

Friends

of the Vietnam Center

SEPTEMBER 1995 • VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

Vietnam Center Cohosts Vietnam Roundtable

The Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict cohosted a Vietnam Roundtable with the U.S. Army War College at Lubbock on March 31 - April 1, 1995. The roundtable, "On Winning and Losing: The Summers Thesis and the Vietnam War," featured a series of historians and military officers who presented individual papers mainly examining the Summers Thesis from particular aspects, with each presentation followed by fairly free-form discussions. About 100 academics and Vietnam veterans participated.

The Roundtable's luncheons were enlivened by presentations by Douglas Pike, who reviewed the current situation in Vietnam, and General Nguyen Khanh, who reviewed his role as prime minister of South Vietnam and speculated on Vietnam's future.

The proceedings of the roundtable, with an introduction by Douglas Pike, are now in the hands of Texas Tech University Press, and should be available in time for the April 1996 Vietnam Symposium.

1996 Vietnam Symposium

Plans for the 1996 Vietnam Symposium, After the Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam, are beginning to take shape. The conference hotel will be the Holiday Inn, Lubbock Plaza. The conference rate for rooms will be \$63/night, the same rate offered for our 1993 Vietnam symposium. The symposium registration fee of \$60 will include three catered lunches, coffee breaks, chartered bus transportation to and from the symposium site, etc. A conference banquet, tour of the city and university, and West Texas barbecue will be optional activities associated with the conference, and will incur additional individual expense.

New Home for the Vietnam Center Rushing Toward Completion

The International Cultural Center, a \$3.5 million building for which ground was broken in August 1994, is now scheduled for completion at the end of February 1996. The Cultural Center, which is designed to house Texas Tech

University's many international programs, will provide two offices for the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict. Additionally, the new structure includes the most modern facilities for conducting conferences,

and has the ability to handle seven conference sessions simultaneously. Should the builders keep to schedule, the principal events of the 1996 Vietnam Symposium will be held there.

1996 Vietnam Symposium Program "After The

Here is our program for the 1996 symposium, as it now stands. This is very much a planning program, and will be subject to

Wednesday • April 17, 1996 (Events at the Holiday Inn, Lubbock Plaza)

Afternoon Conferees Arrive

8:00pm Welcoming Address: "A Post-Cold War Reassessment of the Vietnam War"

Speaker to be announced. At Holiday Inn, Lubbock Plaza

9:00pm (Approx.) Reception at Holiday Inn (Cash bar)

Thursday • April 18, 1996 (Sessions at International Cultural Center)

8:15am Administrative Announcements &

Opening Remarks: James R. Reckner, Director, Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict

8:30am Opening Address: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

9:00am Session 1: International Relationships

"China, Russia, and American Vietnam Diplomacy," George Herring, University of Kentucky

"The Soviet Union and North Vietnam," Ilya Gaiduk, Academy of Sciences, Moscow

"Chinese Aid to Laos," Xiaoming Zhang, Texas Tech University

10:45am Session 2: Reassessing American Involvement

"A Vietnamese Perspective on American Involvement in Vietnam," Hon. Bui Diem, former South Vietnamese Ambassador to U.S.

"The View from Langley: CIA Analysis of the Vietnam War" John Prados, Independent Scholar and Author

Steve Young, Independent scholar, Paper reassessing the 1961 and 1964 White Papers

12:30pm Lunch – Speaker: Major General Vang Pao

2:00pm Session 3: After the Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam, Roundtable Discussion

Hon. William E. Colby, Hon. Walt Rostow, Hon. Bui Diem

3:45pm Session 4: Panel on Laos

"Broken Promises: The U.S. and the Hmong in Laos," Jane Hamilton-Merritt, Southern Connecticut University

"Air America in Laos," William M. Leary, Univ. of Georgia

"How Laos Became Involved in the Cold War, 1954-1962," Arthur J. Dommen, Independent Scholar

8:00pm Conference Banquet (At McInturff Center, University Medical Center)

9:00pm Keynote Address: To be announced

Friday, 19 April 1996 (Sessions at International Cultural Center)

8:30am Session 5A: "Domestic Legacies of the Vietnam War"

Chair: H.W. Brands, Texas A&M University

"Ronald Reagan and the End of the Cold War," Charles E. Neu, Brown University

"J. William Fulbright and the Transformation of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee," Randall B. Woods, University of Arkansas
Commentators: H.W. Brands, Hoyt Purvis, University of Arkansas

Session focusing on individual behavior being organized by Felix Moos, University of Kansas

10:15am Session 6B: Panel on Teaching Vietnam

"The State of the Field: How the Vietnam War Is Being Taught," Joe P. Dunn, Converse College

"Teaching Vietnam with Film: History Is Important, But So Is Film Language," Peter C. Rollins, Oklahoma State University

Also Paper by Steve Potts, Hibbing Community College, Hibbing, MN

8:30am Session 5B: "The Veterans' Continuing War: Stereotypes and Reality"

"The Importance of Story: Individual and Cultural Effects of Skewing the Realities of American Involvement in Southeast Asia for Social, Political and/or Financial Ends," John Del Vecchio, Scholar and Author

"The Helping Professions and the Building of the Veteran Stereotype," Phoebe Spinrad, Ohio State University

"PTSD Treatment and the VA: A Cure, a Recovery or a Contradiction?" Richard R. Burns, Independent Scholar, Columnist and Counselor

11:45am Lunch – Speaker: Douglas Pike,
"Recent Developments in Vietnam"

1:15pm Session 7A: Air Force Reassessments

"Air Force Doctrine and Vietnam," Colonel Dennis M. Drew, Dean, School of Advanced Air Power Studies

"Vietnam and Desert Storm: Learning the Right Lessons from Vietnam for the Post-Cold War Era," Col. Joseph P. Martino, USAF (Ret)

"Air Power Myths from the Vietnam War," Earl H. Tilford, Jr., Army War College

10:15am Session 6A: Anthropological/Behavioral Aspects of the War

Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam" April 18-20, 1996

considerable change until after the deadline for paper proposals, after which the Center will publish a formal program.

1:15pm Session 7B: "Reassessing Patterns of Remembrance in Vietnam War Memorials"

(This panel will run beyond 3:00 pm)

Chair: William Head, Air Logistics Center, Robbins AFB

"The Vietnamese Tradition of War and Remembrance,"
Nguyen Ba Cung, University of Massachusetts

"Multiple Meanings, Multiple Visions: Designing the California and Cleveland Vietnam Veterans Memorials,"
Rolf Nord Kriken, Nordhammar Art Foundry, Oakland, CA

"Embracing the Warrior, Letting Go of the War: Vietnam Veteran Memorials in Georgia," Marc Jason Gilbert, North Georgia College

"Patterns of Change in the Form and Content of Vietnam War Memorials," Carole Blair, University of California, Davis

"A Retrospective View of the Meaning and Significance of Vietnam War Memorials," Patrick Hargopian, College of William and Mary

Commentator: Ellen Pinzur, formerly Office Manager, The New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans

1:15pm Session 7C: The Navy in Vietnam

"Muddy Waters: The U.S. Navy's Search for a Riverine Warfare Doctrine during the Vietnam Conflict," R. Blake Dunnivant, Texas Tech University

"The Relevance of the Tonkin Gulf Incidents: U.S. Military Action in Vietnam, August 1964," Kim A. Weitzman, Youngstown State University

3:00pm Session 8A: Of POWs and MIAs

"Report of the Vietnam Working Group of the US-Russian Joint Commission on MIA/POW Affairs," Hon. Pete Peterson, American Co-Chair

"POWs and Politics: How Much Hanoi Really Knows," Garnett "Bill" Bell & George J. Veith, Independent Scholars

3:00pm Session 8B: Vietnam Film and Fiction

Session being organized by Walter Jones, University of Utah
Chair: Marc Leepson, Arts Editor, *VVA Veteran*

"American Fiction about the Vietnam War: How the Creative Process Reflects and Interprets Vietnam War Experiences," Walter Jones, University of Utah

5:15 - 7:00pm Civic Reception

Saturday • April 20, 1996 (Sessions at International Cultural Center)

8:30am Session 9A: Armed Forces Reassessments

Army: LTC Conrad Crane, USMA, West Point

Navy: Edward J. Marolda, Navy Historical Center

Marine Corps: Jack Shulimson, Marine Corps Historical Center

2:00pm Session 11B: The Media and the Vietnam Experience

Panel being organized by Louis J. Campomenosi, Tulane University

"The *New York Times*, Vietnam, and the Development of an Oppositional Press," Louis J. Campomenosi

3:45pm End of Formal Agenda

4:00pm (Approx.) Optional tour of Lubbock and Texas Tech University, followed by West Texas barbecue dinner at the Ranching Heritage Center, Texas Tech University

Papers Proposed But Not Yet Assigned to a Panel:

Herbert Y. Schandler, Chairman, Department of Strategy, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, paper on LBJ and Vietnam

Sandra C. Taylor, University of Utah, "From a Different Dimension: The Vietnam Conflict as a Gender War"

Benjamin Dubberly, Texas Tech University, "America's First Atrocity"

LCOL James Willbanks, "The Impact of the Vietnam Experience on Current Strategic Defense Policy"

10:30am Session 10: Panel Discussion

Admiral Zumwalt, General Giap [tentative], + Senior U.S. Army/USMC Officer

Noon: Lunch – Speaker: Lewis Sorley: "A Better War: The Neglected Later Years of American Involvement in Vietnam"

2:00pm Session 11A: The Antiwar Movement

Panel being organized by Charlotte Dunham, Dept. of Sociology Texas Tech

Possibility of Vietnamese Participation in 1996 Symposium

In mid-June, Dr. James R. Reckner, Director of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, participated in a week of discussions in Denver, Colorado, with a visiting Vietnamese delegation headed by Ambassador Nguyen Quang Tao. Hosted by the American Center for International Leadership, the

discussions offered an opportunity to discuss the possibility of Vietnamese participation in the 1996 Vietnam symposium. Concerning our September 1995 invitation to General Vo Nguyen Giap to participate, there apparently has not been any decision made at this point; however, we have now extended invitations to Generals

Tran Van Tra and Tran Van Duong, should General Giap be busy at the time of the symposium. The Vietnam Center is also seeking funding to support a party of Vietnamese historians to attend and participate in the symposium.

Deadline for 1996 Symposium Papers Nears

The deadline for submitting proposals for papers or panels for the 1996 symposium is 15 October 1995. While we particularly seek papers reassessing any aspect of Vietnam in light of the end of the Cold War, we will attempt to place any Vietnam- or Indochina-related paper on the agenda. We regret that we have received no proposals relating to

Cambodia, and wonder whether anyone --or group of individuals-- might propose papers or an entire panel relating to this somewhat neglected area. As always, we urge graduate students to propose papers; the Center's only request is that these papers be well-developed and reflect original research.

Symposium Proposals

Dr. James R. Reckner

Center for the
Study of the Vietnam Conflict
Texas Tech University

Lubbock, TX 79409-1013

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Marshall Gene Harrison

The Vietnam Center and the Lubbock community were saddened by the sudden death of Marshall Gene Harrison, a member of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board, on August 22, 1995. Marshall served three tours of duty in Vietnam, beginning in 1964. He flew more than 500 combat sorties over North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. He was an Air Liaison Officer/Forward Air Controller with the 1st and 3rd Brigades, 1st Infantry Division; and MACV Studies and Observation Group. His awards included the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal with 20 oak leaf clusters, and numerous other American and Vietnamese personal awards.

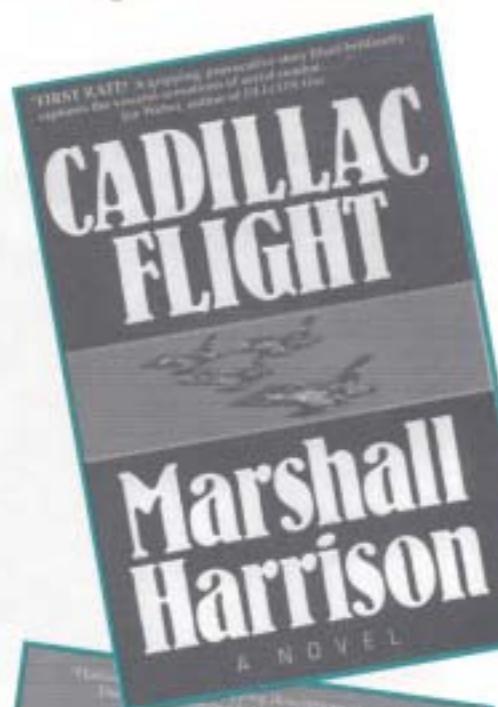
In recent years, Marshall displayed his remarkable gift for writing by giving us his own account of his service as a forward air controller in a book he aptly entitled *A Lonely Kind of War*. Historians and fellow FACs will remember him as the man who with great authority and realism preserved the essence of the FAC experience in Vietnam. He also produced two novels relating to Vietnam: *Cadillac Flight* and *The Delta*.

Marshall was present at the first meetings which resulted in establishment of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, and he was an active member of the Center's advisory board throughout its existence. In the process of working on the Vietnam project, all of us involved with the Center came to know Marshall. His presence at our meetings was strong, and punctuated by a hearty sort of cheerfulness that was infectious. He, like the rest of us, was pleased to be doing something positive about our Vietnam experience. And throughout the years, he was always willing to pitch in for the project, to help with a conference, to do whatever was necessary to push the project forward. Those of our friends who attended the 1993 Vietnam conference, Vietnam: Paris + 20, will remember him as the man who organized and ran the registration/information desk at the conference hotel, and who ensured that everyone's needs were met.

Just two weeks before his death, I received a letter from Marshall, written while he was at his summer cottage in Ruidoso, New Mexico. He had just been nominated to fill one of the executive positions on the Vietnam Center Advisory Board, and in response to my request he was providing a brief autobiographical sketch for the other members of the board. In the letter he wrote that he had been spending the afternoons resting and enjoying Ruidoso and sorting out plots for future novels.

I can only say that no plot he could have devised would have matched the scope and majesty that was his own life, so full of adventure, of service to the nation, and of devotion to his family. Combat pilot, corporate pilot, crop duster in Europe and Africa, school teacher, author, father, friend, colleague. All of Marshall's comrades on the Vietnam Center Advisory Board bid him farewell, and salute him. He was our own American hero.

James R. Reckner



Center For The Study Of The Vietnam Conflict

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Ground Breaking for New Archive Building at Texas Tech

On Friday, February 10, 1995, ground was broken for a new \$8.8 million building to house Texas Tech's archival holdings. "Texas Tech is on the move," State Senator John Montford, whose efforts made possible the state funding for the project, said at the ground breaking. "What a tremendous opportunity for us to expand our global learning capacity." The Southwest Collection/Special Collection Building was designed principally to house the university's extensive Southwest Collection. However, designs have been drawn to include specific work

and display spaces for the Archive of the Vietnam Conflict. The Vietnam Archive will also benefit from the state-of-the-art conservation facilities being installed in the new archive building. Researchers using the Vietnam Archive will enjoy the new archive's bright and spacious research room. Completion date for this new facility is now estimated to be July 1996. We will attempt to arrange a tour of the facility

during the April 1996 Vietnam Symposium, if it is at all possible. Anyone wishing to discuss details of the Archive's Vietnam holdings should contact the Archivist, Bruce Cammack, at (806) 742-3758.



Vietnam Center – 1996 Vietnam Symposium: "After The Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam" Registration

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