



Picturing Nam

Photographs are a powerful part of our collective memory of the Vietnam War. Many of the iconic photographs were taken by photojournalists working for newspapers, magazines, or wire services. But there were also military photographers in Vietnam serving in our armed forces. They took thousands of photographs that covered every aspect of the conflict—photographs that are now part of our National Archives. Their assignments sent them everywhere: the jungles and swamps, forward bases, hospital ships, rivers, and air bases. Unsanitized and uncensored, these indelible images give an intimate and ground up view of the war and those who fought it.



Exhibition Details

Content:

41 framed and matted black & white and color digital prints, 11 large-format murals, text, 7 graphic panels, and 52 identification labels

Curator:

Bruce Bustard, PhD, National Archives

Supplemental Materials:

Educational and promotional resources, including an education and resource guide, marketing resources, installation manual, and exhibit-related products through the National Archives Store.

Rental Fee:

\$3,000 for 7-week display

Security Requirements:

Limited security and environmental controls

Shipping:

Exhibitor is responsible for all outgoing shipping costs

Size:

200 linear feet

Number of Crates:

2

Insurance:

Insured by the National Archives

Tour Dates:

Picturing Nam is available through 2020. Dates are subject to change.

Project Status:

On the Road

More About this Exhibition

Military photographers stationed in Vietnam shot hundreds of thousands of photographs that documented American Armed Forces activities. This exhibit focuses on three photographic themes, including:

Landscapes

Most Americans knew almost nothing about Vietnam before the war. Many soldiers, sailors, and airmen seeing Vietnam's dense jungles, rugged mountains, murky swamps, endless rice paddies, and brown rivers for the first time must have felt very far from home.

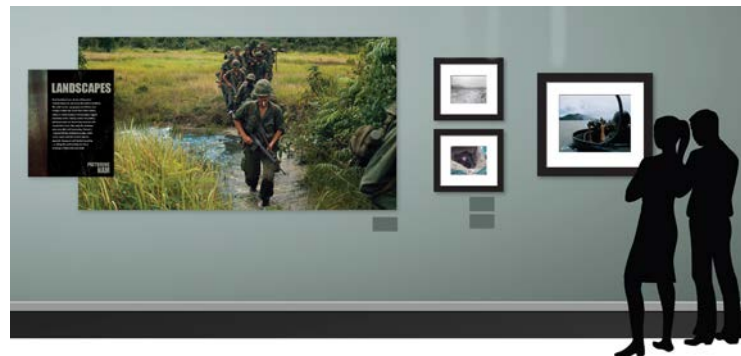
Objects

Wars are often summed up and remembered through artifacts. The Vietnam War created its own set of memorable objects, many of which appear in military photographs, including helicopters, M-16 rifles, graffiti-covered helmets, Phantom jets, peace symbol necklaces, and body bags.

Faces

War puts individuals into extraordinary and dangerous situations. Such circumstances fostered determination, anxiety, exhaustion, boredom, compassion, exaltation, and dread--feelings that are seen in the faces of those who were there.

Picturing Nam is organized by the National Archives and Records Administration, and traveled by the National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service (NATES). It is presented in part by the Lawrence F. O'Brien Family, Pritzker Military Museum & Library, AARP, and the National Archives Foundation.



National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service

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