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VIETNAM CENTER & SAM JOHNSON VIETNAM ARCHIVE

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College of Arts & Sciences

Institute for Peace & Conflict

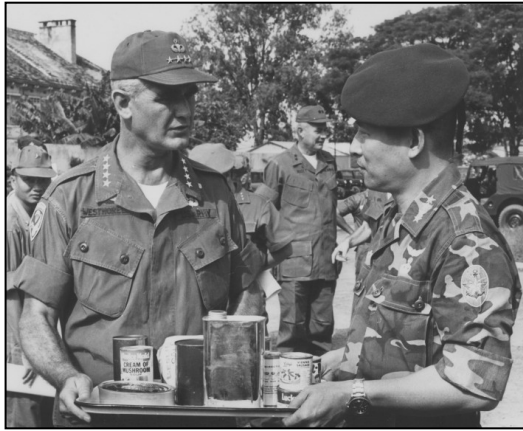
Steve Maxner, Ph.D.

Director





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Our Mission

Established in 1989, the mission of the Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive is to collect, preserve, and provide access to the history of the Vietnam War and to support and encourage research and education regarding all aspects of the Vietnam War experience.





Archive Collections

- 3,000 discrete collections

Letters, journals, photographs, slides, official government and military documents, newspapers, printed materials, posters, maps, film, video, audio recordings, artifacts

- Average 150 material donations per year.
- Approximately 30 million pages
- ~20,000 catalogued books
~20,000 uncatalogued





Undated photo of Red Cross Donut Dolly,
Jenny Young Collection (VA043454)

Archival Preservation

- Military Veterans of all ranks and branches
- Veteran organizations
- Government officials and diplomats
- NGOs
- Families and other civilians
- Anti-war protesters
- Vietnamese Americans
- Contemporary scholars and researchers
- Collections from all participant countries to include US, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand



Archive Access: Virtual Vietnam Archive

- Established in 2001
- U.S. Congressional support through IMLS (\$3.4MM total)
- Digitize and make available online historical research collections
- *Includes everything – documents, photos, slides, films, audio recordings, maps, oral history interviews, artifacts, etc.*

Total Pages	10,242,882
Number of Records	1,221,971
Documents	429,827
Photos and Slides	156,688
Periodical Articles Indexed	18,403
Newsletters	9,297
Microfilm and Microfiche	264
Moving Images	4,522
Audio Recordings	4,459
Museum Objects	6,900
Finding Aids	2,914
Oral History Interviews	1,864
Newspapers	7,674
Electronic Media	1,010



Virtual Archive Impact

	2023-2024	Cumulative Total
User Sessions	267,687	34,985,422
Searches Conducted	877,668	68,841,730
Items Downloaded	1,612,339	23,123,865
Global Outreach: Virtual Archive accessed by researchers in more than 100 countries/year		



Modernizing archival research - from boxes to digital file access



Vietnam War Oral History Project

- Over 2,600 participants
 - 50 States
 - 10 countries
 - 1,354 interviews (1,151 by VNCA)
 - 1,256 audio interviews online
 - 809 transcripts online
 - 120 USMC History Division interviews





Vietnam War Conference and Symposium Series

- **June 2026:** *History, Archives, and U.S.-Vietnam Relations* (Co-hosted with University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi)
- **April 2025:** *1975: The End of the Vietnam War*
- **April 2024:** *1974: Shattered Peace, Continued Conflict, and Preparing for the Final Battle for Vietnam*
- **March 2023:** *1973: The Paris Peace Accords and the Allied Withdrawal from South Vietnam*, Lubbock, TX
- **April 2022:** *1972: The War Between North and South Vietnam*, Chapman University, Orange, CA
- **April 2021:** *1970-1971: Nixon, Discord, and the US Withdrawal from Vietnam*, Lubbock, TX (Virtual)
- **October 2019: Joint Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam:** *Recollections, Memories and Archival Documents on Vietnam – Humanity Values as Seen from Diverse Perspectives*, Co-hosted with the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Hanoi, Vietnam, and Aix Marseille University, France
- **1992-2018:** More than thirty conferences with numerous cohosts to include the US National Archives, US Army War College, US Embassy in Vietnam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, CIA Center for the Study of Intelligence, and others.



Study Abroad in Southeast Asia

- Lee Roy Herron Scholarship
- Named in honor of Lubbock native, Lubbock High School, and Texas Tech graduate
- Joined USMC and killed in action in 1969
- Established by LHS classmates (David Nelson)
- Supports biennial study abroad for ten students
- One month program through entirety of Vietnam (Hanoi to the Mekong Delta) and Cambodia (Phnom Penh and Siem Reap)
- Museums, cultural and historical sites, and universities
- Life-changing experiences for TTU students





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Unanticipated Impacts



The Ongoing Search for Americans Missing-in-Action

- Since 1999, VNCA has worked with JTF-FA, JPAC, DPMO, DPAA as they continue to account for 1,571 Americans still missing from the Vietnam War
- Archival research assistance for researchers in Hawaii and DC
- IPAC/VNCA joined DPAA Hub & Spoke Program 2020
- Dr. Uyen “Carie” Nguyen, DPAA Research Partner Fellow (Research Assistant Professor)
- Presentations at the DPAA Annual Government Briefing for MIA families in June 2024





The Ongoing Search for Vietnamese Missing-in-Action

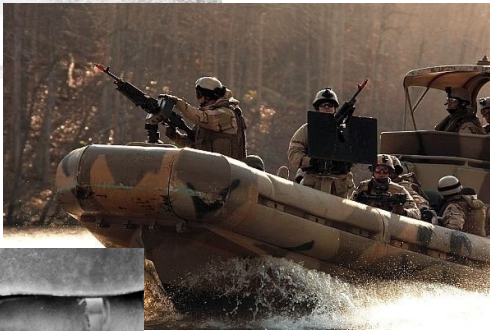
- IPAC/VNCA also work with the US and Vietnamese governments and other partners to help account for ~200,000 NVN/NLF Vietnamese MIAs
- Dr. Alex-Thai Dinh Vo, Research Assistant Professor working on VMIAs
- **September 2025, IPAC/VNCA awarded \$950,000 U.S. Department of War grant to provide dedicated support for research using VNCA and NARA Collections and for outreach and engagement (total possible funding \$4.8M over 5 years)**
- Many personal documents returned to Vietnamese families (200 diaries, letters, other materials)
- Also provide support to Vietnamese American Community to help collect information on ~200,000 RVN VMIAs and victims of postwar prison camps





Lessons Learned

- Assistance to Department of Defense regarding lessons learned from the Vietnam War
- Riverine warfare doctrine and tactics
- Military advisor training
- Broader “lessons learned” for recent conflicts (importance of building local alliances, careful ROEs, civic action, nation building, USAID, etc.)
- Donations and acquisitions of large artifacts





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Helicopters donated by Mr. Chuck Carlock, Vietnam Veteran, of Fort Worth, Texas



Expanding the Mission: The Archive of Modern American Warfare (AMAW)

- Established in 2007, the AMAW mission is to collect, preserve, and provide access to the history of America's conflicts since 1975 (post-Vietnam War) to promote a better understanding of those conflicts
- Includes Grenada, Panama, Gulf War, African Operations, Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more
- Challenges:
 - Born-digital materials – much more ephemeral than Vietnam War materials making collection even more time sensitive
 - Funding and support – initial archivist funding lost with budget cuts





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The Future of our Project...



Vietnam Center, Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive, and Museum of the Vietnam War

Unprecedented levels of support from Texas Tech University leadership and from supporters like Jan Scruggs now exists for a new building project

- Board of Regents 9-acre site on TTU campus in northwest campus
- Chancellor's Office
- President's Office support for operations and fundraising program
- College of Arts & Sciences support for operations and fundraising program
- \$400,000 gift to assist with fundraising
- Committed support for fundraising by Jan Scruggs, General Ron Christmas (USMC), and others



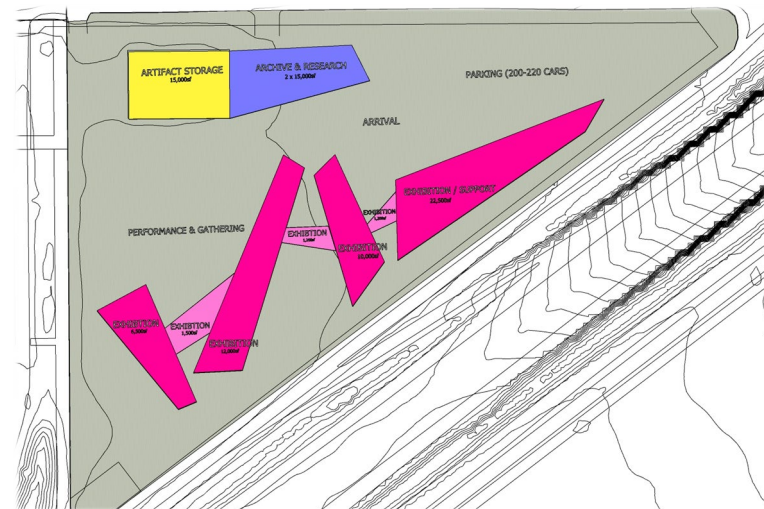
Building Site on TTU campus
NW Corner – Erskine and Loop



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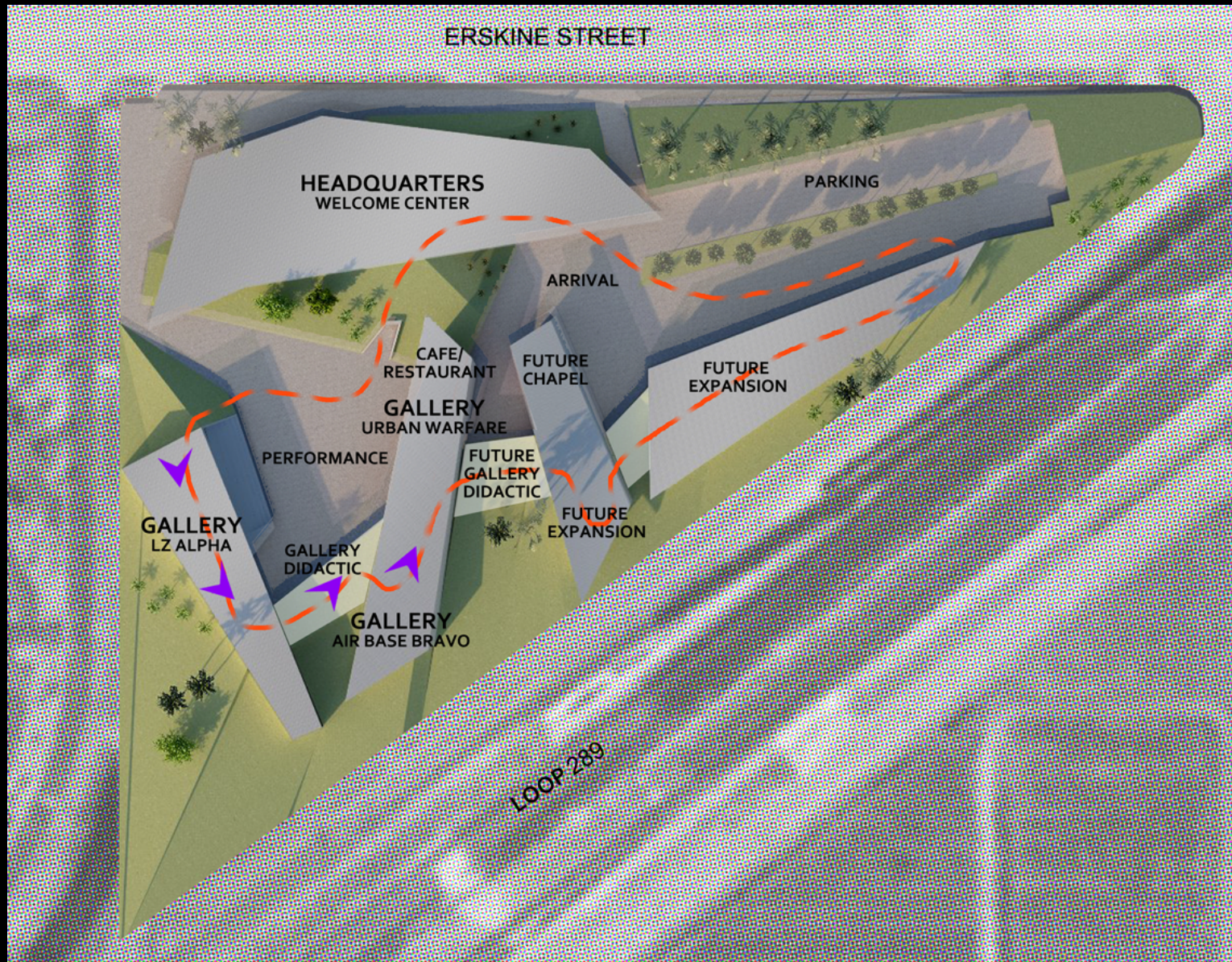
Vietnam Center, Archive, and Museum of the Vietnam War

- Selected Architectural/Museum firm:
Voorsanger Mathes &
Ralph Applebaum Associates
(Same firms for National Museum of
the Second World War in New Orleans)
- Phase 1: \$25MM for 70,000 sq. ft. facility
(approximately 20,000 sq. ft. for initial
museum)
- \$10MM for operating endowment
- Phase 2: Additional fundraising to grow and
expand museum





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WELCOME HQ: Lobby, Archive Reading Room, Military Branches Exhibits





LZ Alpha with an Airmobile Combat Assault



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Riverine Forces and helicopter support



PBRs/US sailors/Seawolf Gunship, North Vietnamese



COMBAT AIR ASSAULT

THE HELICOPTER WAR

MEDEVAC & SEARCH AND RESCUE

THE AIR WAR OVER VIETNAM

SEARCH & RESCUE

MEDEVAC

DUST OFF



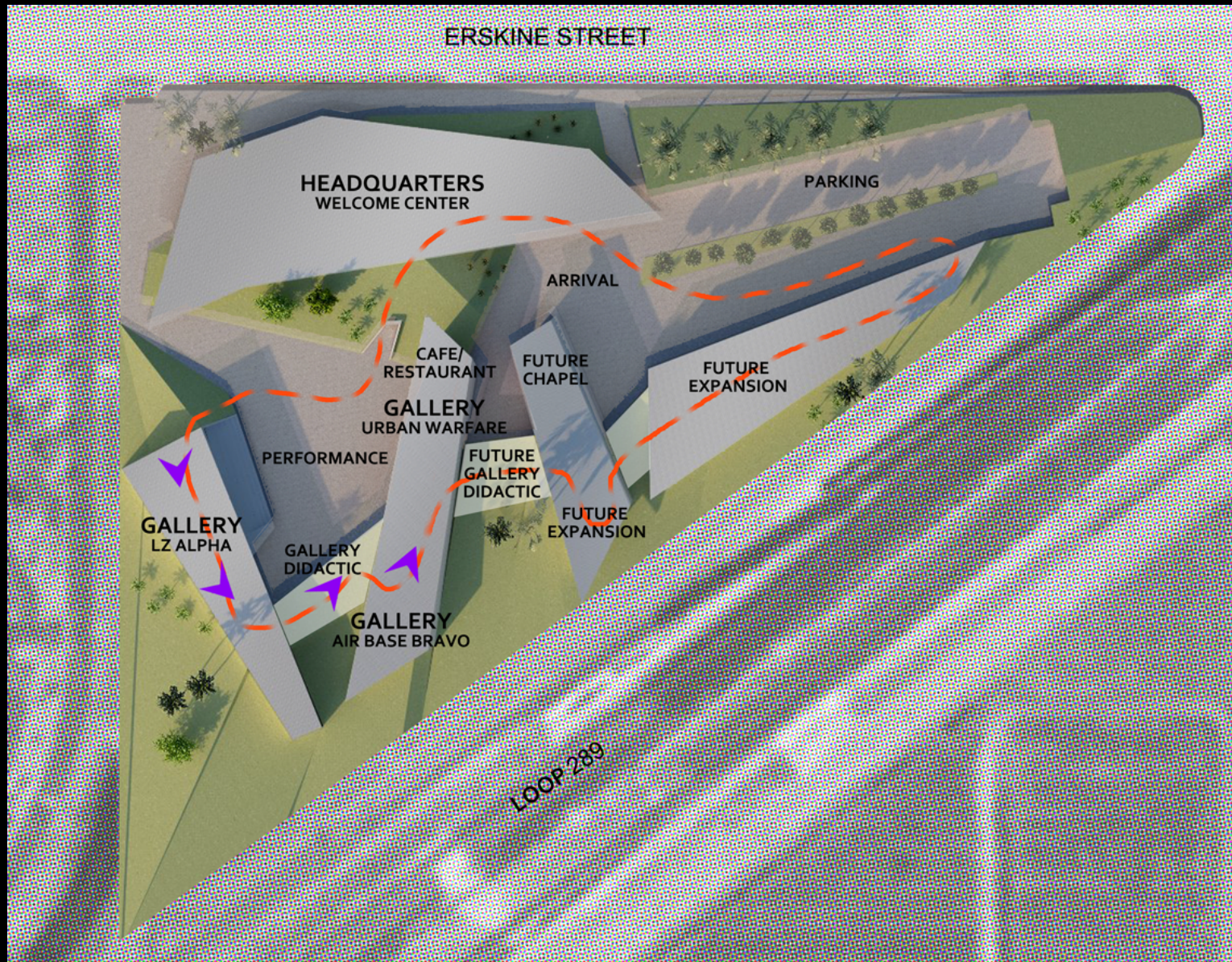
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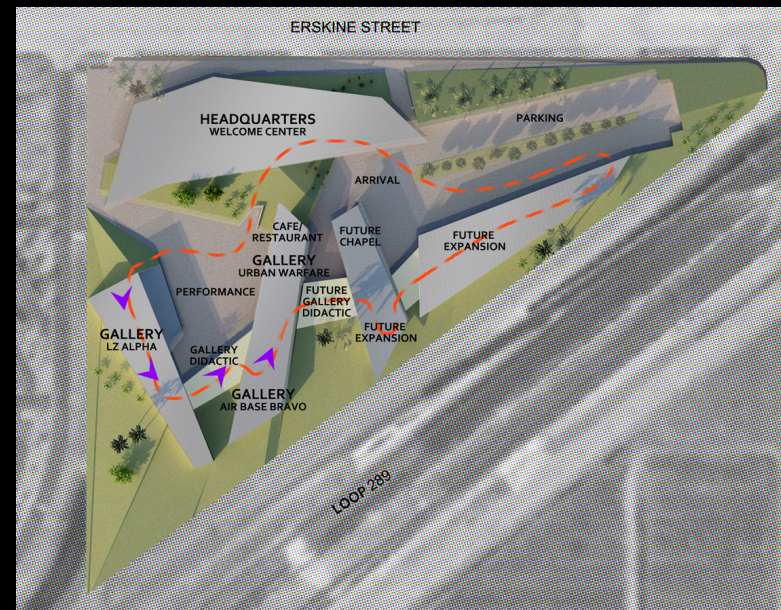
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Texas Tech University Museum of the Vietnam War: Future Gallery Spaces and Exhibits



- Initial museum exhibit spaces will focus on Vietnam veteran experiences to help ensure their ongoing engagement with and participation in this project to preserve and promote education regarding their legacy of service
- Future exhibit spaces will focus on a range of Vietnam War experiences
- The RVN and the South Vietnamese during the Vietnam War
- Counterinsurgency and Civic Action in Vietnam
- Wartime experiences in Laos and Cambodia
- The role of allies during the Vietnam War
- International relations and diplomacy during the Vietnam War
- Women in wartime
- More...



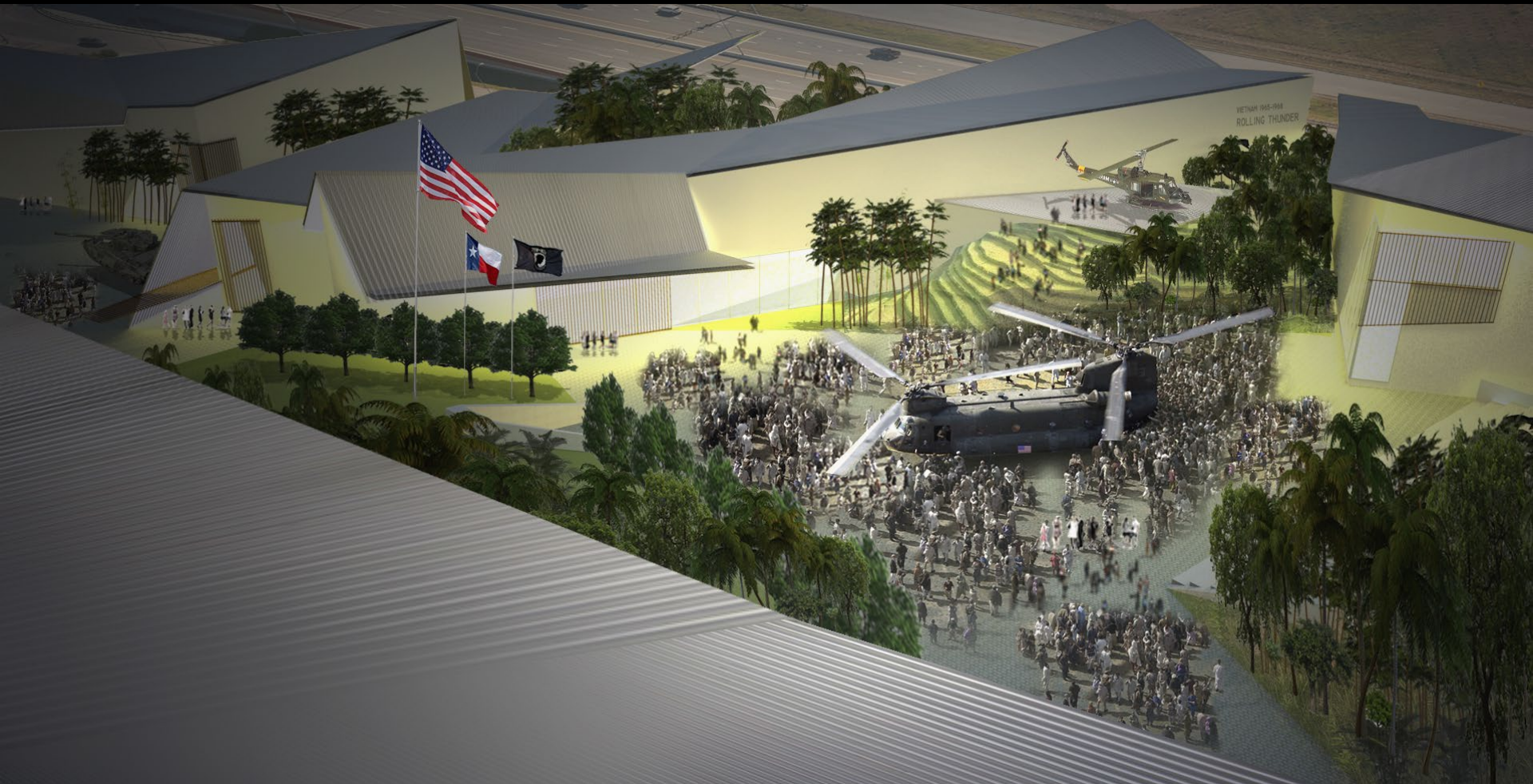


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