

# The Staff Ride



# **PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

## **GENERAL PURPOSE**

**TO FURTHER THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. ARMY LEADERS**

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

**EXPOSE STUDENTS TO DYNAMICS OF BATTLE**

**SHOW THE “FACE OF BATTLE”**

**PROVIDE CASE STUDIES IN PRINCIPLES OF WAR**

**PROVIDE CASE STUDIES IN COMBINED ARMS OPERATIONS**

**SHOW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY AND DOCTRINE**

**PROVIDE CASE STUDIES IN LEADERSHIP**

**PROVIDE CASE STUDIES IN UNIT COHESION**

**SHOW HOW LOGISTICS AFFECT OPERATIONS**

**PROVIDE ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR BATTLE ANALYSIS**

**ENCOURAGE STUDY OF MILITARY HISTORY**

**KINDLE INTEREST IN HERITAGE OF U.S. ARMY**

# **FOUNDATIONS OF STAFF RIDING**

- 1. MAXIMUM KNOWLEDGE BY THE INSTRUCTOR TEAM**
- 2. MAXIMUM KNOWLEDGE AND INVOLVEMENT BY STUDENTS**
- 3. COMPLETE INTEGRATION OF THE PRELIMINARY STUDY PHASE AND THE FIELD STUDY PHASE**

# **PHASES OF A STAFF RIDE**

- 1. PRELIMINARY STUDY PHASE**
- 2. FIELD STUDY PHASE**
- 3. INTEGRATION PHASE**

# **PRELIMINARY STUDY PHASE**

- 1. STUDENTS MUST UNDERSTAND PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE**
- 2. STUDENTS MUST BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED**
- 3. STUDENTS MUST ACQUIRE BASIC KNOWLEDGE**
  - A. ORGANIZATIONS, STRENGTH, ARMAMENT, DOCTRINE**
  - B. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON LEADERS**
  - C. WEAPONS CHARACTERISTICS**
  - D. TERRAIN AND CLIMATIC CONSIDERATIONS**
  - E. GENERAL OUTLINE AND CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS**
- 4. STUDENTS MUST ACQUIRE AN INTELLECTUAL PERCEPTION OF THE CAMPAIGN**

# **FIELD STUDY PHASE - DESIGN**

- 1. VISIT ALL SIGNIFICANT SITES**
- 2. VISIT SITES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**
- 3. AVOID BACKTRACKING**
- 4. HAVE PURPOSE FOR STOPS**
- 5. BE FLEXIBLE TO PERMIT UNPLANNED STOPS**
- 6. LINK SOURCES TO SPECIFIC SITES**
- 7. TRAVERSE ROUTE ON FOOT IF POSSIBLE**
- 8. EASE OF ACCESS NOT ONLY CONSIDERATION**
- 9. OBTAIN EASEMENTS**
- 10. PREPARE ALTERNATE ROUTES**
- 11. CHECK ROUTES CAREFULLY BEFOREHAND**

# **FIELD STUDY PHASE - CONDUCT**

- 1. MAINTAIN STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**
- 2. MAINTAIN STUDENT ORIENTATION**
- 3. USE VIGNETTES**
- 4. STIMULATE STUDENT DISCUSISON**
- 5. USE PA SYSTEM ON BUS**
- 6. USE TRAINING AIDS**
- 7. KEEP INSTRUCTOR/STUDENT RATIO LOW**
- 8. MAINTAIN STEADY PACE**
- 9. BE PREPARED FOR BAD WEATHER**

# **INTEGRATION PHASE**

- 1. AN OPPORTUNITY TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON MEANING OF THE EXERCISE**
- 2. PERMITS INTEGRATION OF PERCEPTIONS FROM PREVIOUS PHASES**
- 3. PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO CRYSTALLIZE PERCEPTIONS AND ORGANIZE THEM**
- 4. GENERATES ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS THROUGH GROUP DISCUSSION**
- 5. PROVIDES A FORUM FOR COMMENTS**



# **SOURCES**

## **1. SECONDARY**

- A. MOST USEFUL AT BEGINNING**
- B. REPRESENT INTRODUCTION AND FRAMEWORK**
- C. OFTEN LACK DETAIL AND IMMEDIACY**

## **2. PRIMARY**

- A. RICH IN DETAIL AND NUANCES**
- B. PROVIDE SENSE OF “HOW THINGS WERE”**
- C. REQUIRE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**
- D. REQUIRE ASSISTANCE TO USE**

# **TRAINING AIDS**

- 1. MAPS**
- 2. PHOTOGRAPHS**
- 3. PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, DIAGRAMS**
- 4. FILMS AND VIDEOTAPES**
- 5. TAPE RECORDINGS**
- 6. ARTIFACTS**
- 7. TERRAIN BOARDS**

# **LOGISTICAL SUPPORT**

- 1. CRITICAL TO SUCCESS**
- 2. SHOULD NOT DISTRACT FROM EDUCATIONAL PROCESS**
- 3. MUST MESH WITH FIELD STUDY PHASE**
- 4. A COMPLEX TASK**
- 5. TRANSPORTATION, MESSING, BILLETING, MEDICAL**

# **SITE SELECTION**

- 1. EXPERIENCE LEVEL OF OPPOSING FORCES**
- 2. ECHELON OF COMMAND**
- 3. TYPE OF TERRAIN**
- 4. TYPE OF UNIT**
- 5. INTEGRITY OF HISTORICAL SETTINGS**
- 6. AVAILABILITY OF SOURCES**
- 7. AVAILABILITY OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT**
- 8. NEARNESS TO HOME STATION**

# **INSTRUCTOR TEAM REQUIREMENTS**

- 1. KNOW THE RELEVANT SOURCES**
- 2. UNDERSTAND THE ORGANIZATIONAL, DOCTRINAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONTEXT**
- 3. UNDERSTAND THE OPERATIONAL CONTEXT**
- 4. KNOW BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON PRINCIPALS**
- 5. KNOW ORDERS OF BATTLE**
- 6. KNOW SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**
- 7. KNOW SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN OUTCOME OF CAMPAIGN**
- 8. KNOW THE TERRAIN**
- 9. UNDERSTAND CURRENT U.S. ARMY DOCTRINE AND TERMINOLOGY**
- 10. KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET CAMPAIGN IN TERMS OF CURRENT DOCTRINE AND TERMINOLOGY**
- 11. CONSTANTLY ASSESS STUDENT KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST LEVELS TO MAINTAIN STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**
- 12. CONSTANTLY REFINE THE EXERCISE**

# **THE STAFF RIDE**

1. TIME AND RESOURCE INTENSIVE
2. BROADER SPECTRUM OF RESULTS THAN TEWT OR TOUR
3. BADLY DONE, A WASTE OF SOLDIERS' TIME AND TAXPAYERS' MONEY
4. WELL DONE, A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. ARMY LEADERS