

0. WAR ESCALATES - Story Preface

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Four C-123s are spraying defoliant over suspected Vietcong positions, in South Vietnam, during September of 1965. The planes were specially equipped, for these types of missions, and were able to cover a one-thousand-foot-wide swath for each pass they completed over this type of dense vegetation. U.S. Air Force photo.

After Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which gave President Johnson the authority to conduct the war as he saw fit, the United States developed its "Vietnam Defense Campaign." As more Americans died in Southeast Asia, even more were drafted.

In 1965, after winning the presidency in his own right, LBJ gave speeches with titles like these: "We Will Stand in Vietnam" and a "Pattern for Peace in Southeast Asia."

But while the President talked at home, trying to address the concerns of an increasingly upset country (and to explain his reasons for escalating America's involvement in Southeast Asia), bombs exploded overseas. As LBJ predicted:

*This will be a disorderly planet for a long time.*

Decades later, the pictures and sounds of war are still haunting:

- Napalm bombs explode on Viet Cong structures south of Saigon.
- A Marine helicopter is hit by gunfire.
- "Known Viet Cong prisoners" wired together at the neck, are taken to a regimental collection point on July 25, 1965.
- "Check point Charlie" at Da Nang.
- Marines, during search and clear missions in August of 1965, take suspected Viet Cong as prisoners.

In 1966, America launched a "Vietnam Air Campaign." The F-4 Phantom II would soon become the workhorse of the war.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WAR-ESCALATES-Vietnam-War>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WAR-ESCALATES-Vietnam-War>



### Napalm Bombs Explode on "Vietcong Structures" in South Vietnam

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Napalm-Bombs-Explode-on-Vietcong-Structures-in-South-Vietnam>



### Viet Cong - Capturing a Prisoner

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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### Viet Cong Prisoners

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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### Suspected Viet Cong Prisoners

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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### Checkpoint Charlie, Da Nang

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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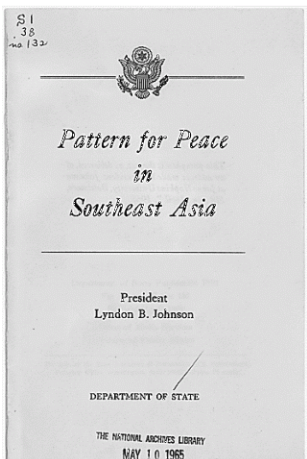


### F-4 Phantom II

Image online, courtesy U.S. Department of Defense.

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### Pattern for Peace in Southeast Asia

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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Lyndon Baines Johnson - Inaugural Address

Lyndon Baines Johnson - Inaugural Address, 20 January 1965.

Online, courtesy C-SPAN.

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