

OKLAHOMA AND THE COLD WAR: CIVIL-
MILITARY RELATIONS AT FORT SILL
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR,
1965-1975

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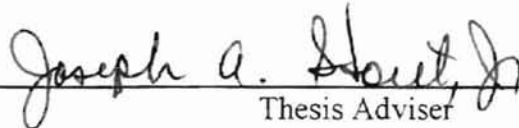
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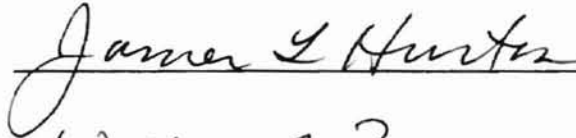
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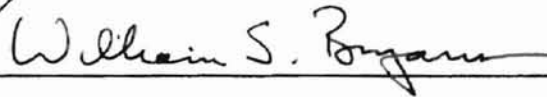
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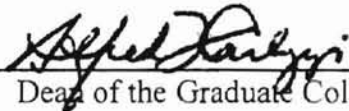
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PREFACE

The American dislike for “standing armies” is both longstanding and well documented. Among the enumerated grievances against King George listed in the Declaration of Independence were: “He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures” and “He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.” During the ratification debate that preceded the adoption of the Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, as Publius, wrote extensively, reassuring Americans that the new Constitution afforded adequate protections against military power and its potential encroachment upon civil liberties. In Federalist Paper number 24 Hamilton elaborated:

To the powers proposed to be conferred upon the federal government, in respect to the creation and direction of the national forces, I have met with but one specific objection, which, if I understand it rightly, is this--that proper provision has not been made against the existence of standing armies in time of peace; an objection which I shall now endeavor to show rests on weak and unsubstantial foundations.¹

James Madison agreed in Federalist Paper number 41, stating:

A standing force, therefore, is a dangerous, at the same time that it may be a necessary, provision. On the smallest scale it has its inconveniences. On an extensive scale its consequences may be fatal. On any scale it is an object of laudable circumspection and precaution.²

In the nineteenth century, President Abraham Lincoln asserted careful control over the military establishment; in the twentieth century President Harry S. Truman removed

popular General Douglass MacArthur from duty after MacArthur wrote a member of the Senate essentially expressing dissatisfaction with Truman's leadership. This removal reasserted constitutional provisions providing for civilian control of the American military, reinforcing ideals and traditions about the power of the armed forces. In times of war and crisis, Americans have resorted to sometimes extensive, but temporary, military escalations to accomplish their wartime manpower requirements. Each time this buildup occurred, civilians developed economic and social ties with military installations and personnel.

Given this perhaps uniquely American propensity to view armies within their midst as a possible incursion against liberty, why do American communities often welcome military installations nearby? How does a wartime buildup and decline pattern affect the community? Why is the increased military presence not only tolerated but quite often embraced? Economic considerations are certainly a part of the ties between military bases and communities; however, other important factors may include military tradition and history, pride and patriotism, protection and safety, increased infra-structure development, and stronger social ties between the two communities.

By examining newspaper accounts, military, and community records, this work presents a case study of Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The study includes an analysis of the Cold War that contributed to the United States participation in the Vietnam War and the impact the war had on Lawton, Oklahoma. The American foreign policy shift toward interventionism occurred as a result of the victory in World War II; this also altered the American view of the military. The Cold War forced Americans to accept a global

responsibility as a positive force in world politics and the military became an acceptable means by which this policy could achieve its goal.

During the period studied, 1965-1975, Fort Sill contributed significantly to the economy and social order of the surrounding community, solidifying the bonds between the two entities. The city of Lawton heavily supported the nearby military facility as evidenced by the actions of local officials and citizens and the number of newspaper accounts that focused on military activities. Economic activity affected this relationship, but does not entirely explain the close interaction between the military and civilian populations; the city of Lawton considered the post at Fort Sill to be an integral part of its community. This work assessed economic factors, including military and civilian payrolls, sales taxes collected, real and personal property tax assessed, per capita income, and changes in business patterns, and social factors, including county birth, marriage, and death rates, crime, public school enrollment, and traffic accidents, to determine what change, if any, the rapid growth in the military complement at Fort Sill had upon the surrounding community of Lawton and Comanche County.

Communities demonstrate their support for military installations by their tolerance of negative aspects of an increased military presence and willingness to provide city services to military facilities. Possible reasons for this support may include pride and patriotism, military and other traditions, the protection and safety afforded by the close proximity to the military base, the increased infra-structure development that supports both the base and commercial business enterprises, as well as developed social ties between the two communities. In Oklahoma, social acceptance of military bases near

communities stemmed primarily from feelings of patriotism. This support, along with economic factors, combined to make the military installation an integral part of community life.

I would like to thank my committee, Dr. Joseph Stout, Dr. James Huston, Dr. Chung-Shin Park, and Dr. Bill Bryans for serving on my committee. I also thank Dr. Ronald Petrin for his help with the initial concept of this study and Dr. Richard Rohrs for teaching me the importance of documentation and other details. These professors are excellent examples as both teachers and scholars, and I am privileged to have been their student. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Stout for his time, attention, and expertise.

I also have a few personal debts to acknowledge. As all historians are in the debt of librarians, I wish to thank John Phillips, Connie Kirby, and the staff in government documents at the OSU library. Dr. Boyd Dastrup, Command Historian at Fort Sill, took time from his busy schedule to talk with me and make archival materials available. I owe my husband a great deal of thanks for his encouragement and commitment. To my parents, in particular my father, who passed on his love of history and inspired me to produce my best effort, I extend my appreciation. I am also grateful to my children for their sacrifice in allowing their mother to be away studying, and I challenge them to continue reaching for their best, both academically and personally.

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1. Clinton Rossiter ed., *The Federalist Papers* (New York: Penguin Books, 1961), 157.
 2. Ibid., 257.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION: COLD WAR CHANGES IN FOREIGN POLICY

Significant alterations occurred in United States' political, economic, and social systems in the post World War II era, primarily due to Cold War politics, evolving social values, and a more educated and affluent population. More traditional isolationist foreign policies yielded to an acceptance by Americans of a need to establish a global presence. The economy grew rapidly in the expanding consumer market. America's youth, particularly in the 1960s decade, became more educated and politically active as they challenged existing social norms and practices. African Americans pressed for an end to discrimination in all aspects of American life. Inner-city urban areas lost population as people moved to suburbs. Automobiles became common transportation to affordable housing located in the suburbs. These changes occurred throughout the country, including Oklahoma.

Historians and sociologists study the growth, function, and social change within cities to determine how this shift in population affects institutions and people. These studies involve demographic information such as births, deaths, and migration rates. Other important factors to consider include the developmental stages of the community,

social problems, the impact of urbanization and suburbanization, and the consequences of the Cold War.

The United States military has reflected modifications in society and has followed a consistent pattern of expansion due to domestic and foreign pressures. During the War of 1812, the size of the armed forces increased from 12,631 in 1812, to a high of 46,858 in 1814; by 1830, however, the number declined below the 1812 complement with 11,942 men serving their country in the military. On the eve of the Civil War in 1860, there were 27,958 men on duty, the majority of whom were serving in the great expanse of the American West to quell disturbances between settlers and the American Indians. This contingent increased to more than one million men by 1865, but by 1870 had declined to approximately fifty thousand. Ten years later 37,894 military personnel were on active duty as the decline continued. During the twentieth century, the same forces produced a cyclical demand for troops. Between the end of World War II and approximately 1990, the Cold War between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. demanded the maintenance of a somewhat larger military complement. Military personnel during The Korean War ballooned from 1,460,261 in 1950, to a high of 3,635,912 in 1952, and decreased to 2,476,435 in 1960. While military personnel on duty increased 32 percent (from 2,687,409 to 3,547,902) from the height of involvement in Vietnam during 1964-1968, personnel strength declined 27 percent in the larger period of involvement, from 1964-1975¹ (see Appendix A, Table A-1).

Fort Sill located in Comanche County Oklahoma, near the town of Lawton also experienced this pattern of temporary increase during wartime with an often drastic

reduction at the close of each military deployment. During World War II, the military complement at Fort Sill increased to almost 40,000; when the war ended in Europe the number dropped to approximately 20,000. After the surrender of Japan only 10,000 personnel remained. The Korean War in the 1950s again brought an increase to the complement at Fort Sill to 20,000.² In response to the Vietnam War, Fort Sill experienced an increase in excess of 39% more military personnel in 1967 over 1966, with 36,260 soldiers temporarily calling Fort Sill home.³ This high level of military personnel remained constant throughout 1969, until a reduction of 13% in 1970. The years 1967-1969 represent years of intense activity at Fort Sill. This increased activity caused housing shortages, stretched city budgets and utilities, increased crime and complaints to city officials, and strained the patience of city and post officials as they accommodated the sudden increase in military and civilian support population.

During and after World War II the number of United States military installations, and thus federal expenditures, increased in the western United States including Fort Sill. This increase in military spending created what has been called the “military industrial complex,” a phrase indicating the intertwined dependence and cooperation between local entrepreneurs and the military. Historian Gerald D. Nash documented some of this development in *The Federal Landscape* (1999) and *The American West Transformed: The Impact of World War II* (1990). Nash posited that the influx of federal money in this time period through increased federal activity provided the capital necessary to mature the western economy. Nash explained:

World War II did much to expand the economic importance of the military in the region and to lay the foundation for what in the second half of the twentieth century came to be known as the military-industrial complex.⁴

Historian Eric Foner, in *The Story of American Freedom* (1998), agreed:

Even though the rapid expansion of the suburban middle class owed much to federal tax subsidies, mortgage guarantees for home purchases, highway construction, military spending, and benefits under the G.I. Bill, Cold War affluence greatly expanded the constituency that identified freedom with free enterprise.⁵

Alan Brinkley, in *The Unfinished Nation* (1993), punctuated the importance of military spending with this statement, "Government spending . . . continued to stimulate growth through public funding of schools, housing, veterans' benefits, welfare, and interstate highways. Above all, there was military spending."⁶

The change in the economy through expanded numbers of military personnel and installations often had profound economic and social consequences upon the nearby communities. In Nash's view the economy developed from an essentially colonial economy, primarily based on the distribution of raw materials such as petroleum and agricultural products, into a diverse economy with increased manufacturing, service, and industrial segments. Increased federal expenditures were also significant in prompting a westward migration during the 1940s. This had great social implications. The increased western population created new markets, urban growth, and optimism for the future. Educational opportunities provided by the GI Bill, new federal housing policies, and major highway systems contributed to the development of the western economy in the post-war era. Because the Oklahoma economy primarily centered around the agriculture and petroleum industries, it fitted the western trend; increased federal expenditures

through the military installations diversified and stimulated the economy, while strengthening the social ties between military and civilian communities. According to Nash:

Essentially, the federal government promoted the restructuring of a natural resource-based colonial economy into a technologically oriented and service economy stimulated by massive federal expenditures. The Federal government was the instrument that unleashed the entrepreneurial energies of millions of people who engineered the transformation in the course of the next half century.⁷

By the 1960s, the changing nature of the market economy, social concerns, warfare itself, and other factors, dictated changes and reductions within the military sector. In March of 1961, the Kennedy administration "announced the reduction or closure of 954 military bases."⁸ Over the period 1960-1989, in constant 1972 dollars, federal budget outlays for national defense increased until hitting a high peak of \$101.4 billion in 1968, continuing to decline until reaching a figure of \$67.2 billion dollars in 1975.⁹ During the period 1988 - 1995, base realignment and closure commissions recommended closing 330 military installations largely due to defense reductions warranted by the end of the Cold War.¹⁰ The economic impact of these closings was significant to the nearby communities. Soldiers, sailors, and airmen spent much of their paychecks within communities; the number of civilians employed by the military often made the government the largest employer within the community. Many cities and states with military installations marked by the Commission for closing fought to retain this government largess in what an article in *Time* referred to as "their last drop of blood, sweat and tears."¹¹ When the Commission placed the naval shipyard at Charleston, South Carolina, on the list for possible closure, according to the article in *Time*, the city's

political leaders and Chamber of Commerce “launched a public relations counterattack,” raising over a million dollars for staff and hiring Washington lobbyists to fight the closure.¹² Author Eric Minton of *Planning* magazine wrote: “U.S. military bases are usually popular with their host communities--because they are cash cows.”¹³ Despite the best efforts of many communities to stop closings they were frequently unsuccessful, and an economic and social vacuum developed that was often never replaced.

Yet there is a dark side to military installations within the nearby communities as well. Crime frequently increases with the influx of personnel. Sociologists often associate cities with higher crime rates, particularly in periods of rapid growth and increased “disorganization” that accompanies social turmoil or change. Both factors were present when military activity and personnel escalate.¹⁴ Other negative factors included a tight, expensive housing market, stretched public school resources, rising city budgets as localities struggle to provide services to an increased population, and more frequent neighborhood complaints. Bars, brawls, prostitution, con men and vandalism often flourish in the environment created between the civilian and military populations. All these negative conditions existed to various degrees in Lawton, Oklahoma, during peak periods of military expansion at Fort Sill.

Allen M. Wakstein wrote in *The Urbanization of America* (1970) that “Paradoxically the city on the one hand reflects some of man’s greatest achievements and on the other hand presents one of his greatest dilemmas.”¹⁵ Sociologists have studied the growth of cities by considering various aspects of the population and urban environment. The most basic measuring tools include simple demographics-- primarily the birth, death,

and migration rates--for a community, region, or country. Developmental stages that academics have studied include founding, growth, pre-industrial, industrial, and post-industrial eras. Patterns of organization, including the concentric zone model, the sector model, and the multiple nuclei model, also have been used to describe urban evolution. The concentric zone model described cities that initially developed around a central downtown area and expanded outward in concentric rings. Each ring developed to serve a needed function such as residential or business. In the sector model functional sectors developed along common transportation lines and other geographical features. The multiple nuclei model described a city that grew around functional clusters or districts. Sociologists have also studied social institutions within city populations including familial, educational, governmental, and political groups; they also research social problems that inhabit the city--crime, poverty, racial and class inequities, overcrowding, pollution, and other housing problems.¹⁶

Although historians have written about cities for over a century, their emphasis has shifted over time. Nineteenth century urban history consisted of narratives of local events, mostly glamorizing local elites or reinforcing long-held morals and traditions. Early twentieth century historians practiced analytical history. Although they eventually acknowledged the importance of urbanization, belief in the agrarian myth initially curtailed interest in the history of cities.¹⁷

The first recognized study of the city was Arthur M. Schlesinger, Sr.'s *The Rise of the City* (1933); Schlesinger saw urban growth as a dominant theme for the period 1878-1898. Historians reflected upon the importance of cities to American growth and

development, and discussed social issues such as class, poverty, housing, health, and reform. Other issues included immigration and the immigrants contribution to city life, culture, and politics.¹⁸

The world political and diplomatic scene changed markedly during the first half of the twentieth century with several major political re-alignments. Two World Wars occurred, and several violent and bloody revolutions. The most important of these for shaping U.S. Cold War attitudes were the Russian Bolshevik and Chinese communist revolutions. Several major empires also collapsed, including the Chinese, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian, German, Italian, and the Japanese. Surviving imperial systems, in particular those of Great Britain and France, experienced decline and military defeats.¹⁹ The Allies defeated the once-powerful socialist German and other fascist regimes, but World War II left the Soviet Union in a powerful position to export its special version of totalitarianism.

While this work ostensibly concerns Fort Sill, Oklahoma during the Vietnam conflict, it also is useful to place the topic in the framework of United States domestic and foreign policy. Cold War diplomacy eventually precipitated the United States' entry into the war in Vietnam. In the aftermath of World War II, a Cold War developed between the United States and its former allies from the Soviet Union. Americans developed an intense fear of communist expansion and became aware of the possibility of internal subversion by communist-leaning politicians. American foreign policy evolved from the assistance articulated in the Truman Doctrine to the containment policy later supported by the Eisenhower administration. The American intent was clear, however,

the United States would use its economic might and military force to stop possible communist expansion from threatening American interests.

The relationship of the two emerging “superpowers,” the United States and the Soviet Union, became increasingly hostile because they represented the opposing ideologies of capitalism and communism. Winston Churchill later lamented, “When all had been said and done, and after the long agonies and efforts of the Second World War, it seemed that half Europe had merely exchanged one despot for another.”²⁰ The Communist Manifesto alarmed Americans with its stark call to revolution:

. . . In Short, the Communists everywhere support every revolutionary movement against the existing social and political order of things. . . . The communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communistic revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.²¹

Early in 1946, American diplomat George Kennan sent President Harry S. Truman the famous “long telegram from Moscow,” in which he outlined the incompatibility of the Soviet and American political systems; no “modus vivendi” or arrangement between the two powers was possible, he believed, because the overriding aim of the Soviets was global expansion. This note signaled the beginning of the United States’ policy of “containment” of communism, a policy that contributed to war in Korea and eventually Vietnam. Two weeks after Kennan’s telegram, Britain’s much beloved ex-Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave his “iron curtain” speech at Fulton, Missouri. Churchill later elaborated in his memoirs, “The Communist parties, which were very small in all these Eastern States of Europe, have been raised to pre-eminence and power

far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control.”

While the Soviet news organization *Pravda* denounced Churchill as “an anti-Soviet warmonger,”²² he continued to expound upon his conviction that “the progress and freedom of all the people of the world, under a reign of law enforced by a world organization, will not come to pass, nor will the age of plenty begin, without the persistent, faithful, and above all fearless exertions of the British and American systems of society,” flatly stating “There was no visible limit to the harm they [the Soviets] might do.”²³ To Churchill, “Neither the sure prevention of war nor the continuous rise of world organization will be gained without what I have called the fraternal association of the English-speaking peoples.”²⁴

With Britain’s announcement they would no longer be able to provide assistance to Greece and Turkey in their struggle to stop communist insurgents, Truman reasoned it was time “for the United States to assume the global responsibility for containing communism.”²⁵ He outlined the conflict in the text of a speech given on March 12, 1947, that became known as the Truman Doctrine:

At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one . . . I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way . . . The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world—and we shall surely endanger the welfare of our own Nation.²⁶

By 1949, Truman was even more direct: "The peoples of the earth face the future with grave uncertainty, composed almost equally of great hopes and great fears. In this time of doubt, they look to the United States as never before for good will, strength, and wise leadership." He outlined four major courses of action: support for the United Nations, economic aid to help recovering nations, to "strengthen freedom-loving nations against the dangers of aggression," and provide new scientific applications to help underdeveloped areas. Later policy prescriptions would become more ominous; National Security Council document 68 (NSC-68), dated April 1950 elaborated: "... a rapid buildup of political, economic, and military strength in the free world."²⁷

Other Presidents, including Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson, reiterated the American commitment to containment. Leaders of the United States also grounded their policy in the "domino theory;" the theory was defended by Eisenhower at a press conference on April 7, 1954:

You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you could have a beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences . . . Asia, after all, has already lost some 450 million of its peoples to the Communist dictatorship, and we simply can't afford greater losses . . . So, the possible consequences of the loss are just incalculable to the free world.²⁸

Eisenhower's secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, intensified the threat with his doctrine, of "massive retaliation," announced in 1954. The United States, Dulles warned, would not necessarily respond to communist threats with conventional forces in local conflicts as they had in Korea, but instead, would rely on "the deterrent of massive retaliatory power," clearly implying the use of nuclear weapons.²⁹ Kennedy also,

supported the idea of communist containment in his inaugural address, January 20, 1961: "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty. This much we pledge—and more."³⁰

In June 1950, the army of communist North Korea marched across the 38th parallel, invading neighboring South Korea. President Truman interpreted the invasion as Soviet-directed aggression and a test of American will. With the concurrence of the United Nations, Truman committed American forces to assist South Korea in the first military conflict of the Cold War. By June 27, 1950, Americans were fighting in this "police action" against North Korean aggression. In September, 1950, the Oklahoma 45th National Guard, many trained at the old Camp Doniphan at Fort Sill, left to join the United Nations forces in Korea and the contingent of soldiers training at Fort Sill dramatically increased. The commitment to maintain a democratic Japan, the containment doctrine, and the tenets of NSC-68 guided and influenced American policy.

Americans paid dearly for their intervention in South Korea, both in terms of human and monetary resources, but South Korea retained its former status as an independent and non-communist nation. However, this experience set several precedents that greatly influenced future American foreign policy. American public opinion became more solidly anti-communist, thus they accepted increased military spending and the concept of the armed forces as an integral element in maintaining world peace. American leaders deepened their commitment to the French in Vietnam, in an attempt to prevent a communist-led government in that nation. Truman expanded presidential powers by

describing the action in Korea as a “police action” and bypassing Congress for a declaration of war; this experience foreshadowed the action that was to follow in Vietnam.

Indochina and Vietnam especially was another nation that, in the American view, was susceptible to communist subversion after World War II. Ho Chi Minh, the leader of a revolutionary nationalist group with communist ideology and ties to Moscow, proclaimed Vietnam independent from the previous French Colonial rule on September 2, 1945. The United States played a prominent and approving role in the celebrations relating to the declaration of Vietnam as an independent nation, but later changed this position to one of support for the return of control of Vietnam to France. During the years 1950-1954, the United States actively supported, with military advisors, support personnel, war material and monetary support, the French efforts to crush the communist revolution of Ho Chi Minh. This change of policy contributed to a continued and later massive United States involvement in the Vietnam conflict spanning over 25 years. The French finally withdrew after surrendering at the battle of Dien Bien Phu on May 7, 1954.

The Geneva Accords on Vietnam of July, 1954, without the direct acquiescence of the United States, established a temporary dividing line at the 17th parallel, and agreed that a government under Ho would rule the Northern portion, while a pro-western government under Ngo Dinh Diem, an American-educated Catholic, would govern in the south. Elections in 1956 would unite the country and determine the final leader of the government; these elections never occurred, leaving the country divided and the United States increasingly involved in support of Diem.

As events deteriorated in Vietnam--Diem became increasingly harsh in his persecution of communists, Buddhists and other groups whom he felt threatened his power base--the Cold War between the Soviets and the Americans escalated with the Bay of Pigs incident in 1961 and the Cuban missile crisis in 1964. Americans continued to fight communism with covert actions by the CIA and special armed forces. Many of these forces were active in Vietnam. In October of 1963 military officials assassinated Diem in a coup while Americans looked the other way. Advisors near Kennedy reported he reacted with "a look of shock and dismay on his [Kennedy's] face which I had never seen before," and "speculated that he realized that Vietnam had been his greatest foreign policy failure;" within three weeks Kennedy himself was the victim of another assassin's bullet.³¹

Newly-inaugurated President Lyndon Baines Johnson, was determined to accept the assumption that America's credibility and vital interests were at stake in Vietnam, and worth sending ground troops in to defend. In August of 1964, after the President reported a North Vietnamese torpedo attack on US Navy destroyers on patrol in international waters off the coast of Vietnam, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution that authorized the President to "take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, to assist any member or Protocol State of the South East Asia Collective Defense treaty requesting assistance in defense of its freedom."³²

By March 1965, two battalions of American Marines had landed at Da Nang in South Vietnam. What began as a limited commitment to containment soon became a full-scale military involvement as the number of American troops in Vietnam swelled to

500,000 by the end of 1967. Also by 1967, 36,260 troops were in training at Fort Sill; this level of training continued at the post until 1969.³³

As the Americans increasingly took over the war, they developed several strategies for its prosecution. "Pacification" involved removing enemy Viet Cong from an area and "pacifying" the remaining Vietnamese, winning over their "hearts and minds;" this rapidly deteriorated into an often harsh program of relocation that created many refugees.³⁴ Massive bombing campaigns like Rolling Thunder, dropped thousands of tons of explosives on both enemies and allies. The United States quickly became involved in what many historians and others have termed a "quagmire;" the President could not risk expansion of the war because of the danger of Chinese or Soviet intervention, and could not retract the war for fear of the loss of "credibility."³⁵

On January 31, 1968, the Communist forces began what came to be known as the Tet Offensive, a series of coordinated assaults on the larger cities of South Vietnam. With infiltration tactics reminiscent of the Battle of the Bulge, the North Vietnamese and NLF hoped to arouse a major uprising in the south against the American-supported government in Saigon. Communist forces attacked the American embassy in Saigon, the ancient Citadel of Hue, the presidential palace, and 36 of 44 provincial capitals, five of the six major cities, 64 district capitals, and 50 hamlets, among other important targets.³⁶

Although the 1968 Tet Offensive represented a decisive tactical victory for the United States, most South Vietnamese did not welcome the "liberators" and North Vietnamese and NLF units took heavy casualties, perhaps as high as 40,000. Nevertheless, Tet became a psychological turning point for many Americans.³⁷

Increasingly, they questioned their country's involvement in Vietnam. Questions arose about war objectives, army tactics to achieve those objectives, and the fairness of the draft system.

David Levy, in his book *Debate over Vietnam* (1991), asserted this "debate" began to take place when "a carefully constructed ideology, a set of ideas that had guided and justified American foreign policy for more than a generation, began to fragment."³⁸ Levy traced the development of foreign policy in the twentieth century as one beginning with an isolationist ideology, progressing to a world role throughout World War II and the developing Cold War. As the United States attempted to be the world's policemen it lost public support, objectivity, and ultimately, at least strategically, the Vietnam War. The war was immoral, many charged, because it was not a "just war," fought for neither a defensive nor noble purpose.³⁹ Additionally, some individuals believed the war was illegal, as Congress made no formal declaration of war. Others believed the war was a civil war that was solely the concern of the Vietnamese. Levy believed these ideas destroyed the American consensus about the Vietnam war and caused the eventual development of a less interventionist foreign policy. Certain groups within society played an important role in breaking down the consensus, women, blacks, some religious groups, and perhaps young people had some catalytic effect.

The war continued with the election of Nixon to the Presidency, but under the idea of "Vietnamization," or training and equipping the South Vietnamese to defend their country, while withdrawing American forces. The first withdrawal began in 1969 with removal of 60,000.⁴⁰ In January of 1973, Nixon signed an agreement to end the war, and

Americans began coming home in large numbers. The end of United States involvement occurred in April of 1975, when Communist forces took over Saigon, renaming the city Ho Chi Minh City.

In the immediate post World War II period, the U.S. and Oklahoma changed greatly. As men came home from the war, many working women returned to the home to raise a family. The "baby boom" helped cause a housing boom, and later, an education "boom." Court litigation began to change segregationist laws that separated blacks and whites in the classroom and other places. In 1946, Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher sued the University of Oklahoma, asking to be admitted to the Law School regardless of her race. Fisher lost in state court but took her case to the United States Supreme Court with the aid of attorney Thurgood Marshall. After a failed attempt to create a "separate but equal" law school for blacks, the University admitted Fisher, but only if she sat in the back of the room with a sign that read "Colored."⁴¹ Fisher received her law degree in 1951; she became an OU regent some 25 years later. In 1958, Clara Luper "helped pull the Oklahoma civil rights movement from the courtroom onto the streets," by leading a nonviolent sit-in to protest denial of service to blacks in downtown Oklahoma City at Katz Drug Store and John A. Brown's department store. Desegregation in the public schools of Oklahoma City got underway with a 1969 order mandating busing.⁴²

New features appeared on the Oklahoma skyline. The Oklahoma City Zoo opened to patrons on February 22, 1949. In June of 1949, WKY began broadcasting television to homes in Oklahoma City and the surrounding area. Construction began on several new area highways, including the Turner Turnpike in 1953 and the H.E. Bailey

Turnpike to Lawton, OK in 1964, and the Broken Arrow Expressway in Tulsa in 1967. The government built a new Federal Aviation Administration office in Oklahoma City in 1957. Penn Square Mall, the first in Oklahoma, opened in 1960. In 1963 the state undertook a redistricting effort to reflect the urban growth taking place; by 1964, a program of urban renewal began in some of the city's deteriorated areas. In 1971 the Kerr-McClellan Navigation system connected the Arkansas and Verdigris rivers to the Mississippi.

Oklahoma's culture, long steeped in traditions of cowboys and Indians, was also undergoing change. The bootlegger era, a profitable, although illegal business since statehood in 1907, ended in 1959 when Oklahomans voted to repeal prohibition in their state. Oklahomans elected Henry Belmon the state's first Republican governor, in 1962. Music and entertainment changed from the tunes of Frank Sinatra and the big band era, to Elvis, to the Beatles; by the later 1960s Oklahoma's youth listened to Bob Dylan and other rock artists and groups. Legislators in Oklahoma also attempted to fight against poverty, inadequate medical care and housing, and other problems by increasing state expenditures for projects like the HERO bond issues, paid for by an extra tax on cigarettes, which provided funds for Oklahoma Colleges and Universities, state hospitals, and the Oklahoma Health Center in Oklahoma City.

Tragedy also touched Oklahoma. The Oklahoma 45th National guardsmen packed their bags for active service in the Korean War in September 1950. Many never returned home. Oklahomans mourned the death of President John F. Kennedy in Texas on November 22, 1963 along with the rest of the nation. Over 300,000 Oklahomans served

their country in the Vietnam War; 986 lost their lives in that conflict. Oklahomans reacted with shock at the deaths of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King in 1968.

Throughout the period 1930-1960, Oklahoma was a state shrinking in size with a larger out-migration of the population. In the 1960s the state experienced moderate growth, from a population of 2,328,284 in 1960 to a population of 2,559,463 in 1970. Also during this time period, Oklahomans moved into urban areas in large numbers. The largest cities of Oklahoma City and Tulsa experienced phenomenal growth, almost doubling throughout the decade. While primarily an oil and gas producing and agricultural region known for cattle ranches, small farms and a forestry industry, the state's manufacturing industry continued to grow throughout the 1960s; employment in manufacturing industries increased 56% and manufacturing payrolls increased 132%, from 1960-1970. By 1970 income from manufacturing employment totaled 961 million dollars in 1970. Oklahoma City and Tulsa contained 60% of the state's manufacturing industry which included machinery, food products, fabricated metal products, transportation equipment, apparel products, stone, clay, and glass, printing and publishing, and petroleum refining industry. The largest employers in 1975 with over 5000 employees each, were Phillips Petroleum Company in Bartlesville, Tinker Air Force Base, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Western Electric in Oklahoma City, and American Airlines in Tulsa. Oklahoma in 1974 had 455 banks with total deposits of nine billion dollars.⁴³

For all the good economic news, Oklahomans experienced many of the same problems that plagued other areas of the country in the 1960s, including problems with

increased urban life, urban growth and decay, housing shortages, strained educational facilities, rising crime rates, inflation, and others. In the early 1970s Oklahomans saw recession, rising unemployment, and growing environmental problems, mainly due to expansion of the oil and gas industry. From the school year ending in 1964 to 1965, Oklahoma Colleges and Universities experienced an almost 28% increase in enrollment. Some of these young people began to question the status quo at the colleges and universities, sometimes demanding an end to strict institutional rules, increased student participation in university government, and occasionally questioning the prosecution of the Vietnam War. Although Oklahoma had a small proportion of blacks, less than 7% in 1970, the state was not immune to racial problems and civil rights discussions. However, a conservative tradition within state politics and society kept many of these conflicts to a minimum.⁴⁴

The Cold War and government foreign policies like the Truman Doctrine and containment, led directly to the United States' participation in the Korean and Vietnam Wars and caused changes in the structure and function of the United States military. Although Americans generally adhered to their traditional dislike of a large military contingent during peacetime, this historical trend was less evident after World War II. Military spending increased during this period. This increased military spending changed the economy and the way that people viewed military installations, particularly in western states like Oklahoma. As a result, the economy often diversified and developed new industries where agriculture and mining were previously the primary economic sectors. The military often developed closer business relationships with commercial sectors.

Stronger social ties developed between the military and nearby communities as a result of the increasing dependence on military installations for economic support. Fort Sill in Oklahoma and the state of Oklahoma also experienced this same general pattern of increased military spending, diversification of the local economy, and strengthening social ties between the two communities.

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CHAPTER II

LAWTON AND FORT SILL

Lawton and Fort Sill have shared a unique and long-term history that underscored the symbiotic relationship between the two communities. Although Lawton began its existence five miles distant from Fort Sill, over time the two entities grew together, physically and psychologically. Each new phase of growth at Fort Sill required adjustments in Lawton. By the mid-1960s, many manifestations of the closely developing ties were evident in the *Lawton Constitution*, statements of city and post officials, and local government programs.

Historian M. David Stevens characterized the history of Lawton-Fort Sill and southwestern Oklahoma as the “product of influences from three cultures: the Indian, the military, and the settlers.”¹ Although the plains Indians were the first to arrive, they soon clashed with settlers in surrounding areas. In 1869 the United States government established Fort Sill as a remote frontier army post, consisting of approximately six companies of cavalry and four companies of infantry (about 600 men with regimental headquarters) employed to protect, supply, and support the local Indian agency in its efforts to control and confine the Indians on reservations.² That mission changed over the years, developing into a much more complex responsibility. Five miles south of Fort Sill,

surveyors plotted a town for the seat of Comanche County that would later become Lawton, Oklahoma.

General Phillip Sheridan established Fort Sill as an Army Post to quell the disturbances between Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Indians in Oklahoma Territory and nearby settlers. Conflicts arose from an often-inept government policy and errant settlers who sold liquor and arms to the Indians and stole their horses. Native Americans sometimes responded with raids into neighboring states. From this vantage point in southeastern Indian Territory, the army presided over the eventual demise of both the "Indian Wars" and the destruction of the Indian way of life, as American Indians accepted their new roles on the reservations. The Red River campaigns of 1874 and 1875 largely ended the uprisings. Beginning in 1885, Texas cattlemen leased rangeland within the reservation areas. Post life after this time became characterized by policing the reservations and supervising Indian prisoners of war, most notably, the Apache Geronimo after 1886.

White settlers claimed "unassigned" lands in Indian Territory beginning in 1889. A Presidential proclamation of July 4, 1901, opened two districts of 6,500 homesteads, each consisting of 160 acres in the former Kiowa-Comanche and Wichita lands in southwestern Oklahoma. This process led to establishment of Hobart, Anadarko, and Lawton. On July 29, 1901, government officials held the drawing to disburse the 13,000 homesteads.³ Eight days later, government officials auctioned lots in the city of Lawton. Although citizens founded Lawton in this rather unique fashion, the town soon developed in a typical frontier fashion.

Lawton grew rapidly throughout her early years, as many businesses—hotels, banks, restaurants, drugstores, grocery, hardware, clothing, barber, pawnshops, and theaters—opened.⁴ The presence of Fort Sill further stimulated growth. In September of 1901, the Rock Island Railroad arrived in Lawton, the first of two railroads that eventually served the city. Comanche County officials conducted their first county business out of a wagon. Settlers soon organized churches like the Little Chapel of Lawton, the first church in Lawton. Miners also arrived to search for gold in the nearby Wichita Mountains; however, most mining camps dispersed by 1905, after miners found little mineral wealth. The city purchased land and built Lake Lawtonka to ensure an adequate water supply in 1905. Citizens passed a school bond issue in January of 1909, providing for the establishment of the Cameron Secondary School of Agriculture. In 1927 this facility became Cameron State Agricultural College, and taught both high school and college students. Drillers discovered oil near Lawton in 1912, but these fields were shallow and most were abandoned by 1926.⁵

Throughout the 1930s, Lawton continued to grow and Fort Sill expanded, in spite of the Great Depression. Construction, service, and farming industries kept county workers busy, in addition to employment in projects of the federal Works Progress Administration. These activities helped Comanche County to survive the Great Depression of the 1930s.⁶

During the 1940s and 1950s, Lawton experienced new growth and development. The military complement at Fort Sill rose and fell, increasing to a peak of almost 40,000 during World War II and 20,000 during the Korean War. In 1951, Lawton built a

hospital and an airport. A television station opened in March of 1953. In 1960, Lake Ellsworth was constructed to increase the available water supply to the local community.⁷

For those living in Lawton during the 1960s, Fort Sill took on increased importance both to Lawton and the nation due to the use of artillery in the Vietnam War.

Staff writer for the *Lawton Constitution* Tom Jackson wrote:

You can't talk about any decade in Lawton's history without focusing attention upon Fort Sill . . . [which has] always been the city's biggest employer and most important economic influence . . . But Fort Sill never loomed larger in the consciousness of average Lawtonians than in the 1960s, when many of the troops at Fort Sill wound up being sent to Vietnam.⁸

The major reason for this increased focus on artillery training at Fort Sill was the performance of the 1st Cavalry Artillery Division during the Ia Drang campaign in November 1965. According to Dr. Boyd Dastrup, the Command Historian for Fort Sill, "The 1st Cavalry Division brought in artillery and Cobra gunships and the result was heavy enemy casualties. The communists learned don't slug it out toe-to-toe with the Americans. It's suicide."⁹

According to staff members at the *Lawton Constitution*, all the top news stories of the 1960s involved the impact of the Vietnam War on Fort Sill and Lawton, especially the years 1965 through 1969. Topics that staff members considered to be vital included "American involvement in Vietnam War impacts Lawton-Fort Sill" in 1965, "Vietnam War results in huge buildup at Fort Sill" in 1966, "Troop strength soars at Fort Sill" in 1967, and "Vietnam War's impact persists in Lawton-Fort Sill" in 1968.¹⁰

Paul McClung, a retired editor and columnist for the *Lawton Constitution*, remembered in 1999: "There was a tremendous Lawton-Fort Sill community spirit, a

spirit of community and empathy.”¹¹ However, McClung also reported that the old downtown

was like a gigantic midway at a state fair, with scores of bars side by side, each with a stable of go-go dancers, who advertised the tavern by appearing and dancing in the front windows . . . [dancers] were from everywhere in the world, all sizes, shapes and nationalities. And the streets were thronged, as in a fair, by soldiers every night.¹²

With a booming population, scarce housing,¹³ thinly-stretched city services such as water and police, and a “constant thunder from up north,” due to a barrage from three battalions practicing cannon fire each day, problems between locals and soldiers were bound to occur. The newspaper revealed few complaints, however, suggesting the depth of support and acceptance of the post as an integral part of the Lawton community, socially and economically.¹⁴

The excessive number of articles about military personnel and operations at the post suggested that the military complement at Fort Sill comprised a significant component of the circulation of the *Lawton Constitution*. A typical issue contained eighteen articles related to the military out of a 32-page issue.¹⁵ Another issue, printed on January 3, 1968, contained other support for army morale—pictures of a member of the 1st Air Cavalry carrying a Vietnamese baby to safety, a chaplain praying over a dead Vietcong, and an article describing how special rules of engagement complicated and endangered troops in the commission of an already hazardous job.¹⁶ The frequency of regular features such as “Army Orders,” “Fort Sill Births,” and “Area Men in Service,” as well as the frequent mention of social activities on the post indicated that many readers of

the Constitution were soldiers, civilian dependants of servicemen, or otherwise connected to Fort Sill.

Training programs, special awards ceremonies, and performance demonstrations also received copious attention from the *Lawton Constitution*. Numerous pictures show graduates from training programs and the recipients of special awards. Other typical articles detail performance demonstrations open to the public, like the rocket firing demonstration mentioned in June of 1967.¹⁷ Other examples of this include publicity about an annual Fourth of July picnic, the mechanized rifle company attack demonstration (to show “how to crush an aggressor force”), and students training on new howitzers.¹⁸ The paper announced the arrival and graduation of students with articles like: “3100 ROTC Cadets Arriving for Camp,” “136 New Officers Graduate at Post,”¹⁹ “40,000th Lieutenant Saluted,” and “164 Warrant Officers Graduated at Post.”²⁰

The *Lawton Constitution* also frequently urged the public to support local soldiers even while they were serving overseas. “What to send GI’s as a Gift?” encouraged readers to send soldiers in Vietnam powdered drink mixes, pocket knives, flashlights, and pictures from home “for real morale boosting.”²¹ Another article told readers how to help the army find a “superdog” to assist soldiers in Vietnam.²² Articles like the one entitled: “Time Bought for 200 Million – Asia Thankful for U.S. Presence,” illustrated aspects sympathetic and complementary to military personnel; often lacking in other media outlets, these stories appeared daily in the *Lawton Constitution*. Lawton’s citizens kept watch over the human costs of the war with articles that kept a running tally of local casualties such as: “War Claims . . .,” “Lawton Man Gives Life in War,” and others.²³

The lack of an adequate funeral allowance often drew fire from mourners in the form of comments in the *Lawton Constitution*.²⁴

Lawton city officials also provided strong support for Fort Sill, and army officials often acknowledged this support. An article "Lawton Grows" in *The Daily Oklahoman* in 1954, acknowledged the importance of the post to the welfare of the city: "With a bustling sprawling military installation in its backyard, the city of Lawton always has been keenly aware that its economic welfare and survival was wrapped up in the job of keeping its army population adequately housed and reasonably happy."²⁵ *The Daily Oklahoman* echoed this idea again in 1963: "The basic economic mainstay of Lawton is still nearby Fort Sill."²⁶ Throughout its history, Lawton officials cited Fort Sill as an important reason for improvements like the H.E. Bailey Turnpike, which opened in 1964, the water development projects, undertaken in 1961-1967, the urban renewal projects beginning in 1962, and the Lawton Public Housing Authority beginning in 1965. Army officials often seconded this cooperation with comments like:

Fort Sill has just completed a rather turbulent year, but the problems which did arise that involved the City of Lawton were always worked out most satisfactorily to mutually agreeable conditions. I know that this spirit of cooperation and assistance will continue . . .²⁷

As historian M. David Stevens remarked, Indians, military units, and settlers blended their influences to form the communities of Lawton and Fort Sill. From unique beginnings the city of Lawton grew and the army post at Fort Sill supplemented its economic and social development. During the Vietnam War era artillery training increased in importance due to the performance of the 1st Cavalry Artillery Division and

other artillery units from Fort Sill. Lawton changed to accommodate many of the needs of the larger numbers of military personnel stationed at the post, and during this period the economic and social ties between the two communities strengthened.

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CHAPTER III

CHANGES IN MILITARY TRAINING AND PROGRAMS AT FORT SILL

Changes in programs and training at Fort Sill illustrated both the shift in American foreign policy that occurred after World War II and the response of the army to the tactics and technology required in modern warfare. In the post-war era, Fort Sill trained more soldiers for longer time periods in the use of increasingly sophisticated equipment. The army also concentrated on the coordination of advanced command and control exercises, combined arms training, and battle logistics with other branches of the military services. Each new stage of military growth affected the relationship between Fort Sill and the citizens of Lawton.

Throughout its history, Fort Sill and its complement of soldiers adapted to many changes in mission and the methods of warfare. Each time unique circumstances faced soldiers at Fort Sill, they responded by developing new equipment and improved procedures and training regimes. The sheer magnitude of change was phenomenal. Fort Sill began as a remote frontier outpost that utilized primitive rifle and artillery weapons, administered either from horseback or, in the case of artillery, placed with the aid of horsepower, to subdue Indian tribes and renegade whites. Over the span of many years, Army activities and training at Fort Sill adapted to complex mission requirements

involving service on both domestic and foreign soil and sophisticated technology and tactics, including mechanized transport vehicles, helicopter placement of artillery units, and nuclear warheads and missiles.

The first phase of activity at the post involved controlling Indians within the confines of the reservation and assisting the Indian agency to administer government programs. The Indians' frequent lack of food and supplies and their contact with unscrupulous settlers and outlaws who sold liquor and munitions, stole horses, and destroyed buffalo herds, as well as the desire of some Indians to avenge relatives lost in other conflicts with both white men and neighboring tribes made the soldiers' job difficult. The Red River Wars were particularly difficult campaigns for soldiers at Fort Sill during this era. The surrender of Chief Quanah Parker to post officials on June 2, 1875, signaled an end to most of this campaign activity.¹

With the close of the Indian Wars and the opening of other land areas in Oklahoma to settlement, Fort Sill's soldiers served as the policemen for the reservations, protecting Indians from both whites and other Indians in addition to looking after settlers, Indian prisoners of war, and enforcing grazing leases. Texas cattlemen began leasing Indian rangeland in 1885. In 1894, several of the Chiricahua Apache prisoners of war, most notably Chief Geronimo, became residents of the Post. In 1901, the government dissolved the reservations in favor of 160 acre allotments to Indians with the remainder of the land opened for settlement. Many locals feared this development would abolish the need for the army post at Fort Sill.

Other developments involving artillery and a new technology, the aerial observation plane, kept Fort Sill open, again adapting to a change in mission and new methods of operation. In 1902 the army located the 29th Battery of Field Artillery at Fort Sill; the 2nd, 8th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 21st batteries soon followed. This led to the development of the School of Fire for Field Artillery, established at Fort Sill in 1911 under Captain Dan T. Moore. Also, in July of 1915, the first military air unit arrived, to begin a program of aerial observation and map photography that continued for many years. The army established an airstrip named Post Field at Fort Sill in 1917 to support this activity.²

In 1917, Camp Doniphan, a training facility for soldiers sent to duty in Europe during World War I, opened at Fort Sill. One notable trainee was Captain Harry S. Truman, future President and current commander of a battery in the 129th Field Artillery. Fifty thousand men eventually trained at Camp Doniphan and the Oklahoma National Guard later used the site for summer camp training.³

During the 1920s and 30s, Fort Sill continued activity at the Field Artillery School. In 1930, the post became the permanent home of the Field Artillery School, and the presence of a permanent government payroll helped local citizens to weather the Great Depression. The air unit continued to expand and develop other programs. In 1934, the United States Army Field Artillery Center Museum opened to help preserve the history and tradition of Fort Sill.⁴

American involvement in World War II brought even more changes to Fort Sill. The post experienced a 300 percent increase in the number of trainees in 1941.⁵ Fort Sill

expanded to the south and west geographically to accommodate this additional personnel. The army established the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill in July of 1941, eventually producing 26,209 field artillery Second Lieutenants by December 1946.⁶ Notable changes in equipment during this time included the replacement of the old “French 75” gun used in World War I with the 105mm howitzer, and the introduction of the “Piper Cub” observation plane. In addition to teaching advanced infantry techniques and methods specific to the mission and conditions of both theaters of World War II, the army trained pilots at Fort Sill from 1942 to 1953. However, the close of World War II did not bring operations at Fort Sill to a minimum as the cessation of previous conflicts often had; Colonel W. S. Nye noted, “Fort Sill did not shrink back to its prewar size and functions in 1945 as it had done after World War I.”⁷

The demands of the Cold War kept Fort Sill growing to the south and west, and expanded training programs, in particular the Officers Candidate School. The post produced 12,398 officers for the Korean conflict.⁸ Artillery units trained in advanced procedures for new technology like the atomic warhead in 1953, and missile battalions arrived in 1956. The Vietnam War also required soldiers at Fort Sill to adapt to new battlefield conditions and technology.

In 1965, the army responded to the Vietnam conflict with new programs, increased production of officers, and an emphasis on equipment maintenance and communication with units operating in the field.⁹ The army also developed new training programs in counterinsurgency, jungle warfare, self defense, and airmobile operations. Soldiers developed new techniques using helicopters to position artillery. The army also

sought mobility in the jungle war and consequently employed helicopters extensively in Vietnam. The Army Gunnery Department included special practices and instruction on conditions specific to fighting in southeast Asia, such as night illumination, bunker shoots, aerial service practices, and special fire techniques. Instructors added this additional practice and training to the Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill. The conflict created a need for more Junior officers. Increased enrollment in Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill yielded 35 percent more Second Lieutenants in 1965 than graduated in 1964. The Field Artillery Officers Basic Course received 55 percent more maintenance instruction during 1965. "Redleg War Correspondents," at Fort Sill communicated with artillerymen in the field to help adapt techniques and equipment to specific artillery conditions in Vietnam. These correspondents began to provide the School with "a wealth of information in the form of 'Lessons Learned,'" according to Fort Sill Program Progress reports.¹⁰ The expansion due to increased preparation for Vietnam caused a great deal of personnel turnover within the staff and faculty, a phenomenon that made training artillerymen more difficult.¹¹

In 1966, the greater involvement in Vietnam resulted in an increasing challenge to officers and faculty at Fort Sill, that of providing material and trained personnel at a rate comparable to the peak level output during of the Korean commitment.¹² The post struggled to ensure the quality of its product, especially in view of the increased numbers of soldiers being trained. In 1966 the Officer Candidate School (OCS) commissioned the largest number of lieutenants since reopening in 1951, or a total of 2,099 graduates.¹³ The number of students in the Field Artillery Radar Operation Course tripled.¹⁴ The

increased activity at the post, along with the large scale turnover of personnel as instructors, key military personnel, and soldiers rotated in and out of tours overseas, created a manpower shortage. The army implemented a "civilianization program," that allowed civilians to perform some of the jobs that military personnel previously handled. Shortages of equipment and ammunition also limited the effectiveness of training.

As a result of this turnover and growth the school altered its functional structure, enlarged facilities, and reorganized instructional programs during 1966.¹⁵ The post added thirteen barracks and five new buildings to house the necessary headquarters and supply facilities, and renovated existing facilities. A new gun shed and two large cannon bays were constructed. The army also created the office of the Director of Logistics, to handle supply functions and the related support activities of the school. Other new divisions added in March 1966 included the Research and Analysis and Maintenance Divisions. These divisions developed new equipment and firing aids such as a simplified procedure for firing chart operations and a "speed shift pedestal" for the 155mm towed howitzer.¹⁶ The Tactics and Combined Arms divisions created a model "Vietnamese village" for training purposes.

The "Lessons Learned" programs increased throughout 1966. The post increased the number of liaison units on battlefields in Vietnam and stepped up the correspondence between the school and field artillery units. Members of the Department of the Army Liaison Team conducted intensive studies of conditions and how training could be modified to increase effectiveness. Members of the Liaison Team also visited other installations at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Carson, Colorado,

Fort Lewis, Washington, and Fort Hood, Texas to learn from the experiences of other veterans and incorporate these experiences into the training regimes.¹⁷

In 1967 the post continued to grow as a result of involvement in Vietnam. The Officers Candidate Brigade (formerly OCS) graduated its 40,000th Second Lieutenant. A total of 6,287 candidates graduated in 1967, the largest number of yearly graduates up to that point since the end of World War II. Class 33 alone included 238 lieutenants, although the number of students in classes declined toward the end of the fiscal year. The need for more trained personnel reflected tour of duty schedules and the loss of officers, particularly second lieutenants, through wartime casualties. In order to train more officers, the army lengthened courses and began to use junior officers as instructors. Of 257 gunnery instructors in 1967, 118 were second lieutenants straight out of Officer Candidate Brigade.¹⁸

Throughout 1967, instructors improved teaching methods and added new courses. Training programs were strengthened to prepare junior officers better for the dangers they faced in southeast Asia. The army used instructional television and visiting professors from the University of Oklahoma to supplement classroom activities, and placed more emphasis on communications and written and oral presentations. In October of 1967, after initial experience in Vietnam, the army lengthened the advanced course for all newly commissioned regular army officers to nine weeks. The army high command realized that the young officers needed more training before being sent to Southeast Asia. Fort Sill also formed the Artillery Combat Leader Battalion, ostensibly to train noncommissioned officers to perform additional duties if needed on the battlefield, most

likely to train noncommissioned officers to take over for officers fallen in battle or to fill incomplete field units.¹⁹ After 1967, change in training programs and personnel turnover slowed. In January of 1973, representatives from the United States and North Vietnam signed an agreement ending the American involvement in Vietnam.

Although army officers had been stunned from the embarrassment, tragedy, and criticism of the United States governments' retreat from Vietnam, by 1974 Fort Sill put the Vietnam years behind it and moved forward with new tactics, instruction procedures, and budget concerns.²⁰ The primary focus of the Field Artillery School during this time was to develop new doctrine for the modern battlefield. Newly-developed procedures required coordination among various departments within the army and other branches of service to fulfill new missions and meet threats around the world. Training of combined arms of infantry, armor, and field artillery teams took top priority. Army officials wrote in the Program Progress Reports for 1974 that: "Each agency made a special effort to better learn the roles, problems, and capabilities of the other agencies, and all worked closely together to insure better coordination of effort and, thus, to promote and reinforce the combined arms team concept."²¹ Army officials increasingly mentioned cost saving measures, declining budgets, and shrinking force levels that characterized the end of the war. Both the buildup of numbers and the training initiatives of Vietnam were over; Fort Sill was ready to begin a new cycle.

Military preparations for the Vietnam War dictated required programs and shaped training at Fort Sill. As was done in previous conflicts, the army trained soldiers to perform under Vietnam's unique conditions and mission requirements. They developed

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1. W. S. Nye, *Carbine and Lance: The Story of Old Fort Sill* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969), 235-239, M. David Stevens, *Lawton-Fort Sill: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk, VA: Donning Company, 1990), 29.
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CHAPTER IV

ECONOMIC FACTORS

Economic ties between Fort Sill and Lawton were clear throughout the history of the post, as the operating budget of the post was always a large part of the local economy. Payroll expenditures at Fort Sill for fiscal year 1965 alone exceeded 98 million dollars.¹ The size of the complement at Fort Sill affected the population of Lawton and Comanche County, particularly in view of the dependents that often accompanied soldiers; these demographic groups further shaped the economy. The military and civilian payroll of Fort Sill, sales taxes collected in the county, net assessed valuation of real and personal property, and per capita income were some factors that gave an indication of the economic benefits provided to Lawton and Comanche County by the post. The years 1967-1969 represented an increased number of military personnel stationed at Fort Sill. Economic activity during this time, as measured by the number of employees in various categories of businesses, provided a snapshot of the economic market that was affected by activity at Fort Sill.

The population of Comanche County was affected by many factors but often indicated fluctuations in numbers of soldiers stationed at Fort Sill. The population of Comanche County increased 64 percent, from 1950 to 1960, and continued at a fairly rapid rate of growth (19 percent) throughout the decade of the 60s, and increased only

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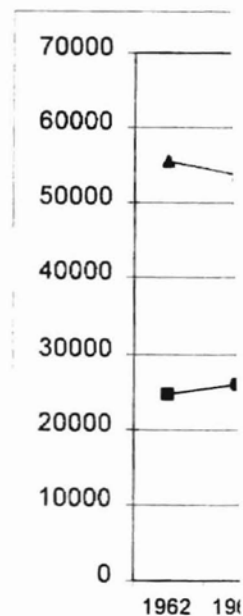


Figure 1

As the largest employer in Comanche County, military and civilian payroll figures for Fort Sill indicated one of the largest forces in the local economy. The total payroll exceeded \$98 million in 1965, and grew to exceed \$192 million in 1973, (the last year figures were available in official records). During the years 1967-1969, the government spent a total of \$439,046,807 on payroll expenses⁴ (see Appendix A, Table A4). This represented an enormous influx of cash into the Lawton community, as soldiers and civilians living in the area bought goods, services, and entertainment. Because many military jobs were lower paid than civilian occupations and those employed were a younger age-specific group (commonly 18-22), most of this payroll was spent at local businesses rather than being saved. The nature of military service, where basic shelter and food needs are supplied, also imply that much of the payroll was spent locally.

More immediate measures of the economy such as sales taxes, net assessed valuation of real and personal property, and per capita income gave a more accurate indication of the effect Fort Sill produced upon Lawton. Sales tax collections directly related to the amount of money that flowed through local businesses. Real and personal property assessments reflected both wealth accumulation within the county and the strength of investments like rental property.

Sales tax collections rose in Comanche County throughout the period ending 1961-1975, indicating continued growth in the local economy. State sales taxes represent a fixed rate of taxation from the sale or rental of tangible personal property and some services including printing, advertising, telephone, lodging, and other selected services. Some goods such as agricultural products and prescription drugs were exempt. However,

sales tax collections, in general, provide some measurement of the amount of sales conducted within the state. Collections in Comanche County increased in excess of 84 percent from fiscal year 1960-61 to fiscal year 1970-71, and over 36 percent from 1970-71 to 1974-75⁵ (see Appendix A, Table A5). However, the increased military complement at Fort Sill during the years 1967-1969 had at best a moderate effect on this growth, given the almost constant rate of growth. Also, the growth rate of 36 percent for the period ending in 1975 (four years) was almost half the figure for the previous decade. Even considering the recession and resulting inflation that occurred nationally in the early 1970s and the decrease in numbers of personnel at Fort Sill during that particular time period, the increased numbers of soldiers during 1967-1969 did not increase the amount of money spent on the local economy to a great extent, assuming the growth rate of 36 percent held constant for the period 1976-1981. This assumption is unlikely, because national and state economies grew much more rapidly in the decade of the 1960s than in the 1970s.

The change in net assessed valuation reflected both the accumulation of wealth within the county and the strength of business property investments. Net assessed valuation of real and personal property is done for the purposes of ad valorem taxation. During 1963 to 1975, the net assessed valuation in Comanche County almost doubled, growing 99%⁶ (see Appendix A, Table A6). However, assessments grew steadily throughout the period indicating no increase due to expansion in numbers of military personnel at Fort Sill. Assessments dropped slightly during the period of greatest expansion at Fort Sill during the Vietnam War period (1967-1969), decreasing from a 13

percent increase in 1967, to an 11 percent increase in 1969. Thus, while Fort Sill itself had a significant effect upon Lawton as a regular consumer of goods and services provided by local businesses, the fluctuations of military personnel during the period studied had little long term effect on sales tax collections or assessments for ad valorem taxes.

Per capita income rose steadily in Comanche County from 1967 to 1975, and increased 70% over the period. However, income rose more rapidly, at 25 %, from 1967-1970, than in the next three-year period, 1970-1973⁷ (see Appendix A, Table A7). Per capita income from 1970-1973 rose at 18%. The larger increase from 1967-1970 was due to the stronger general economy in the 1960s. The national Consumer Price Index for commodities rose more rapidly after 1970, indicating a weakening economy susceptible to inflation.

The number of personnel employed in various business sectors reflected the growth and strength of those business categories. Figures 2 and 3 show reported changes in numbers of employees involved in various business categories of the State of Oklahoma and Comanche County during 1965-1975.⁸ In Oklahoma, economic sectors showing steady but relatively slow growth include finance, insurance, and real estate, contract construction, wholesale trade, and transportation and public utilities. More rapid growth occurred in the service, manufacturing, and retail trade economic sectors⁹ (see Appendix A, Table A8). Retail and service sectors grew steadily throughout the period; overall growth in the retail industry of Oklahoma was 29 percent, while the service sector grew 51 percent from 1965 to 1975. Manufacturing industry increased 25

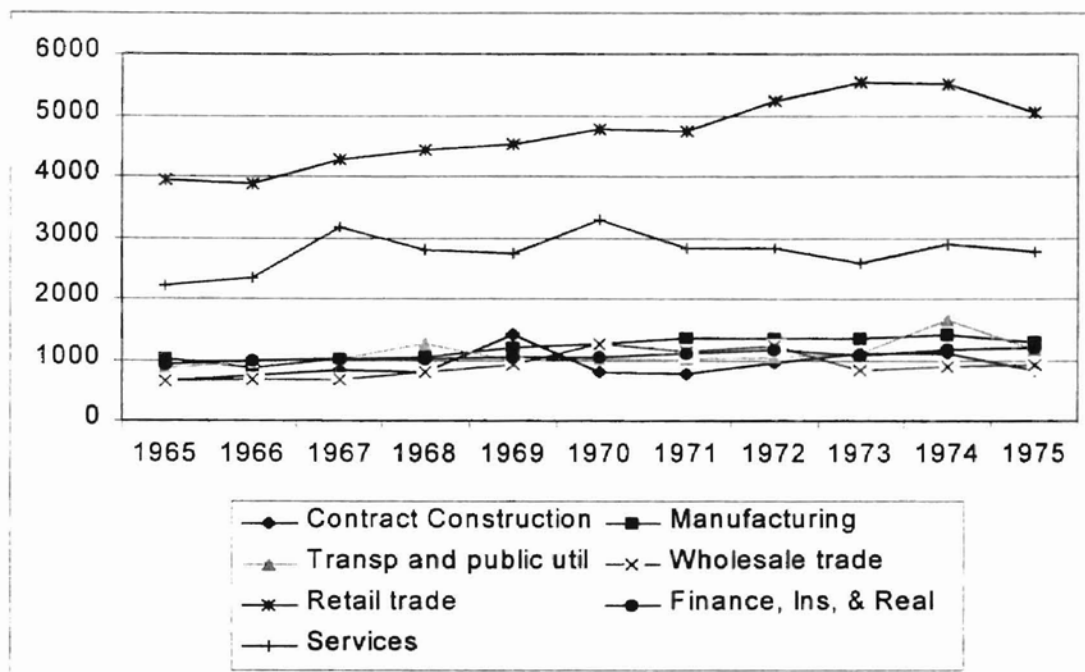


Figure 2. Comanche County Number of Employees by Industry. Source – County Business Patterns.

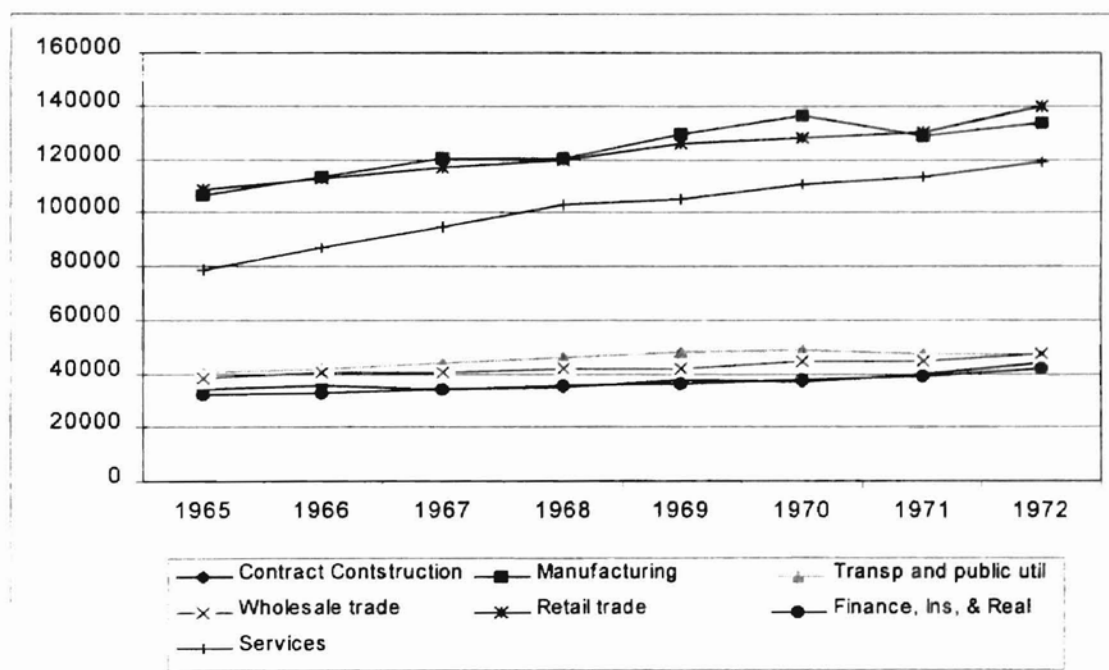


Figure 3. Oklahoma Number of Employees by Industry. Source–County Business Patterns.

percent in the same period, although experiencing decreases in the years 1968 and 1971.

Business patterns for Comanche County reflected a different scenario. While manufacturing and finance, insurance, and real estate sectors indicated steady growth consistent with the averages reported for the State of Oklahoma, contract construction, transportation and public utilities, wholesale trade, services, and retail trade reported a more variable pattern¹⁰ (see Appendix A, Table A9). Transportation and public utilities employees increased 26% in 1968 over 1967, and decreased 30% in 1969. Contract construction showed the most marked change, a 76% increase in 1969 over 1968, which decreased 80% the next year. This pattern corresponded with the largest influx of military personnel at Fort Sill in 1967 and 1968 and the resulting severe housing shortage repeatedly referred to in the Lawton Constitution and other records. Wholesale trade showed strong growth until decreasing over 12% in 1971. Retail trade showed a significant increase of 11% in 1967 and moderate growth until 1971. The service economic sector showed a sharp increase of 35% in 1967 over 1966, but declined thereafter until 1970.

In the short term, at least, and in terms of numbers of employees working in various business categories, increased numbers of soldiers at Fort Sill affected some sectors of the economy in Comanche County between 1965 and 1975. As the complement at Fort Sill increased, transportation and public utilities, construction, service, and wholesale and retail trade expanded. Manufacturing and finance, insurance, and real estate sectors grew at a consistent rate of growth, seemingly unaffected by the larger complement of soldiers. Manufacturing industries, in particular, grew at a rate

consistent with the growth of manufacturing industries statewide, around 30 percent during 1965-1975. The agricultural and mining sectors in Comanche County contained too few employees—less than 100—for adequate analysis. However, mining employees in Oklahoma decreased for the period, and while agricultural employees grew slightly less than 30 percent, the industry employed few, less than 2,600 total employees statewide.¹¹

Economic ties between Fort Sill and Lawton were extremely important throughout their history. Fort Sill depended upon Lawton for many goods and services needed by soldiers, and Lawton depended upon Fort Sill for much of their business livelihood. In response to the Vietnam War, Fort Sill's military complement of soldiers increased in the years 1967-1969. While the existence of the military institution itself had a significant positive effect on Lawton, fluctuation in the numbers of soldiers had few lasting results in terms of sales tax collections, net assessed valuation of real and personal property, and per capita income within Comanche county.

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Fiscal Year 1965.

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SOCIAL FACTORS

Any large institution, such as a military post, can have a significant impact on the crime rate of an area. By changing the demographics of an area, the crime rate and other vital statistics can be affected. Factors which affect crime rates include the economic status of the area, the number of traffic accidents, the stress placed upon local resources, and the military post at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The FBI Uniform Crime Reports show that throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, the crime rate in Oklahoma increased 144%, while the population increased 147%, and the murder rates (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) increased 147%, and the murder rates were 33% higher, with a 33% increase in the crime rates. The crime rates increased 32% and the population increased 147%.

This phenomenal increase in crime rates in the 1970s, occurred in the Law

Figures 4 through 11 reflect crime rates per 100,000 residents for individual categories of crime in the United States, Oklahoma, Lawton statistical metropolitan area, and the Oklahoma City statistical metropolitan area for 1965-1975. In all categories the Oklahoma average crime rate was lower than the corresponding national average, however, Lawton's crime rates were consistently higher than the national average in total offenses, rape, aggravated assault, and larceny over fifty dollars. Crime rates for murder and burglary in Lawton were variable in relation to the national average, while Lawton was consistently less than the national average in robbery and auto theft, perhaps due to the few possessions and automobiles brought into the area by soldiers.²

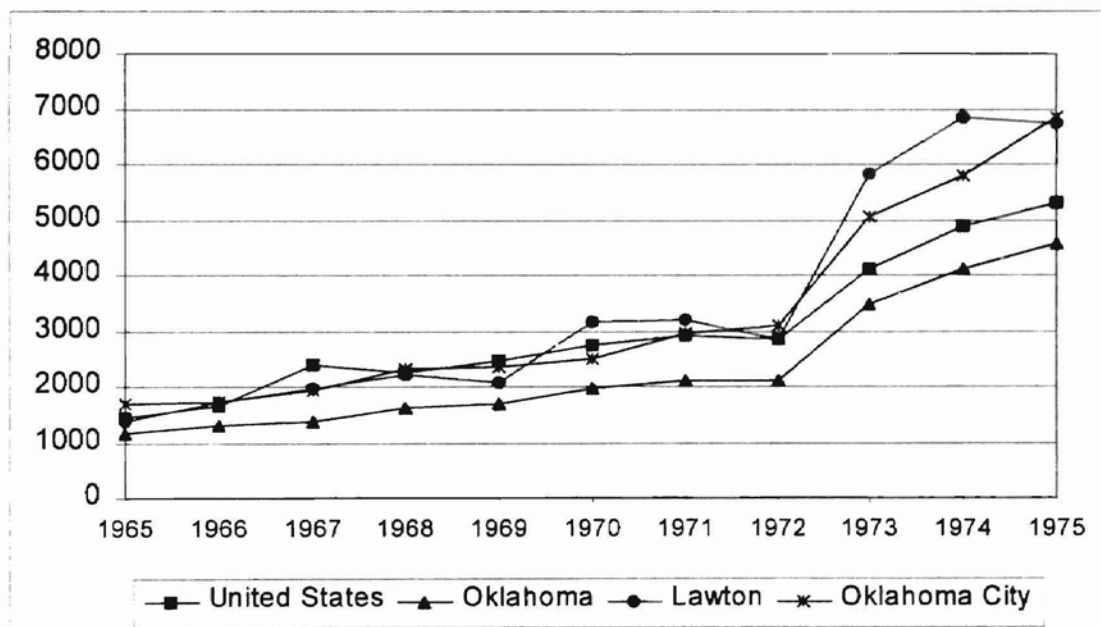


Figure 4. Comparison of Crime Statistics – Total Offenses.

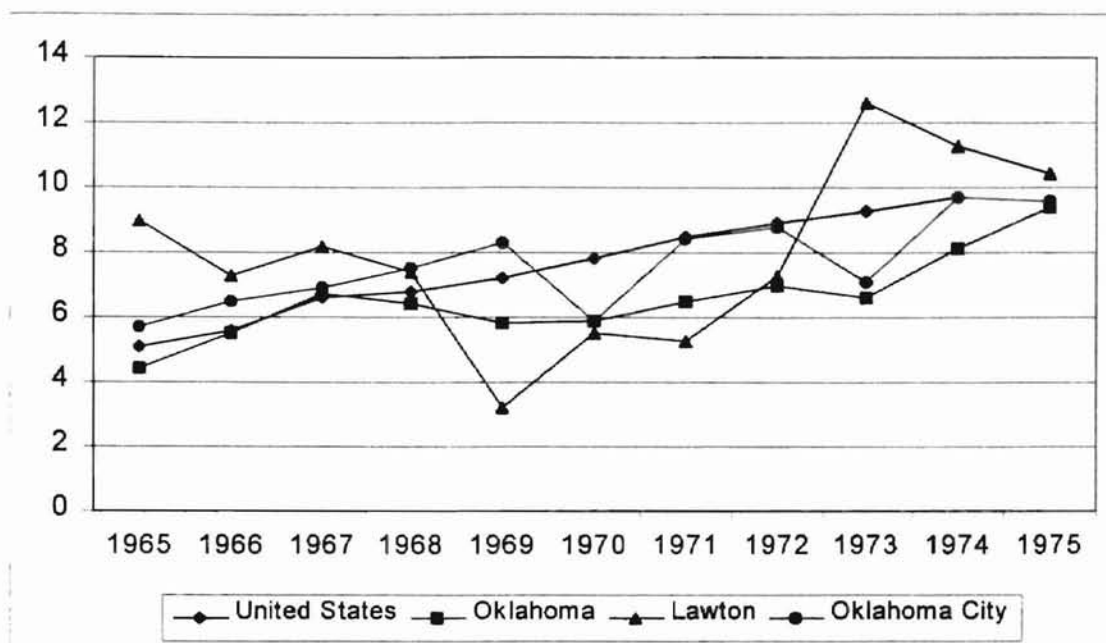


Figure 5. Comparison of Crime Statistics – Murder.

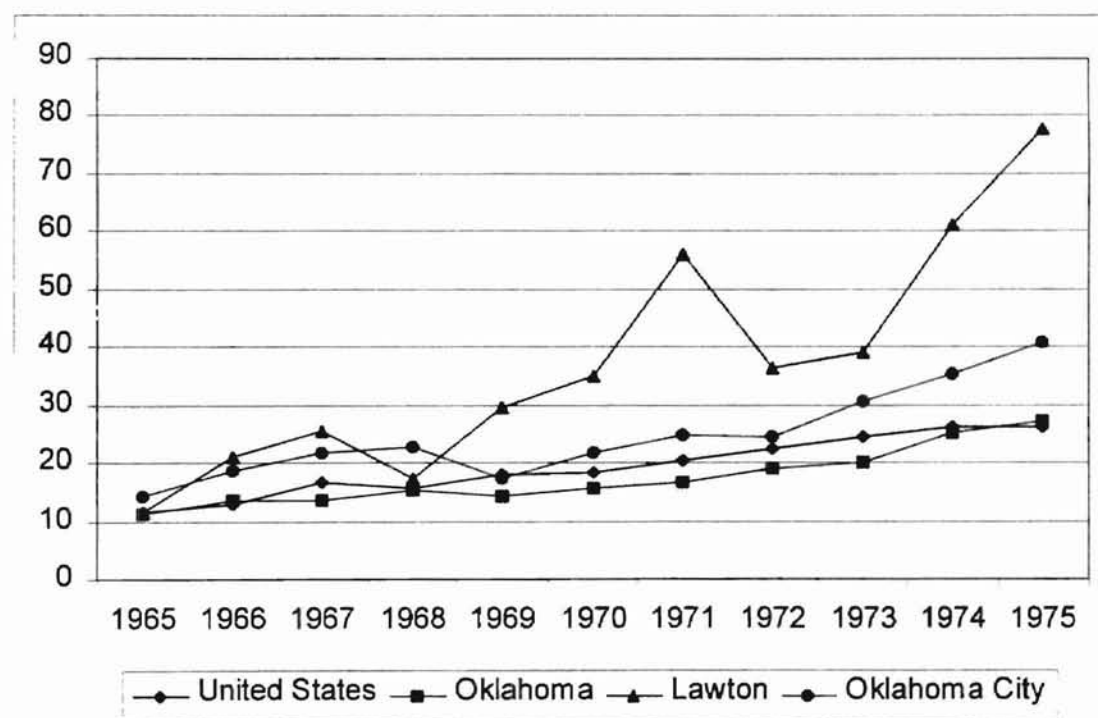


Figure 6. Comparison of Crime Statistics – Rape.

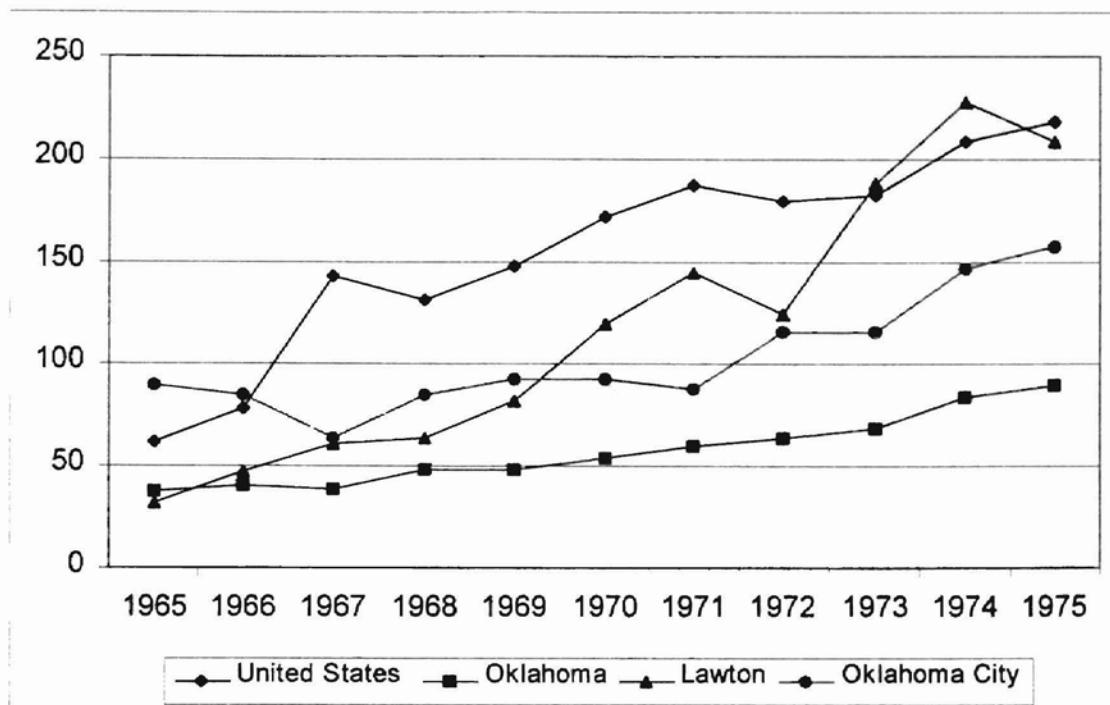


Figure 7. Comparison of Crime Statistics – Robbery.

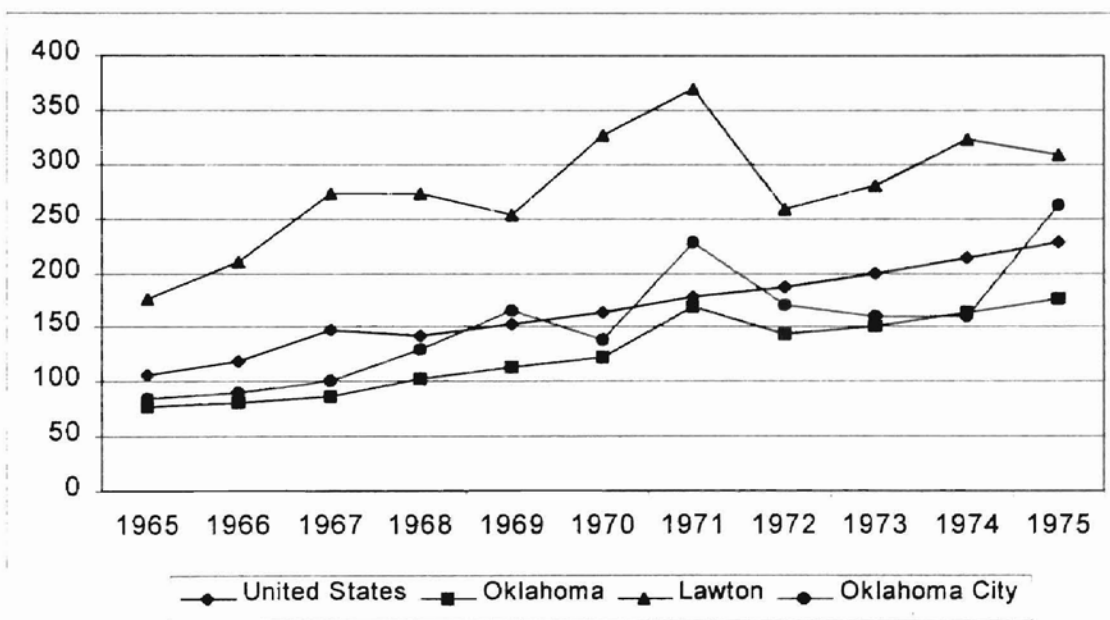


Figure 8. Comparison of Crime Statistics – Aggravated Assault.

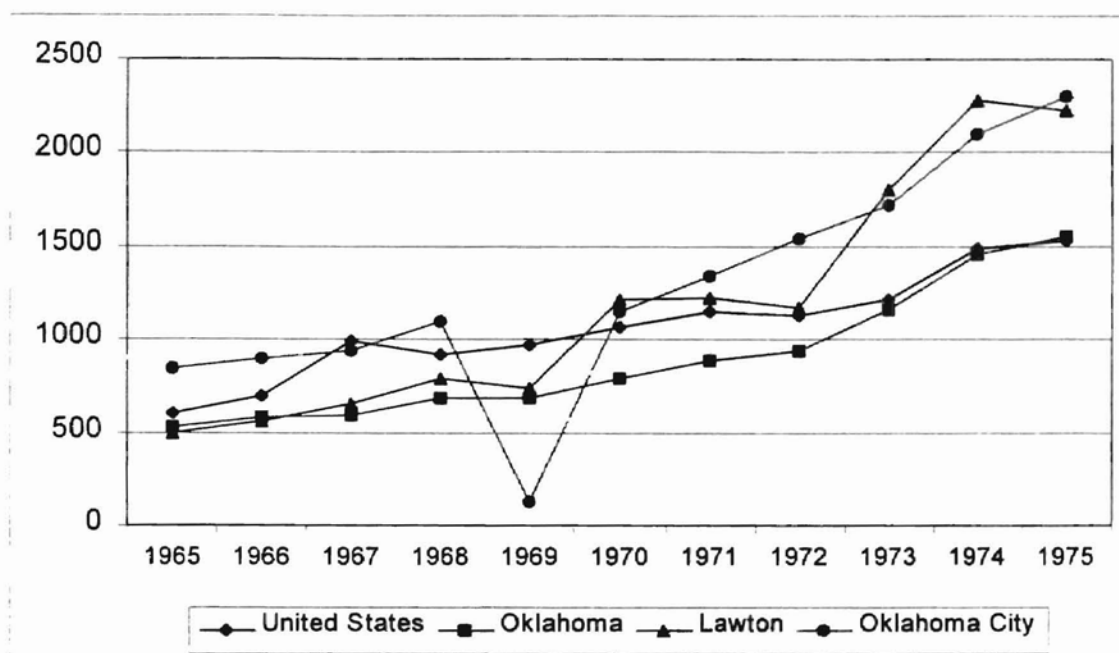


Figure 9. Comparison of Crime Statistics – Burglary.

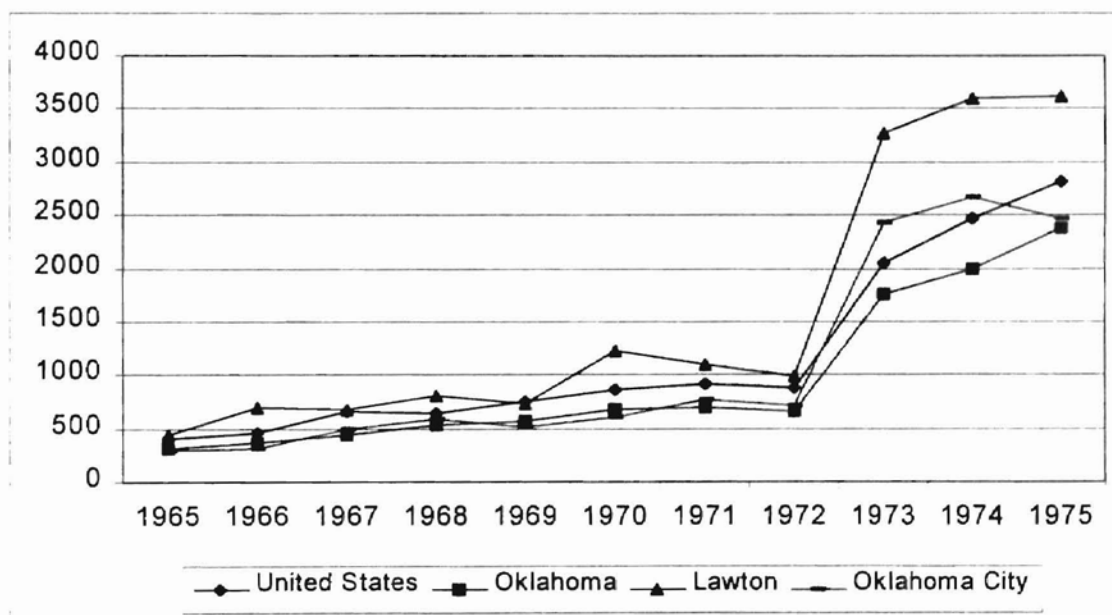


Figure 10. Comparison of Crime Statistics – Larceny \$50+.

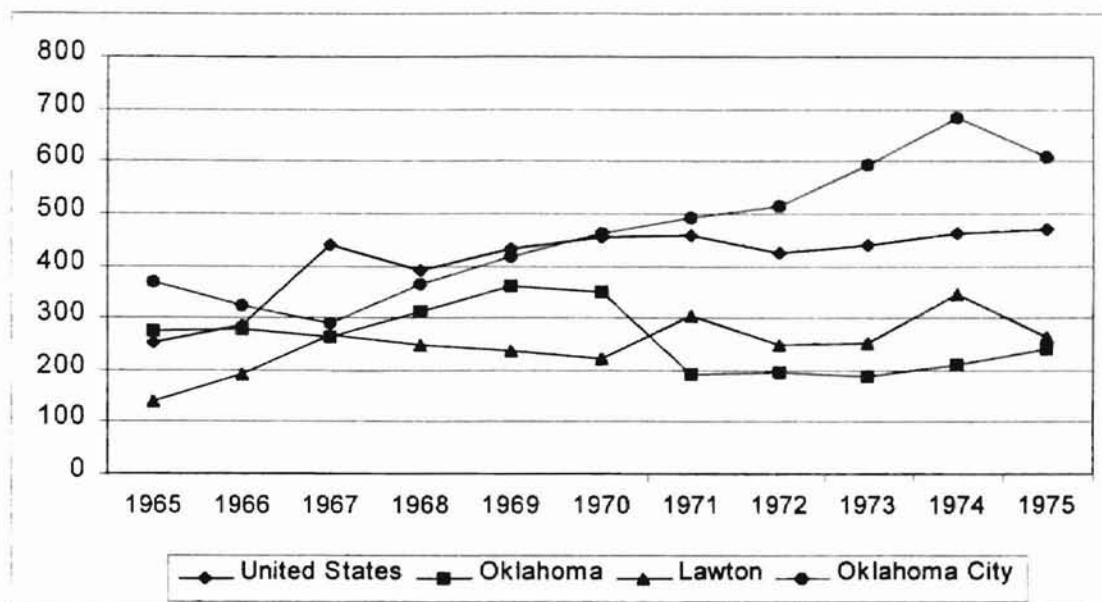


Figure 11. Comparison of Crime Statistics – Auto Theft.

When compared to Oklahoma, Lawton's crime rates were consistently above the Oklahoma average in the categories of total offenses, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and larceny over fifty dollars. The murder rate in Lawton was variable in relation to the Oklahoma average, with a perhaps surprisingly lower murder rate than the state posted in the years 1969-1972. Lawton consistently had a lower auto theft rate than Oklahoma until 1971.³

When Lawton is compared to Oklahoma City, (a reasonable comparison even though Oklahoma City at the time was approximately six times larger), a more complicated picture emerges. Lawton's rate in two categories, larceny over 50 dollars and aggravated assault, was significantly higher than either Oklahoma City, the State of Oklahoma, or the national rate in any year studied. The murder rate in Lawton was

variable in relation to that of Oklahoma City; officials reported a higher rate than Oklahoma City from 1965-1968, a lower rate from 1969-1971, and again a higher rate from 1972-1975. In four other categories, rape, burglary, robbery, and total offenses, Lawton's rates were consistently higher than Oklahoma City's after 1969 and 1970. During 1965, Lawton's rape rate was lower than Oklahoma City, higher between 1966-1967, again lower for 1968, and much higher from 1969 throughout 1975. Robbery rates for Lawton showed a lower incidence than Oklahoma City between 1965 and 1969, but a higher rate 1970-1975. The burglary rate for Lawton was lower than Oklahoma City's until 1969, and higher 1969-1975. In terms of total offenses, Lawton compares fairly equally until 1970, after which time Lawton's crime rate for total offenses exceeds that of Oklahoma City until 1975.⁴

Population density and basic demographics are often primary factors that influence crime rates and the military post at Fort Sill influenced these factors throughout the period studied. The population growth of Oklahoma City when compared to Lawton increased similarly over the period 1959-1972, at about 13 percent, and the population density remained constant at approximately seven and a half times the population density of Lawton.⁵ As the employer of a specific age and gender group, the presence of the military complement at Fort Sill skewed the age and sex ratio, and affected the racial composition of the community. The percentage of inhabitants in the 18-24 age group increased in Lawton from 19% in 1960 to 28% in 1970; the percentage in the 5-17 group also increased from 21% to 27% within the same time period. While Oklahoma averaged 94.9 males per 100 females, the Lawton standard metropolitan statistical area averaged

124.6 males per 100 females in the 1970 census. Because soldiers stationed at Fort Sill were drawn from the entire country, the racial component did not reflect that of nearby Lawton or the State of Oklahoma. Oklahoma's percentage of blacks in both 1960 and 1970 remained just less than 7 percent; Lawton's (SMSA) black population in 1960 was 7.6, and in 1970 was 11.2.⁶

The city of Lawton responded to its population and crime increase by hiring more police. Lawton's police force almost doubled from 1965 to 1975, as the city increased the number of full time law enforcement employees by 71. The number of police in Oklahoma City increased at a slightly lower pace, from 407 employees to 720.⁷ The additional personnel in Lawton kept busy as the number of complaints filed in Lawton's municipal court and number of total arrests made by local police increased rapidly throughout the late sixties and early seventies.⁸

Officials at Fort Sill reported a rising pattern of crime on the post until 1974. The Provost Marshall's report for 1965 included a notation of a "significant increase in robbery and other offenses," including drunkenness and wrongful appropriation, as well as an increase in the prisoner population. For 1966, the Provost Marshall at Fort Sill reported an increase in the prisoner population over fiscal year 1965, "due to the increased confinement of transient AWOL's pending trial by court-martial or delayed arrival of guards to accompany prisoners to home stations."⁹ The Provost Marshall attributed some of the additional increase in his activities to "a seasonal trend and includes fighting, allowing animals to run at large, wasting of water, and discharge of firearms."¹⁰ In 1967, the Provost Marshal reported an increase in court martials that

“coincides with the increase in military strength,” a 26% greater prisoner confinement rate over the previous quarter, and more larceny, burglary, auto thefts, and other offenses. By 1968 he reported traveling more miles than any other Fourth US Army installation, 220,113, to return Absent Without Leave (AWOL) soldiers to military control.¹¹ Officials at Fort Sill reported higher than expected rates of confinements, stolen property, and criminal and military offenses in both 1969 and 1970. Throughout 1973, officials at the post noted an increased rate in crimes of violence and against property, which they attributed to “increases in robberies, burglaries, and larcenies.”¹²

Beginning in 1974, however, the Provost Marshal at Fort Sill reported that although confinements were still high, crimes of violence and against property dropped 22% and miscellaneous offenses were 42% below the expected rate.¹³ This pattern of reductions in reported crime continued in the Provost Marshall’s report for 1975 and resulted, for the most part, from a reduction of troop strength and draftees at Fort Sill.

AWOL offenses accounted for a large component of the military offenses. Although the records are incomplete, some information was available concerning the rate of AWOL soldiers (incidence per 1000 soldiers)¹⁴ (see Appendix A, Table A10). Average AWOL rates were significantly lower at Fort Sill throughout 1969. While officials reported an AWOL rate of 8.09 in 1969, this rate increased to 18.95 in 1970, and peaked in 1971 at 20.8. The AWOL rate remained high throughout the rest of the period studied. By 1975, this rate dropped to 15.1, still considerably higher than any pre-1970 rate. Thus, an obvious line differentiates between 1969 and 1970 in numbers of AWOL offenses.¹⁵

The presence of increased numbers of soldiers at Fort Sill during the Vietnam War years also affected the vital statistics of Comanche County. The decreasing trend shown in the birth rate per 1,000 population in Oklahoma and Comanche County from 1964 through 1967 reversed beginning in 1968. Average birth rates for Oklahoma declined from 1964 until 1969, peaked at 17.2 in 1970, and fell steadily thereafter. Comanche County birth rates followed the same pattern, declining until 1969, increasing steadily throughout 1971, and remaining constant throughout 1972¹⁶ (see Appendix A, Table A11). The noticeable increase in the birth rate in Comanche County which occurred during 1969, 1970, and 1971 corresponded with (given a nine month delay) the increased population of military personnel stationed at Fort Sill throughout 1967-1969. Additionally, the birth rates for Comanche County were significantly higher than for the State of Oklahoma for all years studied. In 1971, the Comanche County birth rate was nearly double the average Oklahoma rate.¹⁷

The presence of increased numbers of soldiers at Fort Sill during the years 1967-1969 also influenced other vital statistics such as marriages, deaths, and divorces. Figure 12 compared the number of births, marriages, and deaths in Comanche County for selected years from 1963 through 1975¹⁸ (see Appendix A, Table A12). The number of deaths remained fairly constant throughout the period studied, except for a significant decrease in 1971. Marriages increased 10 percent between years 1965 and 1967 and rose 22 percent between 1967 and 1970, which corresponded with the period of greater activity and personnel stationed at Fort Sill. The number of births in Comanche County increased 14 percent from 1967 over 1965, remained essentially at that level in 1970, and

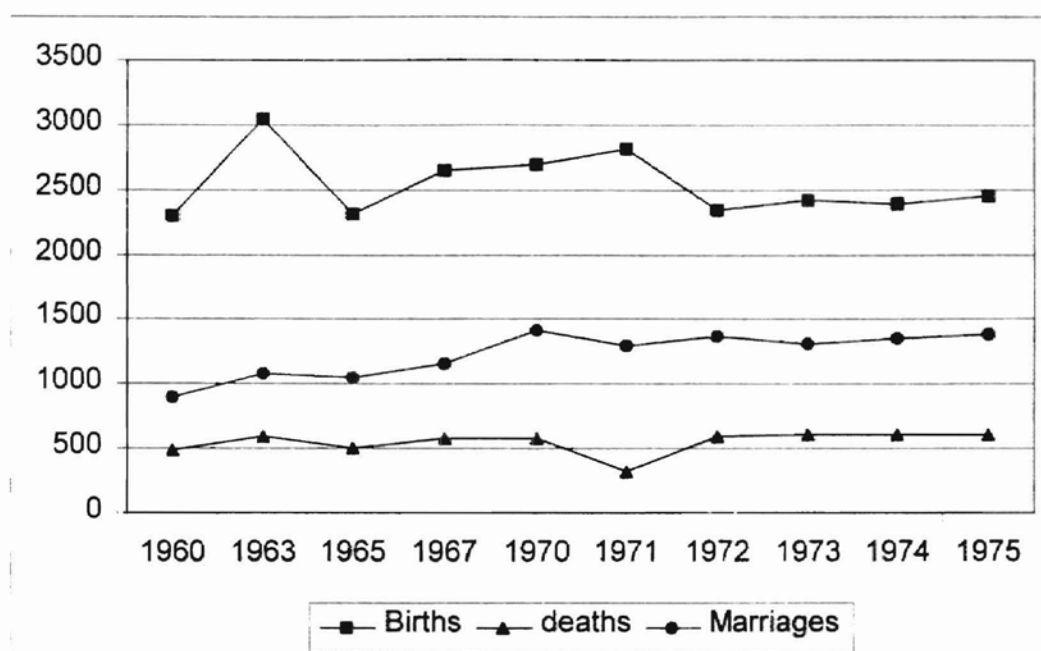


Figure 12. Births, Deaths, and Marriages, Comanche County, Selected Years.

rose another 5 percent by 1971.¹⁹ Personnel stationed at Fort Sill contributed to the higher birth rate during these years, however, the more or less gradual nature of the changes also suggests other causes within the population of Lawton were responsible for the majority of the increases. The divorce rate for Lawton (SMSA) in 1970 was higher than the average for Oklahoma, 9.7% versus 6.6%, possibly due to the higher number of young adults and military deployments, particularly during the years of the Vietnam War.²⁰

When dependants accompanied military personnel to their assigned post, public school enrollment within the community often increased significantly. Public school enrollments in Comanche County rose from 1967-1971. A study of the original enrollment in public schools in Comanche County for school years ending in 1964-1974

showed a 9 percent increase in enrollments, or an additional 2,045 students, for the year ending in 1967 over the previous school year. This increased enrollment was sustained throughout the years ending 1968, 1969, and 1970, which corresponded well with the years of increased personnel at Fort Sill. An additional increase of 8 percent occurred in the year ending in 1971, after which the enrollment steadily declined²¹ (see Appendix A, Table A13). Because increased numbers of personnel at Fort Sill and, thus, more dependents in local schools was not the case in 1971, other forces also contributed to the increased school enrollments throughout the period.

The number of traffic accidents within Comanche County should be an accurate indicator of some of the congestion of roadways due to additional drivers within the area. Traffic accidents for Comanche County showed a somewhat erratic pattern for selected years from 1969-1976²² (see Appendix A, Table A14). Traffic accidents increased 2.4 percent between the years 1969 and 1970. A major decrease, 26 percent, in the number of county traffic accidents occurred in 1974, and a corresponding increase of almost 18 percent took place the following year. What affect personnel at the post exhibited upon these numbers cannot be clearly determined, however, the decrease of 7.5 percent fewer accidents in the year 1971 over 1970 corresponded with an almost 20% decrease in military personnel at the post in the same year.²³

While reflecting a complex picture of various criminal offenses, the previous comparison of crime rates in the Lawton standard metropolitan statistical area to average crime rates within the rest of the United States, and in particular State of Oklahoma, yielded several useful generalizations for the period 1965-1975. Crime rates in Lawton

followed the same general pattern of crime rates in the state of Oklahoma, and nationwide within the United States, increasing dramatically throughout the 1960s and early 70s. Lawton was consistently higher than the national US average in rates for total offenses, rape, aggravated assault, and larceny over 50 dollars. Crime rates for murder and burglary in Lawton were variable in relation to the national average, and consistently less than the national average in robbery and auto theft. Lawton's rates for total offenses, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and larceny over 50 dollars were consistently higher than the Oklahoma state average for the same years. The murder rate in Lawton was variable in relation to the Oklahoma average, and the rate was consistently lower for automobile theft.

When Lawton's crime rates were compared to those of a comparable metropolitan area, Oklahoma City, for the same time period, Lawton's rate in larceny over 50 dollars and aggravated assault was consistently higher. Auto theft was consistently lower in Lawton when compared to that of Oklahoma City; Lawton's murder rate varied in relationship to that of Oklahoma City. In four other categories: rape, burglary, robbery, and total offenses, Lawton's rates for these offenses were consistently higher than Oklahoma City's rate after 1969.

Most significant increases in crime in Lawton over the period 1965-1975 occurred after 1972, and were due to other factors in the local, state, and national environment, rather than as a response to an increased number of troops at Fort Sill. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's *Uniform Crime Reports* for the years 1965-1975, the city of Lawton had an unrelenting crime problem. Lawton had consistently high crime

rates in the total offenses category and significantly more incidences of rape and aggravated assault throughout the entire period studied. High rates of burglary, larceny over 50 dollars, and robbery were also characteristic of Lawton during this time period. Murder rates fluctuated throughout the period. Possible reasons for this high incidence of crime are a regional history of increased criminal activity, tolerance of minor crimes, specific demographic groups present in Lawton, and poverty among other factors.

When the complement of soldiers dramatically increased at Fort Sill during 1967-1969, no significant increases were seen in the rates of total offenses and larceny over 50 dollars within the Lawton metropolitan area. Rates for murder, aggravated assault, and automobile theft, in fact, dropped. Slight increases were seen in the rates for rape, robbery, and burglary. Increased numbers of soldiers at Fort Sill and the complement of con-men and criminals drawn to their presence did not cause the crime rates of Lawton to rise significantly throughout 1967-1969. This was due to the effective management of criminal and potentially criminal activity on the post by post officials and the high level of discipline and morale inherent in the army and Fort Sill before 1969. After 1970, army discipline, morale, and effectiveness declined, in addition to the criminal activity in Lawton. Additionally, after 1970 more people convicted of crimes entered the armed services through judicial punishments that allowed certain offenders to serve alternative time in the armed forces rather than be incarcerated.

Increases in the complement at Fort Sill helped to cause changes in demographics of the local population that in turn changed Lawton. The age, sex, and racial composition of Comanche County differed significantly from that of the surrounding state of

Oklahoma. Marriages and the birth rate also increased. The birth rate was particularly high throughout 1969, 1970, and 1971. Enrollment at public schools in Comanche county increased in 1967 and remained at this level throughout 1970 due to a large number of school age children accompanying their servicemen-fathers to Fort Sill.

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CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS

In the post World War II era, the Cold War that developed between the United States and the Soviet Union caused a military escalation that contributed to the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The resulting increase in military spending benefitted local economies stimulating business diversification and encouraging greater economic and social connections between military institutions and nearby communities. Increased military spending during this period contributed to population and economic growth in Oklahoma after 1960. The Lawton-Comanche County area represents a community that grew rapidly and developed stronger social and economic ties to the military institution at Fort Sill during 1965-1975.

After experiencing a declining population for many years, in 1960 the population of Oklahoma increased. The population of Lawton (SMSA), in particular, grew almost 20% between 1960 and 1970. During this time, the number of troops at Fort Sill rose and fell according to the requirements of the army; these manpower needs sharply increased the military complement at Fort Sill almost 40% in 1967, remaining at this level until a reduction in 1970. Thus, the years 1967, 1968, and 1969, represent years of intense training activity at Fort Sill in response to the Vietnam War. During this time military expenditures, in particular the military payroll, greatly contributed to the local economy

of the city of Lawton and Comanche County. Sales tax collections, real and personal property assessments, and per capita income increased, in large part due to this stimulus to the local economy.

Nash's argument asserting that increased military expenditures diversified western economies applied favorably to Oklahoma in general and Fort Sill and the surrounding community of Lawton, Oklahoma after 1960. When the number of employees measured the growth of selected industries, the agriculture and mining segments of the economy remained constant throughout the period 1965-1975, while the growth of construction, transportation and public utilities, wholesale and retail trade, and services varied according to the growth of Lawton and Fort Sill. As Nash maintained, the net result of increased military expenditures at military facilities like Fort Sill was a diversification of the local economy. In Comanche County, the wholesale, service, and retail economic sectors showed steady growth throughout the period studied. Contract construction and transportation and public utilities demonstrated slower growth and a more cyclical pattern that varied according to the growth of Comanche county and the army's complement of soldiers at Fort Sill. Economic factors, however, did not compose the entire relationship between Lawton and Fort Sill during the period studied. Increased numbers of military personnel at Fort Sill impacted the social fabric of the community.

Crime represents one aspect of society impacted by rapid increases in population. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) records refer to crime as a "social problem and the concern of the entire community."¹ According to the FBI, the causes of crime are variable with respect to location and not always comparable between individual communities. Crime statistics are, however, a starting point to determine deviations of

individual cities from the national averages. Factors which affect crime rates, according to the FBI's *Uniform Crime Report* for 1967 included:

- Density and size of the community population and the metropolitan area of which it is a part.
- Composition of the population . . . particularly to age, sex, and race.
- Economic status and mores of the population.
- Relative stability of population, including commuters, seasonal, and other transient types.
- Climate . . .
- Educational, recreational, and religious characteristics.
- Effective strength of the police force.
- Standards governing appointments to the police force.
- Policies of the prosecuting officials and the courts.
- Attitude of the public toward law enforcement problems.
- The administrative and investigative efficiency of the local law enforcement agency. . .²

The Lawton-Fort Sill area exhibited several "risk factors" for crime between 1965 and 1975, including a higher percentage of young people, males, and a skewed racial composition within the population. Likewise, the community, in general, reported a lower economic status and smaller economic base. The soldiers at the post also had a high rate of turnover, all factors that can contribute to higher incidences of crime. However, public support for soldiers and officers at Fort Sill remained high. Standards for the police department, as well as the efficiency of the District Attorney and other law enforcement officials was not a part of the scope of this work.

The presence of the military post at Fort Sill influenced the incidence of crime. However, larger trends within society, including the decline in authority and an increasingly violent character of political activism, along with a severe breakdown in military discipline within the army and at Fort Sill are responsible for increased crime during the period studied, except for the categories of aggravated assault and larceny over

fifty dollars. These two categories of crime show a much higher historical (since 1962) rate of occurrence, indicating a type of crime related to specific conditions within the Lawton-Fort Sill area. As the largest employer, Fort Sill certainly impacted these categories.

The rising crime rate corresponds with the acceptance of increasingly violent trends within society during the 1960s. Historian Thomas Powers commented in *Vietnam: The War at Home* (1973): "The violence in Vietnam seemed to elicit a similar air of violence in the United States, an appetite for extremes: people felt that history was accelerating, time was running out, great issues were reaching a point of final decision."³ Historians Maurice Isserman and Michael Kazin also noticed and remarked: "SDS publications began to fill up with imagery of heroic guerrillas brandishing automatic weapons."⁴ Increasingly, as sit-ins and teach-ins metamorphosed into protests, they often became more lawless and violent. The peaceful civil rights movement later associated with militant forms of black power expression; the youth rebellion on college campuses changed into often violent and destructive antiwar demonstrations.⁵

Between 1961 and 1965, a series of events occurred that aggravated existing social inequities and became increasingly violent. In 1961 young "Freedom Riders" helped to force integration of interstate travel facilities in the South, by riding in racially mixed groups on public transportation. Angry citizens firebombed a bus in Alabama, savagely beating many "Freedom Riders." In 1962, the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) formed and issued the Port Huron Statement, advocating a critique of American society and the use of nonviolence to achieve political goals.⁶ The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), under President Martin Luther King, Jr., led

protests in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963; King received a brief stay in jail for his efforts. Also, in 1963 four young black girls were murdered in the racially motivated bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, and a local Klansman murdered National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) worker Medgar Evers in Jackson, Mississippi. President John F. Kennedy met the same fate in Dallas later that year. As the Mississippi “summer project” project to register black voters in the south began in 1964, three young volunteers were murdered. In the same year a “free speech” movement began at the University of California at Berkeley; many students took over parts of campus. A riot in Harlem, also in 1964, left 25 dead and 140 injured.⁷

Many events that occurred in 1965 escalated these tensions within society. As “teach-ins” began at the University of Michigan in 1965, the SDS held the first large national antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C.⁸ The SCLC and Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) held marches in Selma, Alabama to press for voting rights for blacks. Militant black leader Malcolm X was assassinated in New York City. Farm workers held strikes. Riots broke out in the Watts suburb of Los Angeles, leaving 34 dead, 1,032 injured, 4,000 arrested, and an estimated \$40 million worth of property damage; the government used troops from the National Guard to quell the disturbance.⁹

By 1966, many formerly mainstream organizations and causes became militant. In Oakland, California, Bobby Seale and Huey Newton formed the Black Panther party, a militant African-American civil rights organization that rejected middle-class values and the nonviolent methods of the SCLC and SNCC. Instead, they advocated an armed black

population. Eventually, police charged both Seale and Newton with the death of several California law officers. Jurors convicted Newton, however, a judge subsequently reversed this decision on appeal, and released Newton from prison.

The hostilities continued into 1967. Martin Luther King, Jr. renounced the Vietnam War effort and protestors barraged the Pentagon. Riots occurred in many large American cities, most notably in Newark and Detroit. The Detroit riot left 43 dead, 2,000 injured, 700 arrested, and an estimated \$500 million in property damage. Federal Marshals resorted to clubs and tear gas to end the melee. In October, the weathermen, a radical faction of the SDS, instituted their "days of rage" campaign against citizens, businesses, and government buildings.¹⁰

The seemingly never-ending Vietnam War frustrated the advocates of policy change. In 1968, the Tet Offensive in Vietnam brought home the increased level of violence and uncertainty associated with the war. By the end of that summer, both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy lay dead, the victim of assassins' bullets. The My Lai massacre in Vietnam, where the military charged Lieutenant William Calley with the cold-blooded killing of civilians, changed the way many Americans looked at both the war and American soldiers. Confrontation on college campuses became increasingly violent. Students at Columbia University in New York City invaded campus buildings, and set them fire. Antiwar groups fought a bloody battle with Chicago police, even as delegates and leaders of the Democratic Party held their National Convention there in 1968 and debated the wisdom and veracity of the war.

Large antiwar demonstrations again occurred in 1969. At their convention in 1969, the SDS fragmented; the mainstream organization dissolved and a new radical

group emerged with the introduction of the "weatherman paper." This group openly supported communism and advocated violence as a means to achieve their political goals. These positions illustrated just how much the movement had changed--from a critique of American society, to a rejection of American social and political fabric.

But Americans also had some successes to reflect upon by 1969, that seemed to ease tensions somewhat. The NASA space program began by President Kennedy, landed man on the moon with Neil Armstrong's historic walk. President Nixon initiated the "Vietnamization" of the war, and began withdrawing troops from the conflict. The death of Ho Chi Minh made the possibility of peace seem more tangible. A rock festival in Woodstock, New York celebrated the music of the decade, as well as the counterculture, but reversed the violent trends of many youth groups. The "weathermen" ceased to be a force by 1971; in 1970 a New York City townhouse and weatherman bomb factory exploded, killing three members.

However, the culmination of the violence occurred when troops of the National Guard fired upon student demonstrators at Kent State University in Ohio, killing four in 1970. Two students died later that year at Jackson State in Mississippi from violent conflicts with law enforcement officials.¹¹ President Richard Nixon ended the strike of New York's postal workers with military intervention in an attempt to avert possible violence.

By the early 70s, the heated tempers that often led to violent behavior cooled. Civil rights legislation and changing attitudes of whites improved conditions for blacks, and the militancy eased. As the last troops left Vietnam, Americans soon focused their attention on other political and social problems. Economic worries plagued the nation

after a recession early in the decade. The government lowered the voting age to 18, and scrapped the much-despised draft system in favor of a lottery system, eventually abolishing the draft in favor of an all-volunteer army. University regulations changed to reflect more student participation in the rules that governed academic life. The Supreme Court's *Roe vs. Wade* decision allowing abortion addressed an issue important to many feminists, lessening some of their complaints.

The decline in the morale of the Army also affected crime in the Lawton-Fort Sill area, especially military crime after 1969 and continuing until army officials reported significant decreases in violent and property crimes exceeding 20% in 1974. Although the AWOL rate increased slightly in 1974, from 15.9 in 1973 to 16.2 in 1974, this increase is not as significant as the overall trend toward declining AWOL rates began in 1972.¹² The declines in morale, especially strong in the wake of the Tet Offensive of 1968, had a basis in statements in the media and press, army policy, antiwar activity, lack of public support for soldiers in Vietnam, and drug problems within the army in Vietnam.

Army policy also enhanced the decline in the morale of soldiers. In "Vietnam: An Infantryman's View of Our Failure" (1984), author and high school teacher Robert J. Graham explained why, from his experience in the central highlands of Vietnam in 1969 and 1970,

Perhaps we never should have intervened in Vietnam, perhaps the politicians and the society back home were more responsible for the end result, but in my view, the Army has to shoulder a large share of the blame . . . our method of operations alone perhaps made success impossible.¹³

Graham detailed what he saw as the Army's failure in policy. The large areas of operations included rough terrain to negotiate in a war where it was often difficult to ascertain who the enemy was. The rules of engagement were complicated and dangerous; many soldiers preferred to be in so-called free-fire zones, where all residents were considered the enemy. Critics of this policy, Graham charged, "were not, however, in Vietnam." The high ratio of support personnel to combat troop strength comprised the "lavish American way of war in Vietnam"; according to the estimate of Graham and others, "out of a total of 549,000 Americans, there were at best 70,000 infantrymen."¹⁴ Further, draftees were not well trained, poor coordination existed between units, and the army asked soldiers to prosecute confusing strategies, like pacification, search and destroy, and others. The turnover within platoons and the rotation of officers out of the field after six months were also policies that seriously hindered war efforts. Armed forces in the field often relied too extensively on air support, giving the enemy precious time to escape, rendering American technology inconsequential. The Army's rigid standard operating procedures often did not adequately address frequently fluid and unique situations. Graham believed soldiers "were being asked to fight for a cause their country had given up on by 1969, and they knew it. None were anxious to die." This often turned operations like "search and destroy" into "search and evade."¹⁵

Antiwar activity, which began against the Vietnam War with "teach-ins" at many colleges and universities in 1965, also affected army morale. This movement grew from a few dozen organizations in 1960 to more than twelve hundred in 1970.¹⁶ These antiwar organizations employed methods ranging from letter writing to bombing government buildings; their activities often gripped the nation's consciousness. Many protestors

participated in demonstrations in Washington in 1967, and clashed violently with police, particularly in Chicago during the Democratic National Convention in 1968. By 1969, some antiwar groups, in particular the SDS, became more radical. This heightened activity soon led to tragedies such as the one at Kent State University in 1970, as had the previous weathermen “days of rage” activity in Chicago in 1967.

Increases in the number of births and marriages during the period of increased activity in 1967, 1968, and 1969, reflected growth in Comanche County and an increased number of young people at Fort Sill. The large increase between 1967 and 1968 in original public school enrollments corresponds with the increase in dependants from the greater post complement. The housing shortage and increased contract construction also corresponds to this time period. The decrease in military personnel most likely contributed to a reduction in traffic accidents due to a reduction in the volume of traffic. During the period studied, the complement at Fort Sill contributed to the increased number of marriages, births, and public school enrollment.

After World War II, the military complement at Fort Sill remained higher than it had after previous conflicts due to the change in American foreign policy that precipitated the Cold War and required a larger worldwide military commitment. This larger presence and greater numbers of soldiers at posts like Fort Sill led to the development of stronger economic and social ties between the citizens of Lawton and soldiers at Fort Sill. City officials, citizens of Lawton, and military officials at the post acknowledged the closer relationship during this period. Reporters of the *Lawton Constitution* emphasized the increased importance and visibility of Fort Sill with daily articles about soldiers and their activities. This increased reporting took on both social and professional aspects.

Reporters of the *Lawton Constitution* wrote extensively about graduations, training exercises, and special awards, as well as personnel orders, Fort Sill births, and other society items. The newspaper also urged local citizens and relatives of soldiers stationed at the post to support soldiers, especially those serving overseas, by keeping morale high with gifts and the sending of personal items. Statements of city officials also supported the growing bonds between the two institutions. Likewise, army officials often commented upon the high level of support for soldiers stationed at Fort Sill shown by local residents and the city of Lawton.

ENDNOTES

1. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigation. *Uniform Crime Reports*. (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1967), vi.
2. Ibid.
3. Maurice Isserman and Michael Kazin. *America Divided: The Civil War of the 1960s* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 181.
4. Ibid., 183.
5. The following chronology is based on a chronology in Isserman and Kazin, *America Divided*, and James S. Olsen, *Historical Dictionary of the 1960s* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999).
6. Olsen, *Historical Dictionary of the 1960s*, 371.
7. Ibid., 389.
8. Isserman and Kazin, *America Divided*, 304.
9. Olsen, *Historical Dictionary of the 1960s*, 389.
10. Ibid., 477.
11. Isserman and Kazin, *America Divided*, 306.
12. U.S. Department of the Army, *Program Progress Report, Fort Sill, OK, 1966*.
13. Robert J. Graham, "Vietnam: An Infantryman's View of Our Failure," *Military Affairs*, Volume 48 number 3 (July 1984), 138.
14. Ibid., 134, For a more complete discussion of this and alternative views see: Shelby L. Stanton, *Vietnam Order of Battle* (Washington: U.S. News Books, 1981), William C. Westmoreland, *A Soldier Reports* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday and Co., 1976), Charles R. Anderson, *The Grunts* (San Rafael, CA: Presidio Press, 1976), Dave Richard Palmer, *Summons of the Trumpet* (San Rafael: Presidio Press), Harry G. Summers, Jr., *On Strategy: A Critical Analysis of the Vietnam War* (Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1982), Russell F. Weigley, *Eisenhower's Lieutenants* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1981), and others.
15. Ibid., 137.

16. Charles DeBenedetti and Charles Chatfield, *An American Ordeal: The Antiwar Movement of the Vietnam Era* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1990), 1.

CHAPTER VII

EPILOGUE

From its frontier beginning in 1901, the city of Lawton has been dependent upon the army post at Fort Sill for much of its success. This relationship became stronger during the post World War II period, as increased military spending from the Cold War, in particular the conflicts it spawned in Korea and Vietnam, provided increased benefits to the local economy. Although Vietnam represented a much more limited conflict in comparison to World War II, troop strength (in excess of 36,000) at the height of involvement rivaled the troop strength at Fort Sill during World War II (40,000). During this time stronger social ties developed between the two communities that solidified their relationship. Lawton has always been different from other Oklahoma cities comparable in size and social composition as a result of its interaction with the military installation of Fort Sill.

Lawton's businesses and citizens were often strong supporters of expansions and changes at the post. In 1907, many citizens helped the Lawton Chamber of Commerce secure land for the first geographic expansion of Fort Sill.¹ This growth took the post southward, and the two communities grew physically closer together. Early in 1917, both the Lawton Chamber of Commerce and the City Council sent delegations to Washington to lobby for the establishment of a training camp for servicemen in World War I. The

government granted this request only after Lawton's citizens agreed to provide five million gallons of water—often in short supply in southwestern Oklahoma— to the post daily.² Local citizens endured water shortages in order to provide this water to Camp Doniphan at Fort Sill. When arsonists burned several buildings at Fort Sill beginning in 1925, Lawton's citizens helped artillery students and their families find homes within the local community. Historian L. Edward Carter, who studied the development of Lawton's newspapers concluded: "the newspapers became all-out boosters for the post."³

Fort Sill continues to influence Lawton and surrounding Comanche County. Soldiers still fight boredom and complain of a lack of "cultural stimulation, nice restaurants and 'quality shopping,' according to Major General Leo Baxter.⁴ Lawton Police Chief in 1983, Robert Gillian, related that the "closest rival for concentrated nightlife is 'The Strip' on Fort Sill Boulevard just south of a post entrance."⁵ Activity on "The Strip" continues to the present. *The Daily Oklahoman* reported that the "city reflects the temporary, hurried lifestyle of a soldier," including fast food joints, quick-stop groceries, pawn shops, exotic dance shows and massage parlors.⁶

Many economic advantages to the community also continue, as the post provides a large payroll, much of which is spent on the local economy. Former Fort Sill Inspector General commented in 1983 that "80 percent of the city's real estate sales depend on the thousands of Fort Sill personnel moving in and out each year."⁷ In 1980, citizens initiated a Lawton-Fort Sill Co-op Program between military units and local businesses. The program began with 11 partners; by the early 1990s 43 military units and 79

businesses participated in various activities designed to foster a positive relationship between the two groups.⁸

Some differences from the Vietnam war period are apparent. In 1984, Lieutenant Colonel Gerald L. McKee, director of the Personnel Control Facility, which handles the post AWOL soldiers, reported, "I virtually have no problem." He elaborated his belief that the army had "begun to see the end of the Vietnam-type AWOL," adding, "We don't actively pursue AWOL's . . . Eventually, if they do anything, their Social Security number gets into the system."⁹

More recent changes made the relationship between Lawton and Fort Sill official. After action by the state legislature and Lawton city council, on June 16, 1998, Major General Leo Baxter announced the army's assent to a plan by the Lawton City Council to annex Fort Sill. Baxter commented, "After 120 years, . . . one step would meld the two communities together . . . We think that anything that's good for Lawton is good for Fort Sill."¹⁰ On June 23, 1998, the Lawton city council approved the annexation plan, which became effective on July 2, 1998. Lawton Mayor Cecil Powell later remarked: "Say what you will, but Lawton and southwest Oklahoma depend greatly on Fort Sill."¹¹ The economic and social ties between the two communities, heightened in the post World War II era, solidified during the Vietnam conflict, and maintained by day-to-day interaction, truly blended Lawton and Fort Sill into Lawton-Fort Sill.

ENDNOTES

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1. W. S. Nye, *Carbine and Lance: The Story of Old Fort Sill* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969), 318.
 2. *Ibid.*, 329,330.
 3. L. Edward Carter, "Voices from the Short Grass Country: A History of Lawton Newspapers, 1901-1970," PhD diss., Oklahoma State University, 1974.
 4. *The Daily Oklahoman*, 17 June 1998.
 5. *Ibid.*, 7 August 1983.
 6. *Ibid.*, 1 May 1983.
 7. *Ibid.*
 8. Boyd Dastrup, unpublished, untitled draft manuscript, 48.
 9. *The Daily Oklahoman*, 15 January 1984.
 10. *Ibid.*, 17 June 1998.
 11. *Ibid.*, 14 March 2001.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

TABLES

TABLE A1
SELECTED MILITARY PERSONNEL ON ACTIVE DUTY

Date	Number
War of 1812 (1812-1815)	
1812	12,631
1813	25,152
1814	46,858
1815	40,885
Mexican War (1846-1848)	
1846	39,165
1847	57,761
1848	60,308
1850	20,824
American Civil War (1861-1865)	
1861	217,112
1862	673,124
1863	960,061
1864	1,031,724
1865	1,062,848
1870	50,348
World War I (1917-1918)	
1917	643,833
1918	2,897,167
1919	1,172,602
1920	343,302
1930	255,648
World War II (1941-1946)	
1941	1,801,101
1942	3,585,791
1943	9,044,745

TABLE A1 - continued

Date	Number
1944	11,451,719
1945	12,123,455
1946	3,030,088
Korean War (1950-1953)	
1950	1,460,261
1951	3,249,455
1952	3,635,912
1953	3,555,067
1960	2,476,435
Vietnam War (1964-1973)	
1964	2,687,409
1965	2,655,389
1966	3,094,058
1967	3,376,880
1968	3,547,902
1969	3,460,162
1970	3,066,294
1975	2,128,120

Note: Source— *The New York Times Almanac 2000*.

TABLE A2
POPULATION OF COMANCHE COUNTY, SELECTED YEARS

Year	Comanche County Population	Percent Change
1950	55,165	
1960	90,803	64.6
1970	108,144	19.1
1980	111,973	3.5

Source: *Directory and Manual of the State of Oklahoma*

TABLE A3
SELECTED FORT SILL STRENGTH FIGURES

Year	Military	Percent Change	Civilian	Military Present for Duty
1962	24,720	—	55,520	18,616
1963	26,009	5.2	53,694	18,663
1964	26,957	3.6	54,488	19,043
1965	28,707	6.5	55,999	22,722
1966	26,014	-10.4	51,530	20,654
1967	36,260	39.4	61,269	27,566
1968	36,181	-0.2	63,012	24,580
1969	36,505	0.9	60,007	25,447
1970	32,221	-13.3	61,064	25,447
1971	26,870	-19.9	54,724	21,922
1972	22,870	-17.5	54,573	18,000
1973	21,754	-5.1	53,024	16,826
1974	21,833	0.4	52,573	
1975	23,422	7.3	55,316	

Note: Source—Unpublished Figures from Dr. Boyd Dastrup, Command Historian, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

TABLE A4
SELECTED FORT SILL PAYROLL (\$)

Fiscal Year	Military	Civilian	Total
1965	81,644,377	16,543,971	98,188,348
1966	82,528,021	18,029,374	100,557,395
1967	113,760,797	24,347,272	138,108,069
1968	122,010,915	26,728,305	148,739,220
1969	124,527,160	27,672,358	152,199,518
1970	143,262,548	28,922,145	172,184,693
1971	138,810,023	29,633,341	168,443,364
1972	105,166,576	24,413,256	129,579,832
1973	157,300,000	35,300,000	192,600,000
1974	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
1975	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

Note: Source— *Operating Program Progress Reports*, United States Army Artillery and Missile Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

TABLE A5
TOTAL STATE SALES TAX COLLECTIONS, COMANCHE
COUNTY, SELECTED YEARS

Fiscal Year	\$ amount	% Increase
1960-1961	1,519,491	—
1970-1971	2,788,755	84
1974-1975	3,800,098	36

Note: Source— *Statistical Abstract of Oklahoma*.

TABLE A6
NET ASSESSED VALUATION REAL AND PERSONAL
PROPERTY COMANCHE COUNTY

Year	Real and Personal Property, Dollar amount	% Change	Consumer Price Index, U.S. Average, Commodities
1963	44,170,033		
1965	53,194,274	20	
1967	60,110,439	13	100
1969	66,604,787	11	108.4
1971	70,597,665	6	117.4
1973	79,272,649	12	129.9
1975	87,961,125	11	153.4

Note: Source— *Directory and Manual of the State of Oklahoma, Statistical Abstract of Oklahoma.*

TABLE A7
PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME 1967, 1970-1975

Selected Year	Income, Dollars	Percent Change	Consumer Price Index, U.S. Average, Commodities
1967	2,766	—	100
1970	3,445	25	113.5
1971	3,388	-2	117.4
1972	3,594	6	120.9
1973	3,998	11	129.9
1974	4,320	8	145.5
1975	4,702	9	153.4

Note: Source— *Statistical Abstracts of Oklahoma.*

TABLE A8

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES
IN SELECTED BUSINESSES, OKLAHOMA, 1965-1972

Year	Manufacturing Employees	Retail Employees	Service Employees
1965	—		
1966	6	4	11
1967	7	4	9
1968	-0.4	2	8
1969	8	5	2
1970	5	2	6
1971	-6	2	2
1972	4	8	5

Note: Source— *County Business Patterns*.

TABLE A9

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES IN
SELECTED BUSINESSES, COMANCHE COUNTY, 1965-1972

Year	Contract Construction Employees	Transportation & Public Utilities	Wholesale Trade Employees	Service Industry Employees	Retail Trade Employees
1965					
1966	14	10	14	6	-2
1967	-10	7	3	35	11
1968	-1	26	19	-14	3
1969	76	-30	15	-2	2
1970	-80	6	36	20	6
1971	-4	-2	-12	-16	-1
1972	24	4	-50	0	11
1973	16	6	9	-9	6

Note: Source— *County Business Patterns*.

TABLE A10
AWOL AND CONFINEMENT RATE AT FORT SILL (1965-1975)

Year	AWOL Rate	Confinement Rate per 1,000 soldiers or number (#) confined
1965		79#
1966		130#
1967		4.9
1968	8.45	5.02
1969	8.09	7.5
1970	18.95	8.25
1971	20.8	
1972	17.85	
1973	15.9	
1974	16.17	9.0
1975	15.1	

Note: Source—*Fort Sill Operating Progress Reports* for Years 1965-1975.

TABLE A11
SELECTED BIRTH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION

Year	Birth Rate Oklahoma	Birth Rate Comanche County
1964	18.9	31.2
1965	17.1	26.0
1966	15.8	23.6
1967	15.7	24.5
1968	15.9	23.6
1969	16.2	26.3
1970	17.2	28.5
1971	16.9	31.3
1972	16.1	23.4
1973	15.3	23.2
1974	15.6	
1975	15.7	

Note: *Source—Public Health Statistics Report*, Oklahoma Health Department.

TABLE A12
BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN COMANCHE
COUNTY, SELECTED YEARS

Year	Births	Deaths	Marriages
1960	2,293	481	900
1963	3,036	590	1,084
1965	2,314	508	1,053
1967	2,643	582	1,157
1970	2,690	583	1,412
1971	2,813	313	1,300
1972	2,348	592	1,364
1973	2,421	610	1,307
1974	2,386	605	1,349
1975	2,445	605	1,385

Note: Source— *Statistical Abstracts of Oklahoma*.

TABLE A13
ORIGINAL ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN
COMANCHE COUNTY, SELECTED YEARS

Year Ending	Number of Original Enrollments	Percent Change
1964	22,369	
1966	22,937	2.5
1967	24,982	9
1968	25,390	1.7
1969	25,522	.5
1970	25,809	1.1
1971	27,872	8
1972	27,558	-1.1
1973	26,812	-2.8
1974	26,081	-2.8

Note: Source— *Statistical Abstracts of Oklahoma*

TABLE A14
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN COMANCHE COUNTY, 1969-1976

Year	Number of Accidents	Percent Change
1969	3,113	
1970	3,189	2.4
1971	2,966	-7.5
1972	2,975	-
1973	3,221	8.3
1974	2,551	-26
1975	3,002	17.7
1976	2,865	4.8

Note: Source— *Statistical Abstracts of Oklahoma*.

APPENDIX B

STATISTICAL SPREADSHEET

Comanche County - Fort Sill

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
total employees	10446	10641	12207	12328	13017	13694	13177	14133	13866	15051	13563
Agriculture	58	68	54	61	95	77	80	89	100	B B	
Mining	93	D 95		D D	D	D	D	D	C	B	
Contract Construction	653	743	817	809	1427	791	761	945	1099	1119	829
Manufacturing	1020	876	1010	1037	1194	1273	1354	1351	1364	1413	1281
Transp and public util	862	944	1009	1267	972	1028	1004	1045	1110	1666	1179
Wholesale trade	655	664	681	812	933	1271	1135	1239	829	901	920
Retail trade	3929	3862	4279	4421	4513	4781	4730	5236	5532	5495	5055
Finance, Ins, & Real	931	992	1029	1017	1038	1043	1104	1171	1090	1158	1193
Services	2217	2352	3181	2788	2740	3281	2832	2834	2596	2896	2783
Unclassified	28	D 52		D D	D	D	D	D	245		195
Federal Civilian Empl					5275	5035	4638	na 4930		4845	4728
Number Military pers											

Oklahoma - Entire State	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
total employees	475991	502780	522839	539763	564137	581352	579402	610221			
Agriculture	1943	2279	2604	2570	2544	2555	2491	2522			
Mining	32088	33051	31966	32462	31445	29977	27901	27507			
Contract Contstruction	34090	35221	33801	35121	37714	36775	39807	43779			
Manufacturing	106467	113106	120574	120108	129498	136293	128487	133496			
Transp and public util	40289	41765	43667	46200	48326	48424	47097	47522			
Wholesale trade	38466	40469	40345	41598	41671	44858	44720	47181			
Retail trade	108552	112554	116797	119463	125637	127762	129988	139850			
Finance, Ins, & Real	31902	32792	33969	35175	36432	37782	39019	41629			
Services	78839	87258	94768	102719	104934	110769	113530	119216			
Unclassified	3355	4285	4348	4347	5936	6157	6362	7519			
Federal Civilian Empl				57958		57503	55124	55468			
Number Military pers											

VITA ¹²

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