

# Vietnam War Commemoration Lecture Series



## Operation Lam Son 719 and Vietnamization in Laos, 1971

Presented by **Dr. James H. Willbanks**

**May 13, 2021**

**Reception (cash bar) at 5:30 p.m. • Buffet Dinner at 6 p.m. • Presentation at 7 p.m.  
June's Northland • 614 Pottawatomie Street • Leavenworth, KS 66048**

In this thirteenth lecture of the series, Dr. James H. Willbanks, Professor Emeritus and former General of the Army George C. Marshall Chair of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and decorated Vietnam War Veteran, will discuss Operation Lam Son 719, which was an incursion by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam into Laos, February 8 – March 24, 1971. The Church-Cooper Amendment, passed by the U.S. Congress on December 29, 1970, forbade the use of American ground forces in Laos. Thus, Operation Lam Son 719 would be conducted by the South Vietnamese and would be the first real test of the South Vietnamese armed forces operating on their own.



Dr. James H. Willbanks retired from the faculty of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 2018, after 26 years of service following over 23 years of active-duty service as an Infantry Officer in various assignments, to include a tour as an advisor with a South Vietnamese infantry regiment during the 1972 North Vietnamese Easter Offensive. While a member of the CGSC faculty, Willbanks served as the Director of the Department of Military History and as the General of the Army George C. Marshall Chair of Military History.

Dr. Willbanks is an honor graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and a graduate of the inaugural class of the School of Advanced Military Studies. He holds a B.A. in History from Texas A&M University, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of Kansas. He is the author or editor of 20 publications on the Vietnam War and other topics in military history. Dr. Willbanks also served as a consultant to Ken Burns in the preparation of his 10-part documentary on the Vietnam War which aired on PBS in 2017.

His military awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" and Oak Leaf Cluster, two Purple Hearts, and Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with two Silver Stars.

**Advanced tickets are \$25/person for the buffet and the presentation.**

**Doors open at 5:30 p.m. • Tickets available at the door for \$30/person**

**Register/purchase tickets at [www.cgscfoundation.org/VL-210513](http://www.cgscfoundation.org/VL-210513)**

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