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Date: Sat, 23 Oct 1999 06:39:08 -0500
From: James Reckner <jjrec@TTACS.TTU.EDU>
Subject: FW: Chancellor Montford
To:

Dear Admirals:

I met with Chancellor Montford yesterday to seek an additional \$12 million for the Vietnam Center building, to provide facilities for the Korean War Archive, Center and Museum. He has agreed to the new funding, and also wants to relocate the building, because of its growth and the probable parking requirements, to the empty tract of land immediately south of the International Cultural Center. It is a great location for visitors and researchers, but somewhat less attractive for students. I deferred to the Chancellor's wishes.

An entertaining exchange occurred when I presented the new \$32 million price tag:

Chancellor Montford: "Damn, Reckner! Every time you visit me, it costs me an additional \$10 million!"

Reckner: "Yes sir, we had better hurry and get this building built before neither of us can afford it!"

Chancellor Montford believes the combination of Korea and Vietnam will be "dynamite" for funding the building. I told him I intend to publicize under the theme: "Texas Tech University honors the men and women who served our country in Korea and Vietnam." It is a sad, but true, fact that in adopting this position Texas Tech is unique among our country's universities.

It now looks as though we will have enough books and medical equipment to fill two 40' conex boxes for shipment to Vietnam. We can do that for under \$10,000. Some of the medical equipment is rather expensive stuff, including a very modern [but no longer cutting-edge] CAT Scan.

The "Big-12" universities' libraries have now joined in the project, and yesterday a research institute in New Mexico offered us 1500 mid-1990s medical journals, which we will pick up next week. I think this book/equipment exchange has tremendous potential for good for the Vietnamese people.

For Admiral Zumwalt: Sir, every one of your friends here in Lubbock --and they are legion-- continue to cheer for you and also to pray for your successful recovery. We look forward to the day when you will be fully back at the helm of the Vietnam/Korea project at Texas Tech.

Very respectfully,
Jim Reckner