

1/29/99

Vietnam Center Projects

The Vietnam Center and Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech are engaged in a number of important projects/initiatives:

- ◆ **Preserving the Record of the American Vietnam Experience.** This is the principal mission of the Vietnam Archive.

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Related Activities:

Outreach to Veterans' Groups to locate and preserve records

Effort to preserve the story of the anti-war movement

Oral History Project to preserve unwritten histories

Collection of Ephemera to preserve informal publications from the war and from postwar veterans' efforts

- ◆ **Preserving the Record of the Republic of Vietnam.** This is the mission of a new, high-level committee of prominent Vietnamese-Americans, headed by former Ambassador Bui Diem.

Related Activities:

Outreach to Viet kieu (Overseas Vietnamese) world-wide

Collection of Oral Histories

Teaching Vietnamese Language

Conference on the Viet kieu Experience scheduled for 2000. This event will provide a vehicle for mobilizing Vietnamese-American support for the project.

- ◆ **Encouraging Continuing Study of the American Vietnam Experience.** This is the principal function of the Vietnam Center's conference/symposium series. We conducted three conferences in 1997/98, and currently are planning our 3rd triennial Vietnam symposium, to be held 15-17 April 1999. These meetings, by providing a venue for researchers to present their work, encourage continuing study of all aspects of the Vietnam war.

- ◆ **Outreach to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.** Through a series of programs and exchanges we are seeking to establish working relationships with Vietnamese universities, with a view toward improving the educational experiences of Vietnamese students and American students interested in Vietnam.

- ◆ **Vietnam Center Building.** Central to all of these efforts is the establishment of an adequate facility to house the collected materials, and to function as a central point for all future efforts to preserve the record of the American Vietnam experience. Strategically located on the Texas Tech campus, the proposed location of the new building offers a commanding position for academic endeavor which also enjoys easy access from off-campus. The Condray Design Group of Lubbock, Texas, has developed an exciting, innovative design for this new facility, which will be unveiled on April 14, 1999.

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- ◆ **Observing, Analyzing and Reporting on Current Events in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.** This function is carried out by Professor Douglas Pike, through his quarterly journal, *Indochina Chronology*. Individuals wishing to receive this journal should contact The Vietnam Center.
- ◆ **Undergraduate and Graduate Courses on Vietnam and the Vietnam War.** These courses, offered by History Department faculty and Vietnam Center staff, meet a continuing, strong desire on the part of students to understand the Vietnam War. Additionally, Vietnam Center staff teach Vietnamese language courses to assist researchers wishing to use Vietnamese language documents.
- ◆ **The Virtual Vietnam Archive Project.** In order to provide better access to our archive, Texas Tech has requested federal funding to put all of our uncopyrighted materials on-line. **The Virtual Vietnam Archive**, if funded, will provide Vietnam veterans and scholars from around the world direct access to the record of the Vietnam War and the American Vietnam experience without the expense of traveling to the US National Archives or to Texas Tech. It will become a principal source of research materials for high school and college students and will complete the process we began ten years ago when we determined to collect and preserve the record.
- ◆ **Conclusion:** Over the past ten years, the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech (formally authorized by the Board of Regents in 1989) has established a first-rate research facility. The academic materials of that effort are now sufficiently large to gain international note. We will continue to enlarge and broaden this collection in the years ahead, and to expand opportunities for a new generation of academics ready to study the war and its many complexities without the emotions which members of our own Vietnam generation frequently bring to the topic. Through these efforts we anticipate more reasoned, balanced studies in the years ahead. The Vietnam project will provide future researchers with the materials and facilities necessary for their research.

Working together, the Vietnam veterans from the community and from academia engaged in this project are making a lasting memorial to all those who served in Vietnam which also will be of great value to future Americans