

Blowtorch: Robert Komer, Vietnam, and the American Cold War Strategy

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All lectures are held in the multipurpose rooms of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The building opens at 6:30 p.m., the talk begins at 7:15 p.m., and the question period concludes around 8:30 p.m. All are welcome, and the event is free! For further information, please call 717-245-3972

October 16, 2013 (Wednesday)

Perspectives in Military History Lecture Series with Frank L. Jones

Frank L. Jones

Department of National Security and Strategy, U.S. Army War College

Lecture Date: October 16, 2013

Title: "Blowtorch: Robert Komer, Vietnam, and the American Cold War Strategy"

Robert Komer was the leading national security expert during the Cold War and proved his capabilities serving no less than three United States Presidents. While his abrasive personality and curt interactions with officials earned him the nickname, "Blowtorch," he became President Johnson's "point man" in working towards peace in Vietnam. In the first biography ever written about Komer, *Blowtorch: Robert Komer, Vietnam, and American Cold War Strategy* (Naval Institute Press), Professor and Scholar Frank Leith Jones highlights Komer's actions as he labored to eradicate Communism in Southeast Asia through his multi-dimensional approach which included social, economic, and military facets. Jones' lecture will focus on the American involvement in Vietnam within the wider scope of the Cold War, allowing for analysis of the conflict and Komer's impact on American policy and strategy in more recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Frank L. Jones is Professor of Security Studies at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA, where he holds the General Dwight D. Eisenhower Chair of National Security. As a retiree from the Senior Executive Service, he has more than thirty years of federal experience. During the course of his civilian career, he held a number of high-level policy and strategy positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense including Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations Policy and Support. Professor Jones has published several book chapters and articles on national security topics. His awards and accolades are numerous and include the Department of the Army Outstanding Service

Award. He attended St. Lawrence University on a four-year Army ROTC Scholarship and received a B.A. in History. He holds an M.A. in public administration from the State University of New York at Albany. Mr. Jones served the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer.

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