

Vietnam War Commemoration Lecture Series



Rolling Thunder: A Failure in Gradualism

Presented by Dr. John Curatola

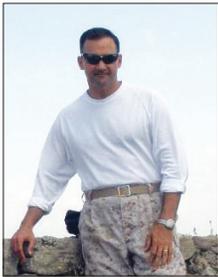
March 8, 2017

Reception at 5:30 p.m. • Presentation at 6 p.m.

Arnold Conference Room • Lewis and Clark Center • Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

In this fifth lecture of the series, Associate Professor Dr. John Curatola will address the air campaign executed from 1965 to 1968 over North Vietnam and its failure to deter Communist resolve during the war.

This presentation will argue that the air war was plagued with unreasonable expectations, limited rules of engagement, and excessive political oversight. Aircrews from both the Navy and Air Force were at a constant disadvantage and unable to apply the full capability of American airpower to North Vietnam. Curatola will address the various limiting factors and how they affected daily targeting and operations while discussing the robust nature of North Vietnamese air defense. Furthermore, the presentation will address the many legacies of “Rolling Thunder” that still reverberate in today’s air campaigns.



Dr. John Curatola is an associate professor of history at the U.S. Army School for Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth Kansas. A retired Marine officer, Dr. Curatola served in uniform for 22 years and participated in Operation Provide Hope in Somalia in 1992, Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, and was the head of logistics during the 2005 Indian Ocean Tsunami Relief efforts.

Curatola received his Doctorate from the University of Kansas and has written on topics regarding both world wars with an emphasis on airpower. His many presentations are available on line and have also been shown nationally as part of CSPAN’s “American History TV” series. His recent book *Bigger Bombs for a Brighter Tomorrow* examines the state of the American nuclear monopoly after the second World War.

Join us March 8 for this fifth lecture in the series.

All lectures are free and open to the public.

Presented by

Dept. of Military History –
U.S. Army Command and
General Staff College



U.S. Army Garrison
Fort Leavenworth

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Henry Leavenworth Chapter