

Request for Establishment of
Center, Institute or Special Unit

Name Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict
Center, Institute or Special Unit

Person Responsible James R. Reckner Title (Director, etc.) Director

Reports to Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

Personnel: No. of full-time 0 No. of part-time 0

Funding Source(s)/Amount(s) As indicated in attached letter and budget

Please address, either below or on attached letter:

a. Relevance to the University: academic, service and research mission.

See attached letter

b. Potential benefits to be gained by formation of such a unit.

See attached letter

c. Description of activities and operational pattern of the unit.

See attached letter

Request initiated by James R. Reckner, Assistant Professor of History
Name, Title

Approved Brian L. Blakeley
Department _____ Dean _____

Executive Vice President
and Provost

Ratified by the Board of Regents _____
(Date)

Attachment
OP 32.20, Vol. I
1/26/89

Request for Establishment of
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Relevance to the University:

The Texas Tech University Library, realizing the need to begin a systematic collection of documents relating to the Vietnam Conflict, and specially those documents relating to the South Plains experience in Vietnam, has recently established the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University. The Library has thus far dedicated approximately \$10,000 to the acquisition of selected microfilm collections of recently released Vietnam-related government documents.

This initial expenditure has given the University the beginnings of a good Vietnam collection. Large amounts of government documents relating to Vietnam are now being released, microfilmed, and made available for purchase. Further, the extensive collections of Cornell University and the University of California at Berkeley are also being microfilmed and made available. At this point, the University has the opportunity to assume an eminent role in the field of Vietnam studies, if we are able to acquire these and other collections as they become available.

The proposed Center's major roles will be:

a. Initially, to act as a focal point for the attraction of funds to develop the Vietnam Archive into a collection worthy of national recognition.

b. As the Vietnam Archive develops, to encourage local scholarship in this important field.

Essentially, the Center's role will be two-fold: to actively assist the development of the Vietnam Archive, and to ensure that the facilities thus provided are effectively used for original scholarship.

The Proposed Center and the Community

Informal meetings with community members concerning the establishment of such a Center have met with uniformly supportive responses. Establishment of the proposed Center will,

a. Be supported, financially and emotionally, by the general community.

b. Provide a new and exciting medium through which to involve the community in the activities of the University. A number of community members have indicated their interest in this project and their willingness to serve as members of an advisory board for the proposed Center if it is established.

Further, the general public will have no difficulty understanding the mission and work of the Center, and many will be interested in the materials the Center will develop or collect for the Vietnam Archive.

Potential Benefits

The proposed Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict offers a wide range of benefits for the University:

a. The establishment of Texas Tech University as an important venue for the study of all aspects of the Vietnam Conflict.

b. The generation of funds for major Vietnam Archive collections without imposing new burdens on the University's budget.

c. The achievement by the University of broad recognition in this field through the conduct of periodic major conferences relating to Vietnam, at which it is anticipated major national figures will speak.

d. The encouragement of community involvement in the activities of the University. The proposed Center will be involved in research into an event that touched virtually every American citizen; they will be able to identify with these efforts and support them.

Activities and Operational Pattern

Activities of the proposed Center initially will center on raising funds for further development of the Vietnam Archive. For this purpose we further propose the establishment of a "Vietnam Center Advisory Board" to be comprised of members of the community interested in the Vietnam Conflict and its many implications for American society.

The Vietnam Center Advisory Board will meet periodically to advise the Director of the proposed Center and the Associate Director of Libraries for Special Collections concerning plans for expansion of the Vietnam Archive, and also to provide the proposed Center and the Vietnam Archive with a continuing and active connection with the community.

After establishment of the proposed Center, the Director will:

a. Make every effort to attract major sponsorship for the Center and its planned program of acquisitions for the Vietnam Archive.

b. Publicize the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict and the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech, with a view toward attracting scholars and graduate students interested in any aspect of the Vietnam Conflict.

c. Develop, in conjunction with the History Department, an oral history program designed to record and preserve the Vietnam experiences of South Plains residents.

d. Develop plans to provide training opportunities for South Plains secondary school teachers wishing to teach the Vietnam Conflict in regional high schools.

e. Encourage undergraduate and graduate use of the Vietnam Archive.

f. Maintain regular contact with the broader community through the Vietnam Center Advisory Board; and through that Board, encourage community use of the Vietnam Archive.

Funding Sources & Amounts

Funding for the proposed Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict will be derived from

- a. individual contributions; and,
- b. corporate sponsorship.

As the proposed Center's major funding focus will be to provide funds for acquisitions by the Vietnam Archive, a proposed combined three-year budget for the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict and the Vietnam Archive is attached.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT
&
VIETNAM ARCHIVE
AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Estimated Three-Year Budget

Acquisitions

Vietnam Documents in Microfilm (from University Microfilms of America)	
Existing Collections	\$ 38,785
New Collections (1990/91)	40,000
New Collections (1991/92)	40,000
Academic Collections in Microfilm (from University Microfilms International)	
John M. Echols Collection (Cornell)	30,000
UC Berkeley <u>History of the Vietnam War</u>	25,000
Additional Book Purchases	50,000
<u>Subtotal, Acquisitions</u>	\$233,785

Archivist

One archivist, full-time @25,000 per annum \$ 75,000

Oral History Project \$ 30,000

Conference Support

One major conference (1992)
All related expenses, including fees for a nationally known speaker \$ 20,000

Administration \$ 30,000

Development Costs \$ 10,000

Budget, Total \$398,785

Proposed

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Mission Statement

The Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict is a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, Texas Tech University. Its purpose is to encourage research in Vietnam-related topics through support and use of the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University. The Center functions as a focal point for both public and academic research into Vietnam-related topics and serves to attract funding for scholarships and grants for advanced research in these areas. In addition, the Center also provides funding for the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University for acquisition of collections and program support.

The Center also provides numerous avenues of public awareness for Vietnam conflict studies: the establishment of an oral history program designed to record the South Plains Vietnam experience; the development of a resource center/training facility for secondary school teachers desiring to teach the Vietnam War in regional high schools; and the organizing and hosting of major conferences on the Vietnam Conflict.



Texas Tech University

Southwest Collection
Box 4090/Lubbock, Texas 79409-1041 / (806) 742-3749

October 11, 1989

Dr. Jim Reckner
History
Campus

Dear Jim:

The Texas Tech University Libraries strongly endorse your efforts to establish a Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict.

Because of your efforts the Texas Tech University Libraries are committed to establishing the Vietnam Archive. We have already expended approximately \$10,000 toward the purchase of microfilmed research materials which you need in support of your history class on the Vietnam War; however, there are many more collections to acquire, including personal papers and other materials related to the Vietnam conflict.

The Center would be the perfect complement to the Vietnam Archive. While the mission of the Libraries is to collect and to make available primary information, that material does little good if there is no focused research. The Center will not only provide that focus, but will also serve as a catalyst for the acquisition and preservation of additional material.

We stand committed to working with you within the limits of our resources and feel confident that, together, we can provide a major research source for support of both undergraduate and graduate education at Texas Tech University.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dale".

E. Dale Cluff
Director of Libraries

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David".

David J. Murrah
Associate Director of Libraries
for Special Collections
Director, Southwest Collection

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Box 4529/Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013/(806) 742-3742, 742-3744

October 23, 1990

Dr. Robert W. Lawless
President
Texas Tech University
CAMPUS

Dear President Lawless:

Last Thursday, in the course of the U.S. Air Force Academy's biennial military history conference, I had breakfast with former Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs William P. Bundy and former South Vietnamese Ambassador Bui Diem. Secretary Bundy was a key decision-maker in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, and for several years afterward, editor of the prestigious journal, Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Diem served as his nation's representative in Washington from 1967 to 1972, and then was ambassador at large and special envoy to the Paris Peace Talks (1973-1975). He is author of In the Jaws of History, and currently is with the Indochina Institute at George Mason University.

When I outlined the nature of the Vietnam initiatives being undertaken by Texas Tech University, they were warmly supportive. Both confirmed our conviction that no Vietnam research center exists anywhere between Berkeley on the west coast and George Mason University in the Washington, DC area. They emphasized, too, that nowhere in the United States is there a Vietnam center that is pursuing an active program of conferences and other events designed to encourage wider discussion and examination of the Vietnam Conflict.

Ambassador Diem pledged to actively disseminate information about our Center, to put us in contact with leaders of the Vietnamese communities in Houston and Dallas, and to maintain close connections with Texas Tech. Secretary Bundy, although reluctant at the age of 73 to make commitments for three years hence, has indicated his great interest in our 1993 conference, "Vietnam: Paris + 20." Ambassador Diem advised that, in his opinion, the time is "auspicious" for us to approach the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their participation in the 1993 conference. He confirmed that they have not participated in any such conferences to date, but the time now seems right.

VIETNAM CENTER ADVISORY BOARD
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (RET)
Chairman

VIETNAM ARCHIVE
Texas Tech Library
Lubbock, Texas 79409-0002 (806) 742-3758
Fax: (806) 742-1920

Later in the day I met with Douglas Pike, director of the Indochina Archive at the University of California, Berkeley. Pike, the author of War, Peace, and the Viet Cong, History of Vietnamese Communism, PAVN: People's Army of North Vietnam, and Vietnam and the USSR: A Study in Geo-Political Relations, is perhaps one of the most widely known academics in the field of Vietnam studies. He is equally supportive of the developments at Texas Tech, has offered to do all within his power to disseminate information concerning our activities, and pledged his and the Indochina Archive's continuing support.

Throughout the conference, at which brochures for Texas Tech's 1993 Vietnam conference were circulated, we received unsolicited offers of support. Vice Admiral William P. Lawrence, USN (Retired), who currently holds the Chair of Naval Leadership at the US Naval Academy and who spent six years as a North Vietnamese prisoner of war, asserted he will respond to any request from us. Lieutenant General Phillip B. Davidson, US Army (Retired), author of Vietnam at War: The History, 1946-1975 and Secrets of the Vietnam War has offered to travel to Lubbock at any time, at our request, to speak to cadets and students of the Vietnam War.

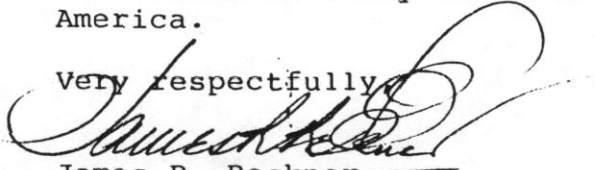
Numerous academics have expressed their excitement with the scope of our efforts, and have pledged to submit proposals for the 1993 conference. Others have stressed the urgent need for the Center to get on with that portion of our mission statement calling for summer seminars to teach high school teachers to teach the Vietnam War.

Texas Tech University is now widely known in the field of Vietnam studies, but it is known because of its promise and not its performance. I am prepared to provide unlimited energy to secure the University's reputation for performance, but key to it all will be the ability to raise the necessary funding.

I am happy to report that since my last letter the Office for Institutional Advancement has completed an extensive research effort to locate potential donors for the Center. Dr. David Murrah and I will be producing funding proposals based on that info in the days ahead.

That progress notwithstanding, I urge you to continue to consider the programs of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict and the Vietnam Archive as worthy of a formal priority within the University's larger goals. I believe the Center and Archive offer the University the opportunity to establish a singular and important national, indeed international, image in this field of study which is essential to understanding modern America.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner

Copy to: Dr. D. Haragan; Dean J. R. Goodin; Mr. Bill Wehner