Military Reference & Research
Academic Resources

Lily McGovern, Moderator
National Defense University
11 December 2014
Slide presentation not available for public release; cannot be posted.

Lily McGovern
NDU Library, Ft. McNair
Library of the Marine Corps

http://guides.grc.usmcu.edu/lomc  703-784-4411

GRCReference@grc.usmcu.edu
What is a Staff Ride?
A staff ride is a case study, typically of a military battle or campaign, conducted on the ground where the event happened. It is considered an essential instructional technique in advanced military schools and in field units. Marine Corps University (MCU) schools provide several Staff Ride opportunities for students throughout the school year.

A staff ride is a group exercise requiring participation and active engagement by the participants: a successful staff ride will challenge you to put yourself in the place of history and seek answers to questions such as

- What happened?
- What would I have done, or done differently?
- How did the organization, leaders and subordinates contribute to the success or failure of this military exercise?

These research guides are designed to facilitate understanding of the history behind the event. You can explore primary sources, archival materials, maps, videos, RSS feeds, articles and books from our library collections and databases.

An innocent looking bridge... that played an important role during the Civil War.

According to the Manassas Battlefield National Park website, "Confederate troops destroyed the Stone Bridge over Bull Run in March 1862 before falling back to a more defensible position fifty miles to the south near Fredericksburg. The current structure was completed in the 1880s, on the site of the war-time bridge."
The Case Method is a method of teaching that uses the solution of the complex problems at the heart of real life events ("cases") to teach a wide variety of skills and subjects.

A teacher who employs the Case Method employs a variety of media to present the context of a problem ("back-story"), places students in the role of the historical character faced with that problem, asks students to solve the problem, and, once students have thoroughly discussed their solutions, describes how the historical character dealt with the problem ("the rest of the story.")

A student who is learning by means of the Case Method engages the problem in question as if he were the historical problem solver, provides a clear and unequivocal description of his solution, and defends (or modifies) his solution to both the instructor and his fellow students.

This Guide provides exploration of Case Method techniques used by Marine Corps University faculty and E-PME programs, as well as links to case method resources on the web.

Start with Decision Forcing Cases for an overview of the Case Method and how it is used in the Marine Corps.
MERLN Redesign

Slide presentation not available for public Release.

By Trish Bachman