

# Staff Ride Backbriefs

## Order of Presentation

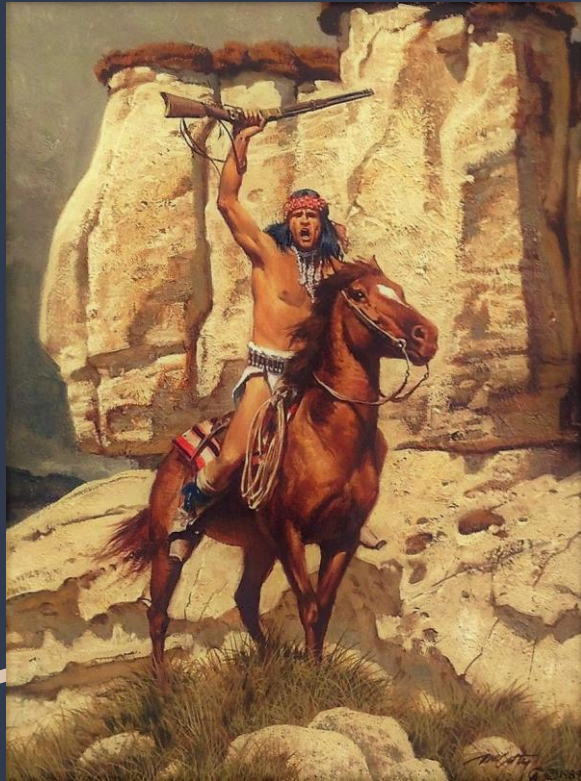
- ☐ Team 2: U.S. Army military methods
- ☐ Team 1: Apache military methods
- ☐ Team 4: Terrain and weather
- ☐ Team 3: Historical background of the campaign

# Military Methods and Capabilities

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Team 2



# Prospects for Military Leaders



- **Apaches:**
  - Apache leaders and elders promoted the Dihoke Trials, encouraging the youth to hunt and learn the art of stealth (**FTXs for life!**)
  - They learned to adapt to the terrain and the weapons as extensions of their warrior ethos
  - The military leadership of the Apache was egalitarian, meaning that all of their leadership was flexible
  - tactical and militarized capabilities of the Apaches were predominantly superior to the physical readiness of U.S. soldiers
- **U.S. Army:**
  - U.S. Army operated under measures of craft that designated permanent jobs, unlike the Apache
- Many officers were machine like, emotionless, and authoritarian, but were concerned about European culture



# Planning/Tactics



- **U.S. Army:** -Total War Strategy: destroying entire villages and accepting some “unintentional” deaths  
-Patrol/Movement to Contact: “Columns moving through dangerous country generally corralled their wagons and made other preparations for defense,” (Excerpt 4, pg. 246)
- -1. Fight them when their supply was static in the winter as well as the expansion of their movements  
-2. Converging Columns (surrounding the Native American villages or centers for resources) were utilized to constantly keep them on the move (Nez Perce)

# Favorable Leadership



Easter Blizzard, 1870

- “Without **leadership** and iron discipline, the Regular Army could not have campaigned successfully against the hostiles, in the snow and cold.”
- “Disciplined, determined, and **well-led** soldiers forced the Indians to stand and fight, or surrender and come in to the reservations.”
- “We were not allowed to fire back, we were ordered to sit still and take it,” wrote Private Wilkinson. “We soldiers had wanted to fire back at the Indians, but they could have wiped us out very easily, **our officers knew best**,” and the lieutenant's cool judgment averted a potential tragedy.

# Leadership Critiques



- The Army **neglected** to use any form of unconventional warfare, unlike the Apaches- Leaders **lacked skills** in guerilla warfare
- Individual officers were criticized for **not executing drill, wasting inspection days, feeling bored** with their small units
- The enlisted worked 8-hour days in the heat of the desert at the **beck-and-call of the officers**
- Inability to match the quick mobility of their forces with the **slow speed of their logistics** in supply



# Organization



- "Camp organization was supervised by the officer of the day. They designated locations for sinks, and posted guards." - Excerpt 4, pg. 245
- Positions in the column usually rotated among the companies, but the **avored leading position is occupied by the senior captains.**
- Horse and mule picket lines had to be set up, camping areas assigned to the various companies, guards posted, and water and cooking fuel collected by every column of a campaign.
- Soldiers were required daily after coming into camp to get a sack full of buffalo chips to use as firewood.
- Different teams would be assigned to start a fire, and make dinner/coffee.
- After dinner, soldiers detailed for guard duty assembled for guard mount in the evening **instead of** in the morning as posts.

Cont.



- If the force included cavalry, infantry, and wheeled vehicles, the cavalry generally had the advance, followed by the main body of infantry "in columns of fours, with the artillery and supply trains in the rear." (pg. 242).
- Since the soldiers usually **do not get more than 5 hours of sleep a night**, most of them get sick and have to ride on the "ambulance wagon".
- In Sibley tents, ten to fifteen men arranged themselves like the spokes of a wheel to fit in them. Cartridge belts, accouterments, and weapons were hung on or stacked around the pole.
- Less than an hour was allowed for breakfast, personal packing of equipment, and attending to the horses and mules before stepping off.
- A column **marched for four or five hours in the morning, and halted before noon** for about two hours with no hostile attacks.



# Weapons/Training



- Weapons used for **both** sides:
  - Artillery (Rare)
  - Forty-five caliber Springfield Muzzleloaders
  - Henry Repeating Rifles
  - Revolvers
  - Swords and Hatchets
- U.S. Army:
  - Target practice**
    - small arms received the MOST emphasis of any form of training in the late seventies
    - In 1872, the army officially adopted a course of small arms instruction, calling for each man to fire ninety rounds of ammunition at the rifle range, and to participate in drills designed to enable the rifleman to estimate distances correctly

# Weapons/Training Continued



- -No recruit training programs in the 1880s, leading chain of command to be disrupted  
-No formal training with horses for the cavalrymen  
-Scarcely any time for the recruits/enlisted to engage in rifle training as ammunition cost them greatly at the time
- **Physical training**
  - Did not occur until after the War against the Native Americans in the late 1890s
  - Half of the garrisons during the times of the frontier wars did not conduct any formal PT



Any Questions?



# Apache Military



Team 1

# Military Methods

- The Apaches had a warfare culture.
- Men were raised to be warriors.
  - Boys were raised hunting, running, and playing physical games.
  - They would make their own weapons and train with them under adult supervision.
  - Although many of the games seemed childish, like tug of war and wrestling, it was training and preparing the boys for war by making them strong and competitive.
  - On the opposite end of society at the time, while Apache boys were outside and active, white children were learning how to sit still confined inside at school.
- Levels of warriors and training:
  - Dihoke: a novice status that ended after a young man completed four successful raids; continuous and rigorous training.
  - Once a man had completed his Dihoke phase, he was considered a real man, free to do as he wished.



# Military Capabilities

- The Apache military system rested on the everyman who felt most obligations, responsibilities, and loyalty towards his extended family.
- Apaches were pure democrats: when choosing leadership there was a consensus then discussion.
  - This limited their capability to be effective at times because no man had to follow orders. Their success would rely on personal responsibility and cohesion.
- Social harmony was crucial to Apache success, as every warrior was free to leave whenever they pleased.
- Apache's physical capabilities were limited by their resources, as they still used many "primitive" weapons.



# Military Organization

- No concrete military organization (in the European sense); but generalities
- A War Chief was always in charge of a war party
  - Could be a Clan chief also, but whoever was named the War Chief was in charge; everyone had to obey him
  - Chosen because of his ‘enemies against power’ (a kind of supernatural force), experience, and knowledge
  - During peacetime, acted as any other common man
- Other Chiefs helped him with what he asked, but the War Chief addressed his people directly; an elder woman would address the war party after the other Chiefs spoke
- Male fighters made up the ranks
  - “Pure democrats, each warrior being his own master... submitting only temporary... to a chief elected for the occasion.” (Cultures of War, pg. 46)

# Leadership

War Chief: man who was the leader of a war party

- War chiefs are chosen to be in charge of war parties
- While in charge, a war chief even has power over the clan chief while conducting the war party
- Planned and led attacks and raids on settlements
- Never conducted normal tasks such as hauling wood and water
- Main priority was preparing for the attack and ensuring his men were prepared
- Everyone in the war party listened and respected the war chief
- During peace times, a war chief is just a common man with the same duties as everyone else



# Weapons and Training

## Weapons

- Bow and Arrow
  - Made from special, flexible wood. Arrows were made using buzzard and turkey feathers
- War Club
  - Made from hard young wood and meant to knock the enemy's head off. The hitting edge was rounded. Was one of the oldest weapons used.
- Jawbone Club
  - Unique to the Apaches. Made from the jawbone of a buffalo or horse. They would sharpen the hitting edge while leaving the teeth inside the bone intact. Was incredibly efficient at cutting through the chest of an opponent
- Tomahawk
  - Most popular weapon, but was not always used as a weapon in their society. Made the same wood as the war club and adorned with a metal hatchet.





# Planning

- 8 to 10 men would go on raids when needed.
- Always prepared food to take with.
- Painted their faces and there whole body white, black, or red.
- When the war party would leave they would always leave some old man behind to take care of the women.
- When they got close to there objective they would make camp and keep lookout for the enemy.
- Would send 4 of the strongest men out to the objective they were raiding for recon.
- They would bring a medicine man to make “a big wind” or even make it rain before they would attack.



# Tactics

- Apaches were extraordinary runners and did not depend on horses as much.
- Apaches moved freely compared to the us army.
- Had detail knowledge of surroundings.
- Would march or ride in the mountains.
- Never fought during darkness.
- Always used cover and concealment.

## Tactics (cont.)

- Banked heavily on surprise tactics.
- Arrange elaborate traps (ambushes).
- Would raid silently to avoid detection.
- Raiding success was measured on quality of captured property.
- Often would leave one person alive to tell the enemy what happened.
- They would scalp and mutilate bodies of the dead people they would kill.
- Did this to withhold their reputation and strike fear into the enemy.



# References

Quotes and materials taken from “Apache Warfare” sources in the “Staff Ride” Folder on BBLearn



# Team 4-Back Brief

CDT Corpuz  
CDT Greene  
CDT Kuffel  
CDT Radke  
CDT Shanabruch

08 April 2020

## A scenic view of a mountain valley. In the foreground, there are several tall, slender evergreen trees, possibly spruce or fir, with dark green needles. Some of the trees have thin, light-colored trunks. The ground is covered with a mix of green grass and brown, fallen leaves or pine needles. In the background, a steep, rocky mountain slope rises, covered with a dense forest of evergreen trees. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a natural, mountainous landscape.

- [illegible]





- Rolling hills to the NW
- Plains to the NE
- Cliff to the S

- Dense forest to the NW
- Sparse trees and shrubs to the NE
- Vegetation gives way to cliffs to the S



# OAKOC

Observation- The commander of the U.S. Cavalry sent scouts to observe the area and they found the Apaches and the gorge and planned their attack after getting that critical information.

Avenues of approach- The Apaches hid on the far side of the gorge to try and ambush the American troops. They expected the americans to follow them in to the gorge but the americans sent out scouts to locate the Apache abush. The Americans then used the element of surprise on the the Apaches and attacked them early in the morning.

Key terrain- The gorge

Obstacles- Ridges and boulders all around the site, can make it difficult for cavalry

Cover and Concealment- Many trees and vegetation to hide behind and ambush others





# Weather Description

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Southwest U.S. Characteristics:

Warm Summers, Moderate Seasonal Changes.

Monsoon Season in Arizona and New Mexico makes up 50% annual rainfall.

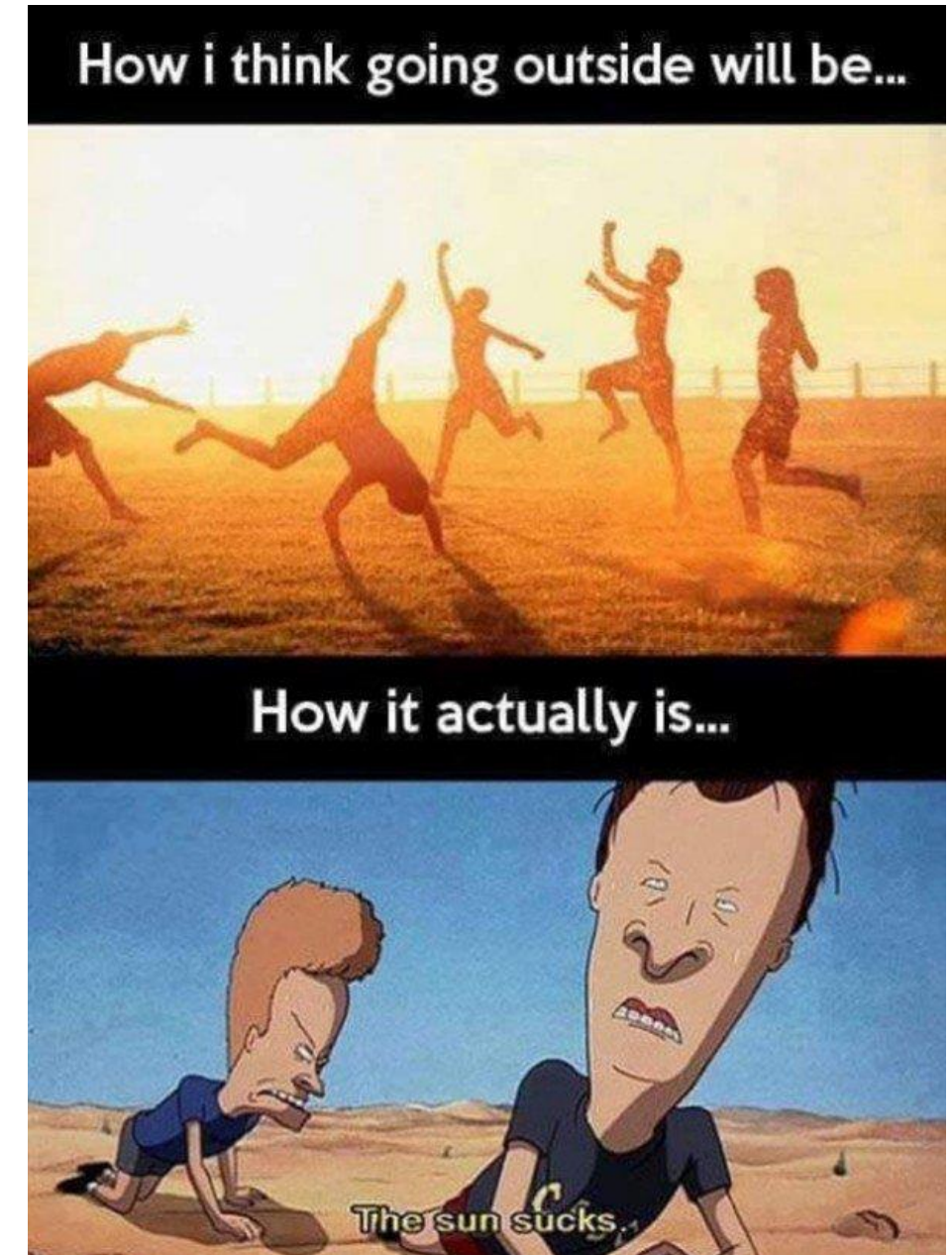
High elevations still have warm weather, especially in Spring and Summer.

Desert regions have warm weather throughout the year.



# Weather Analysis

- Advantages:
  - Mobility
  - Lighter loads
- Disadvantages:
  - Fatigue
  - Heat injuries
  - Reliant on nearby water source





# Civilian Considerations

- Population of Arizona in 1880 was 40,440
- Coconino County was loosely populated at the time, no major city nearby
- Mormon settlements near Mormon Lake
- Battle was near White Mountain Apache land
- Arizona settlers are fearful of the Apache and want protection from the US Army
- Apache civilians nearby could warn Apache warriors of approaching US forces
- A raid in the spring of 1882 killed 4 policemen from the town of San Carlos



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# Historical Background

— CDTs Pagone, Roberts, Dodd, —  
Woodward

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# What is happening?

The events leading up to the Big Dry Wash campaign include

- Whites moving Indians around the Frontier
- Disrespect towards Indian Culture
- Conflict between Whites and Indians



# Cibecue Massacre

**Before this massacre occurred, a few event built up frustrations upon the Indian tribes.**

- **1874: The Department of Interior called for better control of indians in the area and to move the Western Apaches (including those at Cibecue), Chiricahua Apaches, and Yavapai Indians on a single reservation at San Carlos.**
- **1880: Cibecue Apache Indian Tribe was allowed to move back to original land**
- **1881: Cibecue Apache Indians are seen performing new dances and fraternizing with other Indian tribes, causing the White soldiers (US Calvary) to worry**
  - **Dominate figure of community was a man named Noch-ay-del-klinne or the medicine man. The medicine man promised his people that he would bring back the dead and remove the white men before the corn was readt for harvest, intesifying the worry of the American soldiers**

# Cibecue Massacre continued..

- General Carr set out with 117 men made up of US Cavalry and 23 Indian Scouts on a Kill Capture mission for the Medicine Man
  - The goal was to bring the Medicine Man back to the Fort for interrogation

This is where the controversies begin..

- Unknown whether or not it was a Captain, not General Carr who first addressed the medicine man, against Apache code
  - The Captain or General Carr entered the Medicine Man's home and pulled him by his hair out of the tent and back towards the US Fort. Extremely disrespectful towards the culture
- Enraged, the Apaches followed the Column back towards the fort armed and ready to fight. Interestingly enough, the scouts with the soldiers were also extremely upset about how the soldiers treated the Medicine Man

# Cibecue Massacre continued...

- Day became night and the soldiers were ordered to set up for camp. The Apaches moved closer, which prompted Gen. Carr to have the Captain hold a gun to the Medicine Man's head.
- The scouts with the unit started firing at the soldiers catching them by surprise!
- The Captain shot the Medicine Man in the head and once more killing him
- At the end of the fire fight, a total of 8 whites and 18 indians (including 3 scouts) were killed

# The beginning

- The root cause of instigating these battles dates back to the arrival of Anglo-Americans
- Apache leaders welcomed the American soldiers, offered land, and agreed to serve as scouts for the army
- While many Apaches welcomed the soldiers, some bands became more hostile
- The Americans failed to comprehend communications, and failed to perceive them as individuals

# Leading into the Battles

- White mountain Apaches and Cibecue Apaches help American soldiers
- White mountain Apaches become hostile after building of military base
- Cibecue Apaches become scouts for Americans
- American military moves Apaches close to base
- Apaches move to San Carlos
- Apache bands begin to fight back



# Interesting outcomes and perspectives from both sides

- White measured success in body's not in actual effect after the fact
- Most people Indians and whites included were not fans of the wars
- Image of Apaches was warfare and violence by most people still today
- Apaches didn't have a chain of command
- When harassed they would defend themselves.
- While they did raid they preferred making food and surviving in other ways
- With the spoils from their raid the Apaches would usually share within their family

# Interesting outcomes and perspectives from both sides

- Apaches didn't have a chain of command
- However when harassed they would organize and defend themselves.
- While they did raid they preferred making food and surviving in other ways
- With the spoils from there raid the Apaches would usually share within their family
- It was seen as a victory for the entire family not just the single Apache

# Key People

- Who was Natiotish?

He was the White Mountain Apache renegade leader

- He conducted attacks in Globe, AZ with 50-60 men from the reservation, attacking ranchers and miners
- Apache Kid

Known for being the fiercest Apache next to Geronimo

# Big Dry Wash

- Took place early morning on July 17th, 1882
- A company of cavalry opens fire on the rim facing down to the Apaches
- Chaffee sent 2 companies upstream and downstream to move across and catch the Apaches by surprise
- Natiotish failed to post lookouts, leading to a surprise attack by the US Cavalry that ended with ~20 Apaches killed, including himself
- Further maneuvering and engagements between the Apaches and Cavalry lasted until nightfall when a large storm came in, the storm and the darkness provided an escape for the remaining Apache to retreat back to the nearby reservation.

# Key Statistics for the Battle of Big Dry Wash

## US Calvary

- Leader: Adna Chaffee
- 350 Calvary
- 2 KIA
- 6 Wounded

## Apaches

- Leader: Natiotish
- ~60 Warriors
- 20 KIA



# For Monday

## ❑ Excerpt from *Draft or All Volunteer Army*, pp. 12-23

1. What are the “quality of the force” arguments for each option?
2. Is there a clear cost advantage to one or the other option?
3. Is one option or the other more socially “fair,” and why?
4. Is there a moral argument to be made in favor of either option?

## ❑ Excerpts from *The Air Campaign (1988)* and *The Enemy as a System (1995)*

5. How does COL Warden define an enemy’s “center of gravity”?
6. Why is it important to identify the enemy “center of gravity”?
7. Does his “Five Rings” concept essentially provide a constant “center of gravity” for every situation?
8. Is he correct in his assertion that the side with air superiority always wins?
9. Could modern technology and the Five Rings concept bring about, finally, the dreams of the early Air Power theorists?