

Staff ride

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **Staff Ride** is a systematic analysis of the site of a battle or other engagement, ordinarily undertaken by members of armed forces for the purpose of learning about the impact of geography, weather and other physical influences on those events as well as using the location as a source of inspiration. A staff ride differs from a battlefield tour in that it requires participants to study the events before arriving at the locations and then to contribute, at the site, to the collective learning experience, whereas most battlefield tours involve little preparation and participation.^[1]

Notes ^ [Staff Ride](#)

Further reading Robertson, William G. (1987). *[The Staff Ride](#)*. Washington D.C.: [United States Army Center of Military History](#)

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Preface

In the summer of 1906, the assistant commandant of the General Service and Staff School, Maj. Elmer Swift, and twelve officer-students at Fort Leavenworth boarded a train for Georgia. So began the first "staff ride" for instructors and students at what is now the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. For five years the staff ride was an important part of the Leavenworth curriculum.

Since then, staff riding as a technique of furthering the military education of professional Army officers has been employed at the Army War College, the Staff College, and elsewhere. Different from tactical exercises without troops or from battlefield tours, staff rides combine a rigorous course of historical preparation with an examination of the terrain on which an actual battle occurred. This brochure demonstrates how a staff ride can be made available to military leaders throughout the Army, not just those in the formal education system. With a certain amount of effort, the modern commander can provide a powerful and enduring impetus to the professional improvement of his subordinates, and along the way he can encourage an ardor for his unit's esprit de corps—the constant objective of all commanders in times of peace.

After a long interruption that began in World War II, staff riding slowly began to be reintroduced in the U.S. Army in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Professor Jay Lavins, now on the staff of the Army War College, performed yeoman's service in developing the staff ride technique on our nation's battlefields. Severely three years after staff rides were canceled at Leavenworth, a new version returned to the curriculum at the Command and General Staff College. Lt. Gen. William R. Richardson, commander of the Combined Arms Center, sponsored their reinstitution. These new staff rides were a far cry from the relatively simple affairs three-quarters of a century earlier. Historical knowledge about all battles had advanced significantly. Military history as a specialized field of historical study had emerged since the first staff ride and provided a certain rigor to the exercise that had been lacking in earlier versions. The students of the Staff College were more advanced intellectually than their predecessors, and the faculty had also benefited from the work of their forebears at the War College and elsewhere. The staff ride took its new place at the Command and General Staff College in academic year 1982-83.

Since its reestablishment, the staff ride has earned accolades from students and faculty alike as one of the most powerful techniques of instruction available for the education of professional soldiers. As a consequence of its growing reputation, as well as that of its counterparts at the Army War College, an interest has developed throughout the Army.

Officers from the highest echelons as well as from single battalions have now taken up staff riding. Without exception, these commanders who have already used the staff ride confirm its value in developing leaders; in introducing their officers to the benefits of military history; in supplementing current doctrinal, operational, and technical knowledge; and in improving unit morale and cohesion.

The U.S. Army Center of Military History has been designated as the coordinator of the Army's staff ride program. This brochure outlines the various requirements associated with staff riding and establishes flexible and practical standards for a successful exercise.

The author of this brochure, Dr. William Glenn Robertson, is an associate professor of military history at the Command and General Staff College. He developed and executed the concept of the new staff ride and heads that program for the Combat Studies Institute under the leadership of Director Col. Louis D. F. Proche. Dr. Robertson is a lifelong student of the Civil War and a veteran of many battlefield studies. His experience in the conduct of the staff ride is distilled in the pages that follow.

One final and important note: All those who use this brochure as a guide for their staff rides are encouraged to report their experiences, problems, and successes to the Combat Studies Institute's Staff Ride Team. As new ideas and approaches are reported, this publication will be updated, revised, and periodically reissued.

Washington, D.C.
January 1987


WILLIAM A. STOFFT
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Chief of Military History

download from

http://www.fireleadership.gov/toolbox/staffride/downloads/the_staff_ride.pdf

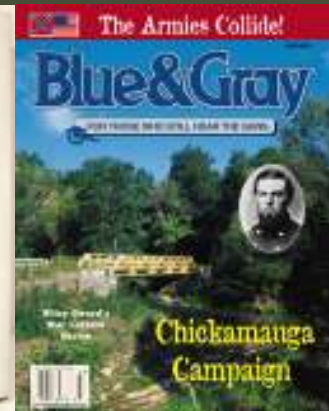
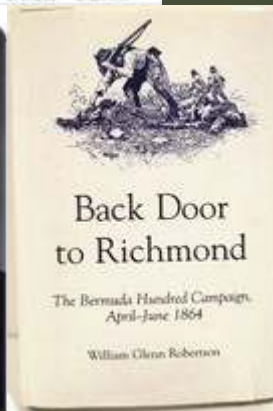
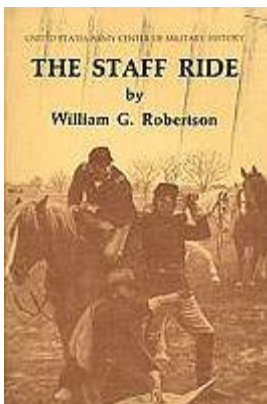
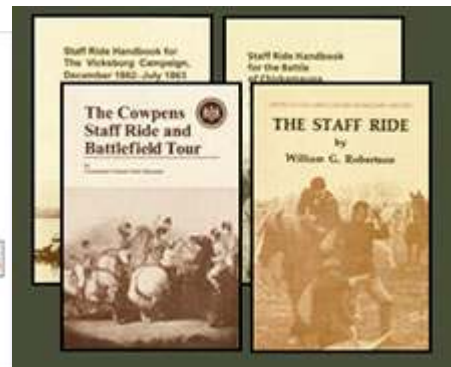
Combat Studies Institute

Staff Ride Team - Staff Ride Handbooks

The Staff Ride Team (SRT)

The Staff Ride Team develops and conducts live and virtual staff rides as an educational tool for Soldiers. By focusing on the timeless and universal aspects of warfighting, staff rides provide important insights into military operations, concepts of leadership and the face of battle, through vignettes and topics for discussion. The Staff Ride Team also provides information and guidance to US Army organizations on how to conduct staff rides for the purpose of educating leaders. The Staff Ride is a historical study of a campaign or battle that envisions a systematic preliminary study, an extensive visit to campaign sites, and an opportunity to integrate lessons derived from each. A significant component of this detailed study is the analysis of the terrain over which the action took place and the effect of that terrain upon the battle or campaign. It is this three dimensional visualization of the battlefield that separates a staff ride from a battle analysis. For more information on the methodology of a staff ride see the CSI publication A virtual staff ride (VSR) follows the same methodology as a "live" or "field" staff ride, but because travel restrictions preclude a trip to battlefield sites, the terrain is replicated in a virtual environment. The CSI model of a virtual staff ride envisions a detailed replication of terrain based upon satellite imagery and the construction of three dimensional models to immerse the student in the virtual terrain, thus providing the most realistic vision of the battlefield possible. CSI currently has two virtual staff rides fully developed, one that covers primarily the march to Baghdad and selected operations up to 2005 and Operation ANACONDA in OEF in 2002. For more information on these staff rides, please **Contact the Staff Ride Team (SRT) at: (913)684-2082, DSN 552-2082****The Staff Ride.** leav-srtonline@conus.army.mil

Definition of a Staff Ride History of Staff Rides Staff Ride Policy Letter



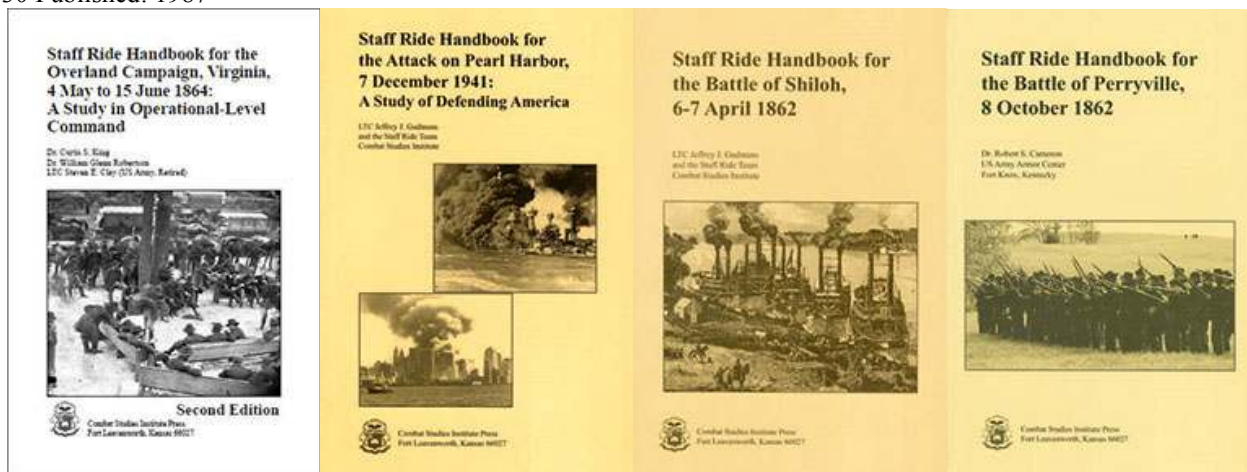
call.army.mil - <http://www.librarything.com/author/robertsonwilliamglenn>

William Glenn Robertson is also Author of:

- Back Door to Richmond: The Bermuda Hundred Campaign, April-June 1864
- The Battle of Chickamauga (Stanford French and Italian Studies)
- The staff ride
- Counterattack on the Naktong, 1950
- Block by Block: The Challenges of Urban Operations
- In Contact! Case Studies from the Long War, Volume 1: Case Studies from...
- Petersburg Campaign the Battle of Old Men & Young Boys June 9 1864 (The...
- Staff ride handbook for the Battle of Chickamauga, 18-20 September 1863
- Staff Ride Handbook for the Overland Campaign, Virginia, 4 May to 15 June...

William G. **Robertson** *The Staff Ride* Special Publications CMH Pub 70-21, Paper 1987; 32 pages, maps, appendixes Not Available through GPO sales. A history of the staff ride as conducted in the U.S. Army with an outline explaining how to organize and lead a staff ride at any level, including the formal Army educational system. * View this publication [online](#). **Staff rides represent a unique and persuasive method of conveying the lessons of the past to the present-day Army leadership for current application.** Properly conducted, these exercises bring to life, on the very terrain where historic encounters took place, examples, applicable today as in the past, of leadership, tactics and strategy, communications, use of terrain, and, above all, the psychology of men in battle. This historical study, particularly with personal reconnaissance, offers valuable opportunities to develop professional leadership and the capacity for effective use of combined arms on the air-land battlefield. The Staff Ride provides appropriate

guidance for those of us who want to utilize the staff ride to enhance the professionalism of the Army. The participant in a properly conceived and conducted historical staff ride will be rewarded by an enhanced understanding of those key elements and of the essential fact that battles are not systematic, logical undertakings but rather activities of men with all their frailties and strengths. Pages: 30 Published: 1987

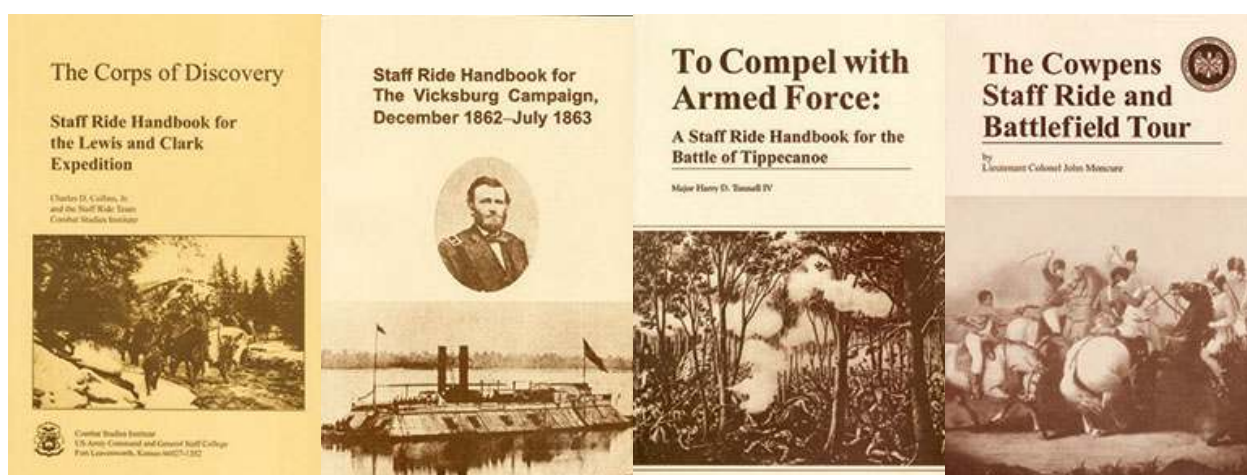


No. 1. by Dr. Curtis S. **King**, Dr. William Glenn **Robertson**, and LTC Steven E. **Clay** This handbook analyzes Lieutenant *General Ulysses S. Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign* from the crossing of the Rapidan River on 4 May to the initiation of the crossing of the James River on 15 June. Pages: 510 Published: 2009

No. 2. by LTC Jeffrey J. **Gudmens** and the **Staff Ride Team**, Combat Studies Institute, This handbook on *Pearl Harbor* allows individuals and organizations to study this battle not only in the context of the Japanese attack but, more importantly, in the context of issues that are relevant to the current global war on terror. In addition to analyzing the actual attack, Gudmens also enables users of this work to examine the problems associated with conducting joint planning and operations between the US Army, the Army Air Forces, and the US Navy. He also provides insights into the problems of a Homeland Security environment in which intelligence operatives from a foreign nation (and potentially even recent immigrants from that foreign nation who are now US citizens) can operate with little hindrance in a free and open democratic society. Additionally, this study provides an opportunity to look at how military commanders and planners prepared for their wartime mission with inadequate resources and equipment. Pages: 163 Published: 2005

No. 3. by LTC Jeffrey J. **Gudmens** and the **Staff Ride Team**, Combat Studies Institute, This handbook is a valuable study that examines the key considerations in planning and executing the campaign and battle. Modern tacticians and operational planners will find themes that still resonate. Gudmens demonstrates that leaders in Blue and Gray, in facing the daunting tasks of this, the bloodiest battle to this point on the continent, rose to the challenge. They were able to meet this challenge through planning, discipline, ingenuity, leadership, and persistence—themes worthy of reflection by today's leaders. Pages: 159 Published: 2005

No. 4. by Dr. Robert S. **Cameron** This handbook is a valuable study that examines the key considerations in planning and executing the September-October campaign and battle. Modern tacticians and operational planners will find themes that still resonate. Cameron demonstrates that Civil War leaders met their challenging responsibilities with planning, discipline, ingenuity, leadership, and persistence—themes that are well worth continued reflection by today's officers. Pages: 255 Published: 2005



No. 5. by Charles D. **Collins, Jr.** and the **Staff Ride Team**, Combat Studies Institute Since the early 20th century, officers of the US Army have honed their professional knowledge and skills by conducting staff rides to historical battlefields. In most cases, these educational exercises have focused on the tactical and operational levels of war, through a detailed examination of a major battle or campaign. The Lewis and Clark staff ride presented in this booklet, by contrast, focuses on a US Army mission to explore the unknown during a time of peace. In many ways, Captains Lewis and Clark faced a more daunting leadership challenge in their journey into the unknown than that faced by the crews of the Apollo missions to the moon. In their epic journey to the Pacific and back, they had no communication with “Houston Control” and had to rely completely on their own skills, judgment, and resources. Fortunately, they were equal to the challenge, and they had their commander's clear intent from the president. They serve today as outstanding examples of what an Army leader must Be, Know, Do. They understood what a leader must be, a person of character; they demonstrated what a leader must know, mastery of the profession; and they exercised what a leader must do, take charge and motivate others to accomplish the mission, however daunting the obstacle. Pages: 295 Published: 2004

No. 6. by Christopher R. **Gabel** and the **Staff Ride Team**, Combat Studies Institute, The Vicksburg campaign of 1862-63 is an effective vehicle for a Staff Ride. It raises a variety of teaching points, at both the operational and tactical levels, that are relevant to today's officers. Several different types of combat occurred in the course of the campaign. In addition, the campaign featured prominent participation by the Navy, thus raising a joint dimension. It also offers examples of combat support and combat service support activities, most notably military engineering and logistics. *The Staff Ride Handbook for the Vicksburg Campaign, December 1862-July 1863*, provides a systematic approach to the analysis of this key Civil War campaign. Part I describes the organization of the Union and Confederate Armies, detailing their weapons, tactics, and logistical, engineer, communications, and medical support. It also includes a description of the U.S. Navy elements that featured so prominently in the campaign. Part II consists of a campaign overview that establishes the context for the individual actions to be studied in the field. Part III consists of a suggested itinerary of sites to visit in order to obtain a concrete view of the campaign in its several phases. For each site, or "stand," there is a set of travel directions, a discussion of the action that occurred there, and vignettes by participants in the campaign that further explain the action and which also allow the student to sense the human "face of battle." Part IV provides practical information on conducting a Staff Ride in the Vicksburg area, including sources of assistance and logistical considerations. Appendix A outlines the order of battle for the significant actions in the campaign. Appendix B provides biographical sketches of key participants. Appendix C provides an overview of Medal of Honor conferral in the campaign. An annotated bibliography suggests sources for preliminary study. Pages: 225 Published: 2001

No. 7. by Major Harry D. **Tunnell IV**, In this handbook, Major Harry D. Tunnell IV examines the *Battle of Tippecanoe*, an engagement that occurred in 1811 in the Indiana Territory. The battle pitted the Regular and militia forces of William Henry Harrison, the governor of the territory, against the warriors of Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief who was attempting to create an Indian tribal confederacy with British support. In keeping with other CSI staff ride guides, Tunnell offers a narrative and analytical account of the battle, the events and issues leading up to it, and its ramifications for U.S. history. He follows this with a detailed plan that officers today can adopt for conducting a staff ride at the site of the battle. The result is an excellent blend of written history and field instruction that enables participating officers to grapple with historical events and critical decisions while standing on the very sites where those events unfolded and decisions were made. Pages: 172 Published: 2000

No. 8. by LTC John **Moncreur** This handbook is organized in three chapters to focus on the discrete components of the war. In order to place the campaign in the Carolinas in context, chapter one addresses the Revolutionary War in its strategic context-how military planners determined to prosecute the war to achieve its political goals-and relates the principal events of the war. In order to provide the environment for the Battle of the Cowpens, chapter two discusses operational issues and narrates the campaign. The third chapter focuses on the tactical aspects of the battle on that cold morning in January 1781. The fourth chapter I have included as a guide for the staff ride. The leader of a staff ride could use it in conjunction with the narrative chapters and appendix or let it stand alone as a guide to a study of the campaign and battle. Pages: 208 Published: 1996



No. 9. by Major George E. **Knapp**, US Army, Retired Armies of the North and South fought the Battle of Wilson's Creek about ten miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri, on Saturday, 10 August 1861. Like most battles, Wilson's Creek provides fertile ground for studying military art and science. It is particularly useful for examining the dynamics of battle and the effect of personalities on the action. While the action at Wilson's Creek was small compared to that at Gettysburg or Chickamauga, it remains significant and useful to students of military history. This book outlines the general usefulness of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield for both battlefield tours and staff rides. Pages: 93 Published: 1993

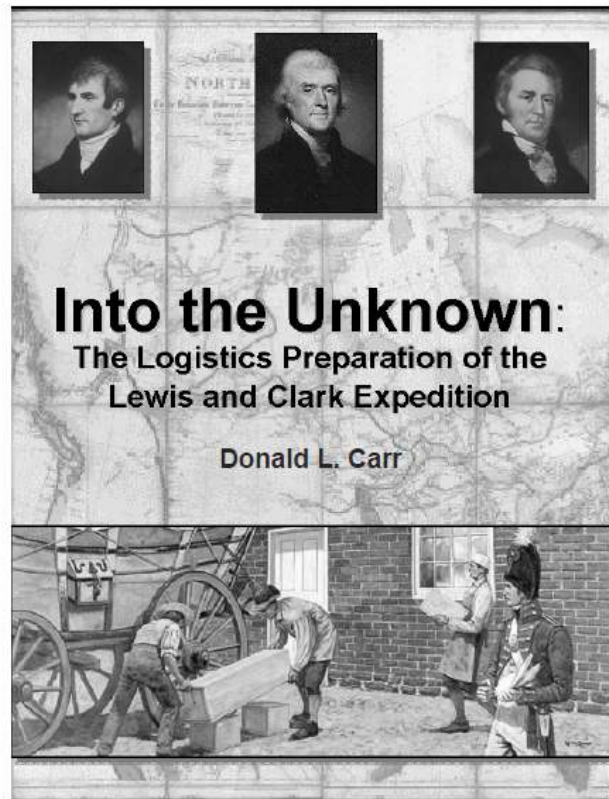
No. 10. by Dr. William Glenn **Robertson**, LTC Edward P. **Shanahan**, LTC John I. **Boxberger**, and MAJ George E. **Knapp** The *Staff Ride Handbook for the Battle of Chickamauga, 18-20 September 1863*, provides a systematic approach to the analysis of this great Civil War battle. Part I describes the organization of the Federal and Confederate Armies, detailing their weapons, tactics, and logistical, engineer, communications, and medical support. In part II, the Chickamauga campaign is discussed, placing the battle in historical perspective and illustrating how the battle fits into the overall context of the Chickamauga campaign. Part III furnishes a suggested route to follow in order to get a firsthand, concrete view of how the battle developed. By following this route, various phases of the battle can be discussed and significant points made concerning the evolving battle. Also in part III are various vignettes by participants in the battle that describe the fight and offer insights into the emotional disposition of the combatants. Part IV furnishes current information on the Chickamauga site, sources of assistance, and logistical data for conducting a Staff Ride. In addition, appendixes give order of battle information for the two armies, meteorological data, and a list of Medal of Honor recipients in the battle. A bibliography is also provided. Pages: 181 Published: 1992

No. 11. by Charles D. **Collins Jr.** The *Atlas of the Sioux Wars* represents a modest effort to rectify the omission of the Indian Wars in the West Point atlas series by examining the Army's campaigns against the Sioux Indians, one of the greatest Indian tribes of the American West. Section I deals with the difficulties of using volunteer forces to quell the rebellion of a suppressed people in the 1862 Minnesota Campaign. Section II deals with the 1866-68 Sioux War in Wyoming and Montana. Section III discusses the

The Corps of Discovery

Staff Ride Handbook for the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Charles D. Collins, Jr.
and the Staff Ride Team
Combat Studies Institute



Combat Studies Institute
US Army Command and General Staff College
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-1352



Combat Studies Institute Press
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



Map of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Staff Ride applied by Civilian Agencies or Corporate Firms

http://www.fireleadership.gov/toolbox/documents/Staff_Ride_Workbook.pdf

http://www.fireleadership.gov/toolbox/staffride/local_staff Ride_archive.html
CORPORATE STAFF RIDES

"Taking Leadership Lessons From The Battlefield to the Boardroom"

http://members.authorguild.net/appbatcon/design_your_own_corporate_staff Ride_47747.htm

<http://www.stevenlossad.com/>

<http://www.egmiller.com/>

Col. Leonard Kloeber <http://www.staffride.com/staff-ride-experience/>