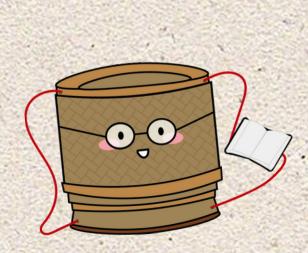


WHERE IS LAOS?

Laos is a landlocked country in mainland
Southeast Asia. It borders Thailand,
Cambodia, Vietnam,
China, and Myanmar.





HISTORY

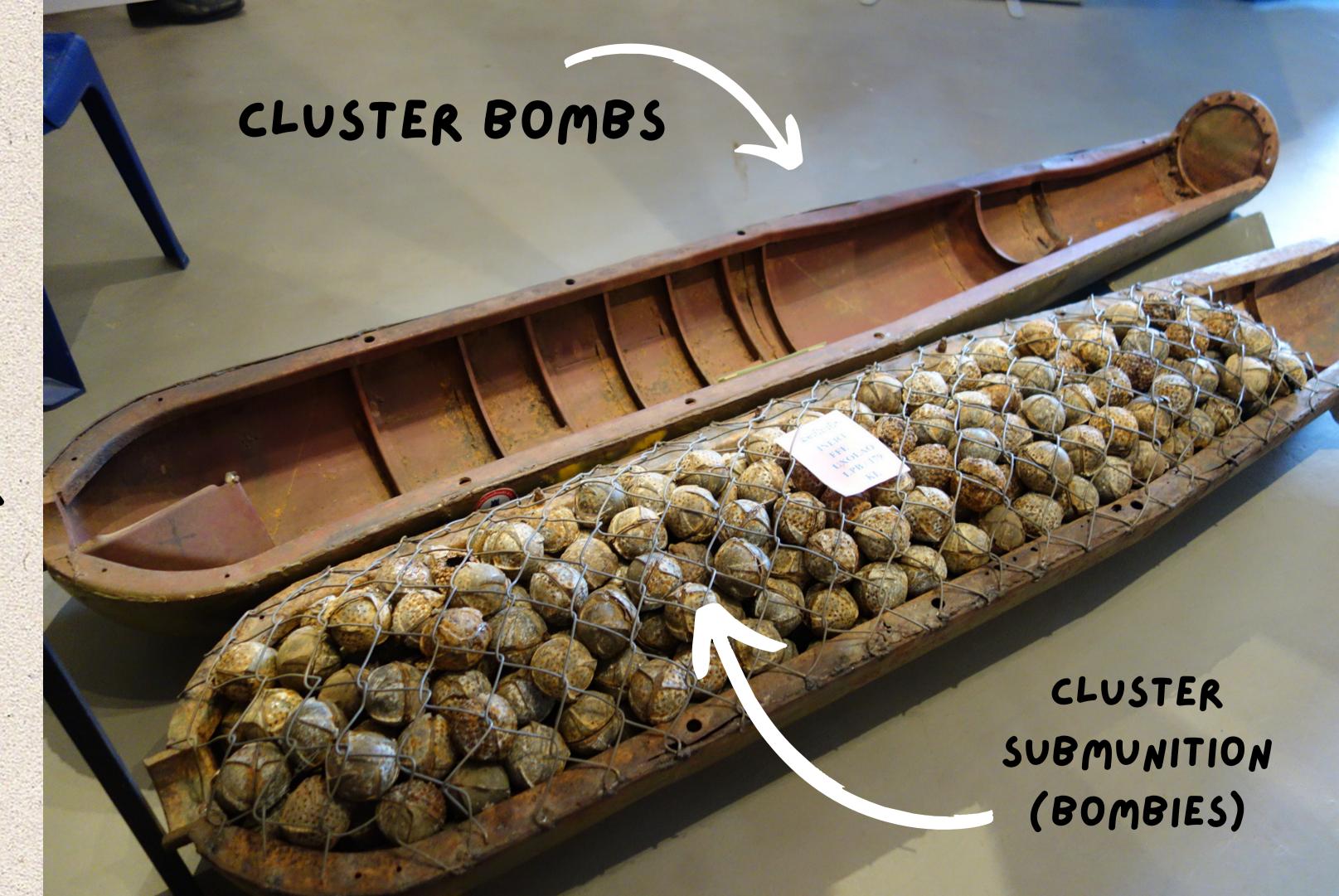
From 1964 to 1973, the U.S. dropped more than 2.5M tons of ordnance on Laos during 580,000 bombing sorties—equal to a planeload of bombs every 8 minutes, 24 hours a day, for 9 years – making Laos the most heavily bombed country per capita in history.



*Ordnance is a mass noun referring to military materials such as weapons, ammunition, equipment, and vehicles.



WHAT
ARE
CLUSTER
BOMBS?



The bombings were part of the American Secret War in Laos to support the Royal Lao Government against the Pathet Lao and to interdict traffic along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The bombings destroyed many villages and displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians during the nine-year period.



DEFINITIONS

· ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT

 The ruling government during the war that favors a constitutional monarchy.

· PATHET LAO

 A communist political movement and organization in Laos during the war.

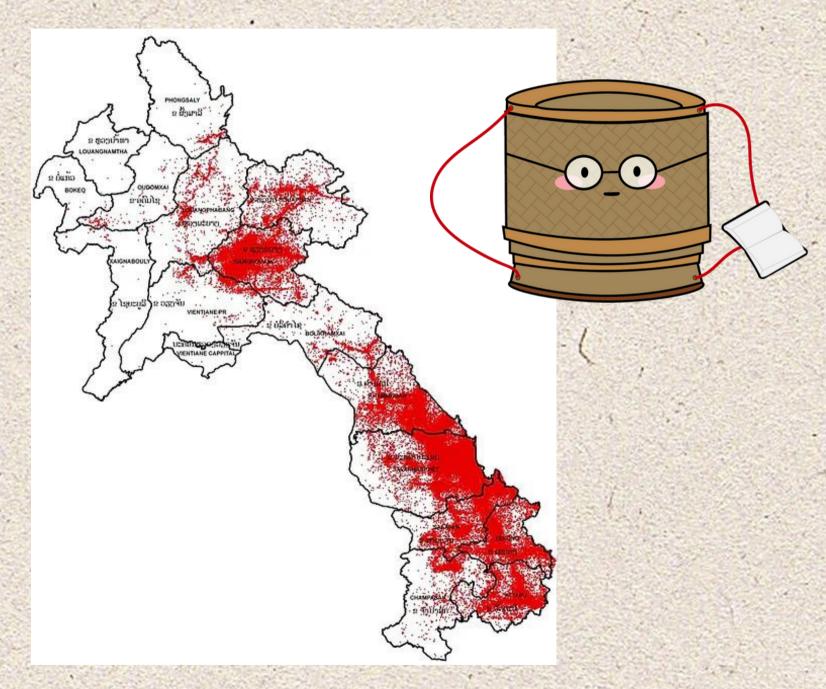
. HO CHI MINH TRAIL

 A logistical network of roads and trails that ran from North Vietnam to South Vietnam through the kingdoms of Laos and Cambodia.



HISTORY

Up to a third of the bombs dropped did not explode, leaving Laos contaminated with vast quantities of unexploded ordnance (UXO).



*Unexploded ordnance are explosive weapons that did not explode when they were employed and still pose a risk of detonation, sometimes many decades after they were used or discarded.



80 million

clusterbombs



As many as **one-third** of the bombs dropped on Laos never exploded, lying dormant for years or decades until disturbed by a farmer's plow or a child's curiosity.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO A PERSON OR COMMUNITY WHEN UXO IS SET OFF?



HISTORY

Over 25,000 people have been killed or injured by UXO in Laos since the bombing ceased. In the last decade, over half of UXO casualties were children. The wounds of war are not only felt in Laos. When the Americans withdrew from Laos in 1973, hundreds of thousands of refugees fled the country, and many of them ultimately resettled in the United States.







An estimated 700,000 people, amounting to approximately 25% of the population of Laos during that period, were displaced from their homes due to the bombing.

WHAT IS LEGACIES OF WAR?

Legacies of War is an educational and advocacy organization working to address the impact of the American Secret War in Laos as well as the wars in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Our focus area is the removal of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

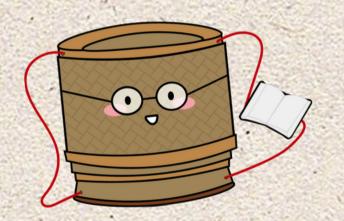


est. 2004









THE ORIGINALS

Survivors in refugee camps in Vientiane produced these haunting illustrations of the bombings between 1970-71.





FOUNDER: CHANNAPHA KHAMVONGSA

The Originals inspired Channapha to create Legacies of War because she recognized that there was a great need for advocating for U.S. government funds to go towards UXO clearance in Laos.

Legacies of War shifted the tense discourse of U.S. conflict in Laos to reconciliation and cooperation, with increased funding each year.







RECORD-BREAKING ADVOCACY

FY2004 - Legacies is founded and begins to advocate for increased funding for demining in Laos

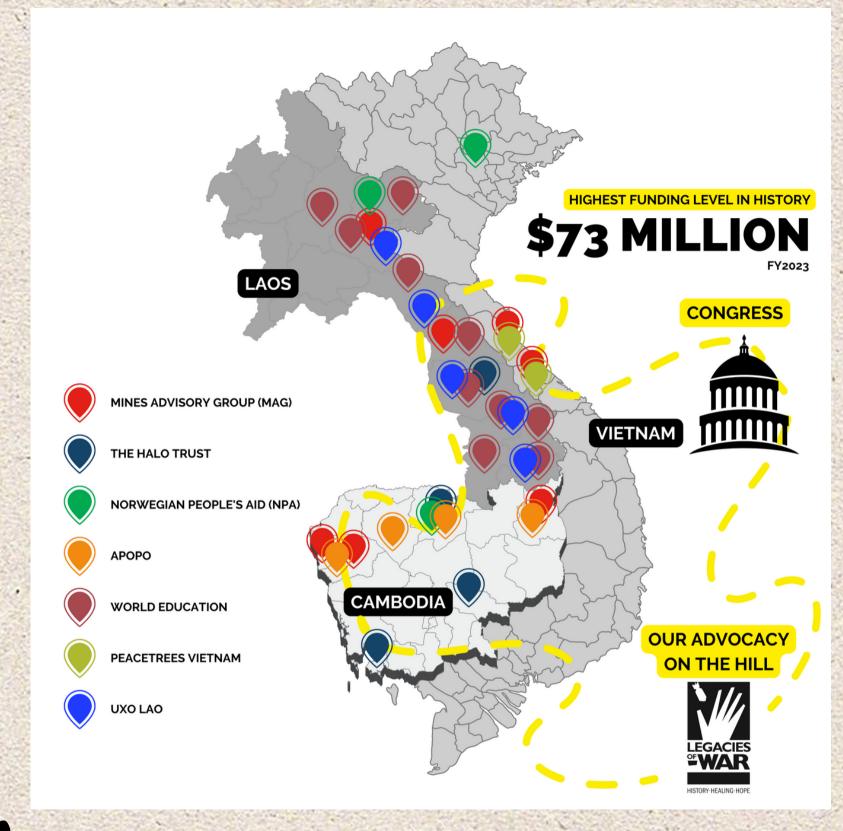
1,912,000

FY2017 - Legacies plays a key role in President Obama increasing funding for demining in Laos

30,000,000

FY2023 - Legacies continues to push for increased funding for demining in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam

73,000,000



We directly work and meet with key decision makers in the U.S. government — including Congress and the presidential administration — and with the private sector and media outlets to provide these influential groups with compelling information and analysis.

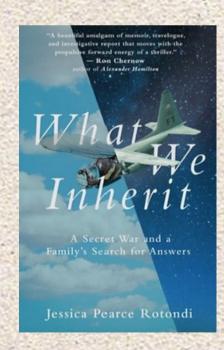


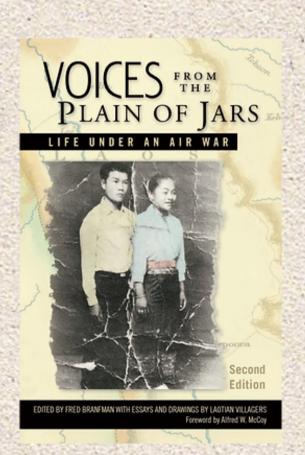


INITIATIVES

Legacies Library

A collection of books, films, articles, and oral histories vetted by Legacies of War that tells the story of the American bombing of Laos (1964-1973) and its neighbors in Vietnam and Cambodia.





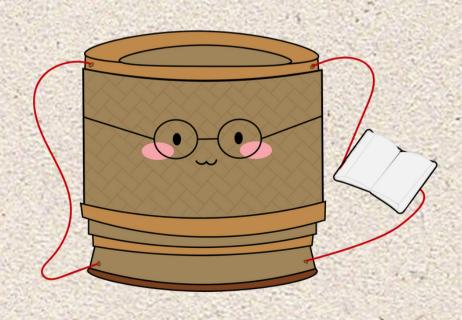
Thip Khao Talk

A podcast that opens up more dialogue and spaces for discussion about topics and issues that greatly impact communities due to the aftermath of the Secret War in Laos.



Khao Niew's Classroom

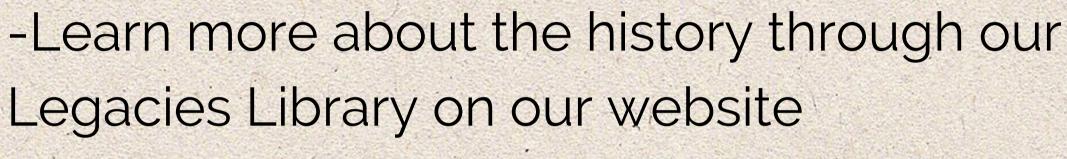
This initiative focuses on creating short-form content that further educates our supporters and the public about the American Secret War in Laos and the work that we do!







HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?



- -Donate to support our work
- -Join our letter writing/call campaigns to your members of Congress
- -Tell one person about what you learned today



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

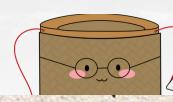
Why is it important to learn about the history of the Secret War in Laos?

How is this history relevant to the modern day?

As students, how can we make an impact on this issue?

How do we install hope for the future of Laos in our own local community?

What other countries are also facing the same struggles right now?



INFO@LEGACIESOFWAR.ORG

FOLLOW US TODAY!



www.legaciesofwar.org

