

# The Phoenix Program

**6:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Friday, 13 March 2015**  
**at the 40 et 8 Chateau**

**Sponsored by the Vancouver Barracks Military Association.**

**Hosted by Voiture 99 of the 40 et 8 veterans association**



**Presented by Colonel (Retired) Larry Smith.** The Phoenix Program is arguably the most misunderstood and controversial program undertaken by the governments of the US and South Vietnam during the war and the program's existence, 1968- 1972. In reality, it was a set of programs that sought to attack and destroy the political infrastructure of the Leo Dong party or VCI. Phoenix was one of several pacification and rural security programs that the CIA ran in South Vietnam during the 1960's. Phoenix was misunderstood because it was classified and the information obtained by the press and others was often anecdotal, unsubstantiated, and/or false. By 1967, the US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) had succeeded in consolidating all military and civilian pacification efforts into one entity, called Civil Operations and

Revolutionary Development (CORDS) headed by Robert H. Komer, followed by

William E. Colby. They oversaw the Phoenix program and its effectiveness.

Former Army Captain Larry J. Smith ( and now a retired Colonel and member of the Vancouver City Council) on his second Vietnam combat tour will provide a set of first hand experiences and observations of one part of the Phoenix program in two provinces of South Vietnam, Lam Dong and Kontum ( Second Corps of operations). It is a snapshot in time and place, but it represents a picture of the way one important and highly effective aspect of Phoenix worked in the years immediately after the 1968 TET offensive. It is the story of a single operational unit that was part of the larger, country-wide action of the Phoenix program—the Provincial Reconnaissance Units (PRUs). Captain Smith led and commanded a 150 man unit, mostly Montagnards with some Cambodians and Laotians, targeting the VCI from November 1968 thru November 1969.

The presentation will last about 60 minutes, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the 40 et 8 Chateau. This no admission fee. The address for the 40 et 8 Bingo Hall and Chateau is **7607 NE 26th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98665**. To get there from Interstate 5, take Exit 4, eastbound on NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street about one mile. Drive about 200 yards east of the NE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Bingo Parlor sign, to the next right turn on the south side of NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street. This is the entrance to the 40 et 8 Chateau parking lot. The Chateau is the white building at the south end of the parking lot. The talk will be held in the Boxcar Room. The phone number for the 40 et 8 is: **360 574-3872**

<http://voiture-99.com>

