

7 January 2026

Dear Mr. Lê Quang Tuệ,

We are pleased to formally invite you to participate in the historical research efforts led by the Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive (VNCA) and Institute for Peace & Conflict (IPAC) at Texas Tech University (TTU), as part of the U.S. Vietnam Wartime Accounting Initiative (VWAI). You are invited to serve in the role of Document, Image & Geospatial Mapping Technician – AI/LLM Specialist for this project, with a term of engagement of one year, from January 2026 through December 2026.

Established by the U.S. Congress in 2018, the Vietnam Wartime Accounting Initiative is a humanitarian project dedicated to assisting Vietnam in accounting for more than 200,000 Vietnamese soldiers and civilians still missing from the Vietnam War. The VWAI includes numerous partners and stakeholders in both countries, with U.S. partners focused on historical archival research, veteran and family exchanges, and the development of private-sector support. Historical research efforts within the VWAI are led by VNCA and IPAC at TTU, with support from the U.S. government and in collaboration with U.S. and Vietnamese partners. The initiative aims to leverage U.S. and Vietnamese wartime documents to help account for missing Vietnamese soldiers and civilians, including identifying potential grave locations and facilitating the return of legacy materials to surviving veterans and families.

The VWAI recognizes that, beyond American recovery efforts, millions of Vietnamese families continue to live with unresolved loss and uncertainty. VWAI addresses these challenges through archival research and digitization, database development, capacity building, and community engagement, drawing on both U.S. and Vietnamese sources to recover information, return documents and personal effects, and advance remembrance and reconciliation. At its core, the initiative affirms that accounting for the missing is not only a historical undertaking but a deeply human one—seeking dignity, closure, and healing for families while fostering long-term cooperation and reconciliation between Vietnam and the United States.

Responsibilities of the Document, Image & Geospatial Mapping Technician – AI/LLM Specialist include:

- Process, restore, and digitally enhance scanned wartime documents, maps, aerial photos, and imagery to improve legibility for transcription, translation, and forensic interpretation.



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- Analyze and georeference wartime maps, sketches, coordinates, and unit movement records and align them with contemporary GIS data and satellite imagery to support case reconstruction.
- Convert historical coordinate systems (e.g., Indian 1960 datum, UTM zones, wartime grid references) into modern geospatial frameworks for accurate location analysis.
- Support MIA/KIA case development by identifying, mapping, and visualizing battle sites, burial locations, movement routes, and operational zones using GIS tools.
- Apply AI/LLM and computer vision tools to automate data extraction from handwritten, degraded, or complex archival materials, including names, dates, locations, and unit identifiers.
- Develop workflows to leverage artificial intelligence for pattern recognition, cross-referencing, and entity linking across large volumes of captured documents and archival records.
- Collaborate with historians, oral historians, GIS analysts, and case researchers to integrate spatial, documentary, and oral history data into cohesive case narratives.
- Assist in building and maintaining geospatial layers, databases, and visualizations for internal analysis, field planning, and humanitarian recovery coordination.
- Ensure all digital restoration, enhancement, and mapping work adheres to archival standards, evidentiary integrity, and documentation protocols.

Compensation for this role is set at USD 15,000 for the one-year term. Payment will be made on a quarterly basis, upon submission of an invoice at the end of each quarter, in accordance with TTU's independent contractor payment procedures.

Your research will form an integral part of the overall project. The research process and preliminary findings are expected to be presented at the Texas Tech University Vietnam Center Annual Conference, co-organized by Texas Tech University and the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), Vietnam National University, Hanoi, tentatively scheduled for June 2026.

We cordially invite you to join this research initiative. Your contributions will play a meaningful role in advancing scholarly understanding and addressing the enduring legacies of the war between Vietnam and the United States.



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Acceptance of Invitation

If you are willing to accept this invitation and agree to the terms outlined above, we kindly ask that you sign and return a copy of this letter as confirmation of your acceptance.

Best regards,

Dr. Stephen F. Maxner

Director, Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive
Co-Principal Investigator, Vietnam Wartime Accounting Initiative (VWAI), Texas Tech University

Dr. Alex-Thái Đình Võ

Assistant Research Professor, Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive
Co-Principal Investigator, Vietnam Wartime Accounting Initiative (VWAI), Texas Tech University

Accepted and agreed:

Signature: _____

Name: Mr. Lê Quang Tuệ

Date: _____