and others

8:45 a.m. Session 9b: China, the NLF, . . . & Laos

Moderator: Keith Taylor, Cornell University **Aspen Room**

"Influence of Chinese Politico-Military Discourse upon the NLF's War in the South: The Case of the 514th VC Battalion." Martin Loicano, Doctoral Candidate, Cornell University

"The National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, Myth & Reality." Phieu N. Tran, MD

"Laos as a Sideshow on the Vietnam War, 1962-1973." Patit Paban Mishra, Sambalpur University, India.

8:45 a.m. Session 9c: Strategy

Moderator: Donald Walker, Texas Tech University **Redwood Room**

"An Analytical Review of the Strategy Debate Between the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army Regarding the Conduct of the Ground War in Vietnam." David Strachan-Morris, Doctoral Candidate, University of Wolverhampton, UK

"Nixon as Commander-in-Chief: The Experience of the Easter Offensive." Col. Steve Randolph, USAF (Ret), National Defense University

"Harassment and Interdiction Fire: Resolving American Strategy during the Vietnam War." Capt. John M. Hawkins, USA, US Military Academy

8:45 a.m. Session 9d: Personal Accounts

Moderator: Ron Milam, Texas Tech University

Mesquite Room

"The Son Tay POW Raid." Bill Guenon, USAF pilot and author

"An Infantry Squad Leader in Vietnam." Allen W. Sims, Vietnam vet & author

"SCATBACK – COMBAT COURIER, A Front Row Seat to the Air War in Vietnam." CMSgt. Bob Laymon, USAF (Ret)

 10:15 a.m. Coffee break

10:30 a.m. Session 10a: Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Moderator: Nancy Miller Saunders

Mahogany Room

VVAW filmmaker and documentarian, and supporter, 1970-1973.

"Image Vs Reality and The Manipulation Thereof for Political or Personal Gain: Swift Boat Vets vs The Reality of VVAW." Bill Hager, Served two tours in Vietnam as a Combat Engineer with the United States Marine Corps, 1965-'66 and 1968; VVAW's California/Nevada Regional Coordinator, 1972-74.

"VVAW the Truth, and half-truths & lies of the Swift Boat Veterans." Terry DuBose, Served with the Army's 53rd General Support Group, 1967-8; VVAW's Texas regional coordinator, 1971-1972.

"A Literary Campaign: Vietnam Refought in the Books of the 2004 Election." Alex Primm, Served as an Army Information Specialist, 1968-9; VVAW member 1971.

"Home to War: A History of the Vietnam Veteran's Movement." Gerald Nicosia, author.

10:30 a.m. Session 10b: Pacification & Counterinsurgency

Moderator: Laura Calkins

Aspen Room

"Provincial Pacification in Vietnam." Thomas J. Barnes, former Province Senior Advisor and Deputy for Cords in II CTZ.

"The Phoenix Program." Larry J. O'Daniel

10:30 a.m. Session 10c: Vietnam-Related Resources

Moderator: Steve Maxner, Texas Tech University

Redwood Room

"A Web-based Online Database for CIA Declassified Documents on the Vietnam War." Vinh-The Lam, University of Saskatchewan

"The Virtual Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University." Steve Maxner, Texas Tech

"Sorry 'Bout That" Uniforming of the American Soldier in Vietnam." William Brewster, Curator of Collections, Wisconsin Veterans Museum

10:30 a.m. Session 10d: War Diaries

Moderator: Donald Walker, Texas Tech University

Mesquite Room

"Dear Diary: Fought a War Today. . . .": Exploring the Vietnam War through the Battlefield Diaries of American and Vietcong Soldiers." Todd J. Pfannestiel, Clarion University, Pennsylvania.

"The Diaries of Dr. Dang Thuy Tram." Frederick W. Whitehurst, M.D., & Robert D. Whitehurst

Noon Lunch. Speaker: Larry Berman, "A Decade of Reconciliation: Vietnam-U.S. Relations Today and Tomorrow"

Atrium

1:30 p.m. Session 11a: The Myths of the Vietnam War

Moderator: Steve Sherman

Mahogany Room

Panelists: Steve Sherman, served with 5th Special Forces Group (1967-68); RADIX Foundation
 Dr. Robert Turner, served as Assistant Special Projects Officer, US Embassy Saigon (1969 & 1971; Center for National Security Law, University of Virginia Law School.
 James McLeroy, served with 5th Special Forces Group (1967), MACSOG/CCN (1968);
 Independent scholar
 And others

1:30 p.m. Session 11b: Medicine & Healing

Moderator: Dr. Ron Frankum, Millersville State University

Aspen Room

"How an Art Form (Photography) Enabled a Vietnamese Medical Program, 1965-2005." Carl E. Bartecchi, M.D., Univ. of Colorado School of Medicine

"Vietnam Narrative as History and Healing." Mary E. Nguyen

"Learning and Reconciliation Study Tours Through Vietnam and Vietnam Vets." Steven A. Leibo, Sage Colleges

1:30 p.m. Session 11c: A Potpourri of Vietnam Papers

Moderator: James R. Reckner, Texas Tech University

Redwood Room

"An Examination of Korean and Vietnamese Use of Instruction, Interrogation and Intimidation in Prisoner-of-War Camps." Jenny Hoover, Doctoral Candidate, Texas Tech University

"To Bomb or Not to Bomb: The Effect of Foreign Influence on American Foreign Policy during Vietnam." Michael Johnson, Graduate Student, Texas Tech University

"Vietnamese Agriculture Policies, 1982-2004." John Barnett, Doctoral Candidate, University of Arkansas

1:30 p.m. Session 11d: Music and Humor

Moderator: Olga Dror, Texas A & M University

Mesquite Room

"War Songs: Civilian Protest As an Art Form." Elizabeth Chapman, Undergraduate Student, Texas A&M University.

"Humor in War." Robert Vaughan, Author

1:30 p.m. Session 11e: "Winter Soldier"

The film "Winter Soldier" will be shown. (120 minutes)

Hickory Room

3:00 p.m. Plenary Session 12: Update on the Vietnam Center

Moderator: Jim Reckner, Vietnam Center

Sycamore Room

3:30 p.m. Plenary Session 13: Summary Discussion & Future Recommendations

Moderator: Jim Reckner, Vietnam Center

Sycamore Room

 5:00 p.m. Bus departs for Ranching Heritage Center.

5:30 p.m. Bus departs for Ranching Heritage Center

6:00 p.m. West Texas Barbecue Dinner at The Ranching Heritage Center, "6666" Ranch Barn

8:00 p.m. Bus leaves for Holiday Inn

8:30 p.m. (Till ?) Fellowship at the Atrium Bar, Holiday Inn Park Plaza.