



[Home](#) | [About Hoover](#) | [Library & Archives](#) | [Research](#) | [Publications](#) | [Involvement](#)
[Stanford University](#) | [Stanford University Libraries](#)

Hoover Institution Library and Archives

[Overview](#) [History](#) [Collections](#) [Library](#) [Archives](#) [Exhibits](#) [Staff](#) [Search](#) [FAQs](#)

Archives - Visiting us



© Hoover Institution
Herbert Hoover Memorial Building and
Herbert Hoover Memorial Exhibit Pavilion

Mailing address

Elena S. Danielson, Ph.D.
Director of Library and Archives
Hoover Institution
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305-6010, USA
Tel (650) 723-3563
Fax (650) 725-3445

E-mail

danielson@hoover.stanford.edu
leadenham@hoover.stanford.edu

Hours

Open Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
(closed for holidays; call for details)

Saturdays: one may make an appointment to work on Saturday. Saturday hours are at the discretion of the archivist. All boxes to be used on Saturday must be requested in advance, as no paging will be done on Saturday. Please contact [Anatol Shmelev](#) or [Carol Leadenham](#).

Archival holdings are brought from the stacks to the reading room at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Directions

The Hoover Institution Archives is located on the Courtyard Level of the Herbert Hoover Memorial Building at the intersection of Serra and Galvez Streets on the campus of Stanford University. Stanford University is located approximately 35 miles south of San Francisco and 20 miles north of San Jose. From 101, exit Embarcadero west (Stanford University). Embarcadero becomes Galvez after crossing El Camino Real. From 280, exit Page Mill east. Left on El Camino Real (82). Left on Serra to Galvez. For more information (including public transportation) visit <http://www.stanford.edu/home/visitors/directions.html>

Parking

There are two day-use parking lots on Galvez Street that accept currency, coins, or credit cards. On Saturdays all campus parking, except handicapped spaces, is available without charge to visitors. [Campus parking map](#)

Maps

[Stanford University and vicinity](#)

List of collections stored off-site

Some of the archives' collections are stored off-site, and it may be possible to have a

limited number of boxes brought to the archives reading room for consultation. A minimum of two days notice is required. For a list of these collections, see [Off-site collections](#). Please contact [Carol Leadenham](#) for information about off-site collections.

Public catalogs

Collection-level descriptions are available on the Stanford University online public access catalog [Socrates](#) (can limit to Hoover Institution Archives). Up-to-date card catalogs are still maintained for archival collections in the archives reading room. Registers and other finding aids are also available for most collections in the reading room. Photocopies of finding aids, subject lists, and new accession lists can be purchased by mail from the [reference archivist](#).

Hoover Institution Archives finding aids

More than 850 finding aids to collections in the Hoover Institution Archives can be found online at <http://sunsite2.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/oac/hoover>.

These finding aids were encoded by a team at U.C. Berkeley, as part of the U.C. EAD Project, which became the [Online Archive of California \(OAC\)](#). The goal of the project was to provide a prototype union database of finding aids to archival collections in all nine U.C. campuses as well as a few non-U.C. institutions, including the Hoover Institution Archives. Approximately 200 more finding aids will be added in 2003 and gradually thereafter as they are produced.

Places to eat

Please visit [Campus Eateries web site](#)

Places to stay

[SU Summer 2003 Conference Services: Local Hotels and Motels](#)

[Lodging in the Palo Alto area](#)

[Stanford University Holidays 2003](#)

[Overview](#) | [History](#) | [Collections](#) | [Library](#) | [Archives](#) | [Exhibits](#) | [Staff](#) | [Search](#) | [FAQs](#)
© 2002 by the Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University. All rights reserved.
Site designed and produced by [Polina Ilieva](#).
Last modified July 7, 2003



Series Description

Biographical File, 1910-1986.

Boxes 67-71

Appointment calendars, invitations, identification papers, materials relating to career (such as promotion letters, awards, and orders), family papers, clippings and articles by others about Lansdale, and information on the collection itself. Arranged alphabetically by subject or form

Correspondence File, 1934-1987.

Boxes 1-8, 82-84

Personal and family correspondence, mainly from the years following Lansdale's service in Vietnam as Senior Liaison Officer (post-1968), with a few items from earlier years. (Official correspondence, and non-official correspondence mailed to Lansdale at one of his offices, may be found under the appropriate office file series). Arranged alphabetically by correspondent

Diaries And Notebooks, 1941-1956.

Box 72

Diaries written in the Philippines and Vietnam. Arranged chronologically

Speeches And Writings, 1954-1984.

Boxes 73-81

Lectures, talks, panel discussions, articles, and drafts; including all drafts of Lansdale's memoirs, *In The Midst Of Wars*. Additional speeches and writings are found in the Department of Defense series. Arranged alphabetically by title

Subject File, 1943-1987.

Boxes 9-31

Articles, unpublished papers, and miscellaneous items collected by Lansdale on a variety of topics; particularly Vietnam and the Vietnamese conflict. Arranged alphabetically by subject

Office Files From The Philippines, 1945-1948.

Boxes 32-34

Correspondence, reports, articles, and other material from Lansdale's initial period in the Philippines; including files from the Philippine Ryukyus Command (PHILRYCOM) Public Information Office. Arranged alphabetically

by subject

Office Files From The Philippines, 1950-1954.

Box 34

Correspondence, articles, and other material from Lansdale's second period in the Philippines, and press releases from the Office of the President of the Philippines (Office of Ramon Magsaysay). Arranged alphabetically by subject

Office Files From Vietnam, 1953-1956.

Box 35

Correspondence, notes, memoranda, reports, and papers from Lansdale's initial period in Vietnam (1954-56); including schedules and notes from his visit to Vietnam as a member of General John W. O'Daniel's mission to the French forces (1953). Arranged alphabetically by subject

Office Files From The United States Department Of Defense, Office Of The Secretary Of Defense, 1957-1963.

Boxes 36-49

Office files from Lansdale's years as Deputy Assistant Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Defense for special operations, including correspondence, memoranda, speeches, subject files, and materials collected as a staff member of the President's Committee on Military Assistance (Draper Committee). Arranged alphabetically by subject

Office Files From The United States Embassy-Saigon, Senior Liaison Office, 1965-1968.

Boxes 50-62

Office files from Lansdale's years as senior liaison officer at U.S. Embassy in Saigon; including correspondence, day files, memoranda, reports, and subject files. Arranged alphabetically by subject

Oversize, 1947-1975.

Boxes 63-66

Newspapers, scrapbooks, memorial albums, and other oversize material. Arranged by form

Printed Matter.

Boxes 67-68

Newspaper clippings, magazines and periodicals, books, reprints, and other printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by title

Audiovisual File

- **Phonotape recordings**

Boxes 85-93

- **Videotape recordings**

Box 94

- **Photographs**

10.A-V

Maps And Charts

Map cabinet

Memorabilia

Memorabilia cabinet





Biographical Note

- 1908, Born, Detroit, Michigan
February 6
- World Served with the O.S.S.
War II
- 1943 Promoted to Lieutenant, U.S. Army. Served in military intelligence for duration of war.
- 1945-1948 Promoted to Major. Transferred to Philippines, AFWESPAC.
Appointed Chief of Intelligence Division. Extended stay in Philippines at AFWESPAC and PHILRYCOM; helped Philippine Army rebuild its Intelligence Services.
- 1947 Commissioned as a Captain in the Air Force, temporary rank of Major.
- 1948 Instructor, Strategic Intelligence School, Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado.
- 1949 Temporary promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.
- 1950 At the request of President Elpidio Quirino, transferred to JUSMAG in the Philippines to advise Philippine Army Intelligence Services in fight against the Huks (Communists). Met Ramon Magsaysay, Philippine Secretary of National Defense; became close friends. Assisted in development of psychological operations, civic actions, rehabilitation of Huk prisoners, and other programs.
- 1951 Temporary promotion to Colonel.
- 1953 Member of General J.W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel's mission to the French forces in Indochina; acted as an advisor on special counter-guerrilla operations.
- 1954-1956 Transferred to Saigon, served with MAAG-Vietnam until end of 1956. Helped advise Vietnamese government and armed forces on problems of internal security, including pacification program (1954-55), psychological operations, intelligence, and integration of sect armies. Became close associate of President Ngo Dinh Diem.
- 1957 Went to office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington; became Deputy Assistant Secretary for special operations.
- 1959 Staff member of President's Committee on Military Assistance (Draper Committee).
- 1960 Temporary promotion to Brigadier General.
- 1961 Became Assistant Secretary of Defense for special operations.
- 1963 Temporary promotion to Major General.
- 1963 Retired; awarded Distinguished Service Medal (second time) for counter-insurgency work. Became consultant to director of Food For Peace, White House.
October 31
- 1965-1967 Returned to South Vietnam as Senior Liaison Officer of the U.S. Mission to South Vietnam, appointed by Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge. Also appointed Minister by President Johnson. Staff became the "Senior Liaison Office" (SLO). Work involved winning support in Vietnamese countryside.
- 1967-1968 Assistant to Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, U.S. Mission to South Vietnam.

1972 Author, *The Midst Of Wars*

1987, Died, McLean, Virginia

February

23





Scope Note

The Lansdale papers are drawn almost entirely from the post-World War II period. During the years following the war, General Lansdale served in the Philippines Ryukyus Command (1945-48), returned briefly to the United States as an instructor at the Lowry Air Force Base (1949), and then transferred back to the Philippines to serve in the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group (1950-54). In 1953, Lansdale visited Vietnam with General J.W. O'Daniel's advisory mission to the French forces, and in 1954 he was transferred to Saigon for a two-year term (1954-56). In 1957 Lansdale joined the office of the Secretary of Defense as a special operations expert. After his retirement in 1963, and a brief tenure as consultant to the White House Food for Peace program, he returned to Saigon as Senior Liaison Officer at the U.S. Embassy (1965-68). He published his memoirs in 1972.

The papers are divided into fifteen series. The first five (biographical file, correspondence file, diaries, speeches and writings, and subject file) consist of materials drawn from the entire time period (1945-present). The diaries record some of Lansdale's impressions and experiences during his first period in the Philippines. Within the speeches and writings series are the notes and drafts for Lansdale's memoirs (*The Midst Of Wars*), containing much material not published in the final version. The subject file series is very broad, but of special interest under "Vietnam" are the sub-headings "politics and government" and "Republic of Vietnam." The latter is a sampling of memoranda and other papers from the government of Ngo Dinh Diem and his successors. Finally, several pamphlets outlining "operational guidelines" for cadre working within the rural construction (revolutionary development) program are found under "Vietnamese conflict" (sub-heading "pacification").

The next five series follow Lansdale's career paths from his first years in the Philippines to his last stay in Vietnam. There are three very compact series of material from his two periods in the Philippines and his first period in Vietnam. The bulk of the collection is found in the other two career series: the files from the Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and from the United States Embassy-Saigon, Senior Liaison Office.

In the Department of Defense series are found memoranda, reports, and other items from the Draper Committee, including schedules from that committee's 1959 tour of some Southeast Asia countries. Notes, correspondence, and comments from Lansdale's 1961 trip to Vietnam (with General Maxwell Taylor's party) are also of interest, and are found in this series under "subject file" (sub-heading "Vietnam").

Within the Senior Liaison Office series the "day files" are especially complete (except for the security withdrawals--see below). These files comprise a record of each outgoing letter, memo, and report. Researchers may also wish to consult the tape recording series. Because of the sensitive nature of many of the Lansdale papers, there have been many security withdrawals of documents. In the place of these documents the researcher will find numbered "outcards." These documents will be reviewed for declassification consideration at five-year intervals, and eventually will be returned to the collection.

