

## **Combat Action in Korea: The Lost Patrol (27-30 January 1951)**

1. **Overview:** This Army University Press-Combat Studies Institute virtual staff ride examines a reinforced platoon patrol from the US 23d Regimental Combat Team (RCT) in the Korean War. On 27 January 1951 the patrol conducted a route reconnaissance toward the village of Chipyong-ni. The Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA) ambushed the patrol several miles south of Chipyong-ni near the site of twin railroad tunnels. The US platoon established a defense on a nearby hilltop while PVA forces tried repeatedly to seize the position. On 29 January, F Company 23d Infantry fought its way through 2-3 companies of communist forces to relieve the besieged platoon. The patrol's strength at the start of the action was 60 men and it suffered 13 KIA, 30 WIA, and 5 MIA.
2. **Time Requirements:** This staff ride requires approximately **3 hours**. (Significant tactical discussion at the platoon level).
3. **Learning Objective:** The primary learning objective is to discuss the enduring insights of combat in a complex environment, especially at the platoon level. Significant portions of the staff ride can also be tailored to concentrate on issues important to squad and company leadership. The ride itself offers insights into the following aspects of warfare (from FM 3-21.8 The Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad):
  - a. Fundamentals of Infantry and Squad Operations
    - Doctrine and Training
    - Organization
    - Individual leadership
    - Tactical Decision Making
    - Actions at Danger Areas
  - b. Command, Control, and Troop Leading Procedures
    - Command and Control
    - Plans and Orders
  - c. Defensive Operations
    - Troop Leading Procedures
    - Characteristics of the Defense
    - Sequence of the Defense
    - Occupation and Preparation of Defensive Positions
  - d. Patrols
    - Combat Patrol Planning
    - Actions on the Reconnaissance Objective

**Additional themes may be developed based upon unit training objectives.**

4. **Preliminary Study:** The Army University Press Staff Ride Team provides read-ahead packets for the participants to focus their study. Materials include general readings, maps, and orders of battle (Primarily from the Army Historical Series, Combat Action in Korea, Chapter 7 – Twin Tunnels Patrol Ambush)
5. **Field Study:** The virtual field study consists of numerous discussions at select locations (staff ride stands). Staff Ride Team historians facilitate the field study on computer generated terrain of the Twin Tunnels area south of the village of Chipyong-ni.

6. **Integration Phase:** The integration phase is conducted immediately following the field study phase and is an informal opportunity for students to articulate their impressions of the lessons derived from the study and gain additional insights from sharing these impressions with their peers.

7. **Support Requirements:**

a. **Administrative:**

- Units are responsible for funding Instructor TDY travel.
- Cost estimate can be provided as a separate document.

b. **Facility Types:**

- Organization classroom/conference rooms.
- Education Center classrooms/auditoriums.
- Simulation Center classrooms/auditoriums.

c. **Audience Size**

- Standard audience cap is 35-40 personnel.
- Quality of the facility allows for increases up to a maximum of 50-60 personnel.

d. **Staff Ride Team Provides:**

- One laptop with VSR software.
- Power Point visuals.

e. **Supported Organization Provides:**

- Adequate classroom facility to allow for the best viewing of terrain.
- One laptop/desktop with PPT capability and speakers.
- Two projectors w/cables.
- Two projection screens.



**Typical classroom set up and orientation**