

## About the National Archives

The National Archives and Records Administration is an independent Federal agency that helps preserve our national history by overseeing the management of all Federal records. Our mission, under the leadership of Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero, is to ensure ready access to the essential evidence that documents the rights of American citizens, the actions of Federal officials, and the national experience.

Under the leadership of Dr. James Gardner, Executive for Legislative Archives, Presidential Libraries and Museum Services, the National Archives Experience, led by Marvin Pinkert, sponsors the exhibits, films, lectures, and educational programs of the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The Foundation for the National Archives, led by A'Lelia Bundles, the Board of Director's Chairman and President, and executive director Thora Colot, supports the work of the National Archives and the National Archives Experience in particular through partnership programs, educational products, marketing, and fund-raising activities.

The National Archives and Records Administration also has programs in twenty states through its presidential libraries and regional records centers. For more information call 202-357-5000 or visit us at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

## Important Information

**Archives Shop:** Offers publications and gift items. A 15% discount is offered on program-related books, which may be purchased during programs or pre-purchased by calling 202-357-5271.

**Museum Visit Reservations:** To make reservations to visit the museum, especially during the height of the tourist season and holiday periods, go to [www.archives.gov/nae/visit/reserved-visits.html](http://www.archives.gov/nae/visit/reserved-visits.html) or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

**Calendar of Events:** To receive the calendar of events by post or e-mail, call 202-357-5000 (option 2), or toll free at 877-874-7616, or write to [public.program@nara.gov](mailto:public.program@nara.gov).

Calendars are available in the theater lobby.

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**Foundation for the National Archives Membership:** Call 202-357-5946, write to [foundationmembers@nara.gov](mailto:foundationmembers@nara.gov), or visit [www.archives.gov/nae/support/foundation/join.html](http://www.archives.gov/nae/support/foundation/join.html). Membership brochures are available in the theater lobby.



## *McNamara, Clifford, and the Burdens of Vietnam, 1965 - 1969*

Presented in partnership with the  
Historical Office of the Secretary of Defense



William G. McGowan Theater  
Tuesday, April 10, 2012  
Noon

## Welcome

**David S. Ferriero**

Archivist of the United States

## Opening Remarks

**Dr. Erin Mahan**

Chief Historian, Office of the Secretary of Defense

## Discussion

**Dr. Erin Mahan**

**Dr. Edward Drea**

**Dr. Harold Brown**

**Dr. George C. Herring**

There will be a brief Q&A with the audience. Please use the microphones in the aisles, and out of courtesy to other patrons, keep your question brief.

## Closing Remarks

**Dr. Steve Maxner**

Director, Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University

## About the Speakers

**Erin Mahan** received her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. Previous to coming to the Department of Defense in 2010, Dr. Mahan worked at the Office of the Historian, Department of State, and at the Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction, National Defense University. She has been Chief Historian in the Office of the Secretary of Defense since 2010 and is the author of *Kennedy, De Gaulle and Western Europe* and editor/compiler of several volumes in the Foreign Relations of the United States series.

**Harold Brown** earned three degrees at Columbia University, including, at age 21 in 1949, a Ph.D. in physics. After a short period of teaching and postdoctoral research, Brown became a research scientist at the University of California Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley. In 1952 he joined the staff of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at Livermore, California, and became its director in 1960. Brown worked under Robert S. McNamara as director of defense research and engineering from 1961 to 1965, and then as secretary of the Air Force from October 1965 to February 1969. He served as Secretary of Defense from 1977 to 1981. After leaving the Pentagon, he remained in Washington, joining the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies as a visiting professor and later the university's Foreign Policy Institute as chairman. Since leaving government he has continued to speak and write widely on defense issues, and in 1983 published *Thinking About National Security: Defense and Foreign Policy in a Dangerous World*.

## About the Speakers

**Edward J. Drea** received his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas following military service in Japan and Vietnam. After teaching at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army College, he became Chief of the Research and Analysis Division at the U.S. Army Center of Military History. He has worked as a contract historian in the Historical Office of the Secretary of Defense where he was co-author of *The McNamara Ascendancy, 1961-1965* and sole author of *McNamara, Clifford, and the Burdens of Vietnam, 1965-1969*, both volumes in the Secretaries of Defense Historical Series. He has written additional books, among them are *Codebreaking and the War against Japan, 1942-1945*; *Japan's Imperial Army: Its Rise and Fall, 1853-1945* (which won the Society for Military History's Distinguished Book Award in 2010); and *In the Service of the Emperor: Essays on the Imperial Japanese Army*. He currently works as contract historian in the Joint History Office, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

**George C. Herring** obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and taught at the University of Kentucky for 36 years before retiring in 2005. One of the nation's foremost experts on the Vietnam War, his published works include *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*; *The Secret Diplomacy of the Vietnam War: The "Negotiating Volumes" of the Pentagon Papers*; and *LBJ and Vietnam: A Different Kind of War*. His most recent work is *From Colony to Superpower: American Foreign Relations Since 1776*, a volume in the Oxford History of the United States series. He has served as President of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations and in a notable official history world trifecta he has served on the historical advisory committees of the U.S. Army, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Department of State.

**Steve Maxner** received his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. He has been the director of the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University since July 2007. Previously, he served in the United States Army at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 1st Special Operations Command (Airborne). In addition to his work at the Vietnam Center, Dr. Maxner is the series editor for the *Modern Southeast Asia Series* at the Texas Tech University Press. In September 2008, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the Board of Directors for the Vietnam Education Foundation, where he served as Chairman of the Board until May 2011 and continues to serve as a regular board.

## About Our Partner

**The Historical Office of the Secretary of Defense** dates to 1949. Its mission is to collect, preserve, and present the history of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, support Department of Defense leadership, and inform the American public of the history of the Department of Defense. To carry out its mission the Historical Office prepares and publishes the Secretaries of Defense Historical Series; provides expertise in support of the historical activities of the Department of Defense; represents the Department of Defense before other government agencies on matters related to history; coordinates joint historical efforts among the military service and Defense Agency history offices; and prepares special historical studies and perform special assignments.