

Instructions for the Attu Virtual Staff Ride (VSR)

Preliminary Study and Organization

Overview

These instructions are designed to help participants prepare for the Attu VSR. The preliminary study phase provides participants a thorough understanding of the historical event prior to the field phase. In other words, to maximize the learning experience, the participants should already know ‘what happened.’ Preliminary study can include reading materials, classroom sessions, movies, and any other material that can be presented before one conducts the field phase. For this staff ride, the preliminary study phase is primarily provided in the read ahead materials and other options referenced in this package. The preliminary study phase is critical to the success of the field study phase and therefore equally critical to the success of the staff ride as a whole.

Preliminary Study Guidance.

1. All participants should read the following two short publications:

Aleutian Islands, 3 June 1942–24 August 1943. By George L. MacGarrigle. Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 2019. CMH Pub 72-6.

The book (brochure) is in a free pdf version on this website and can also be downloaded at: history.army.mil/html/books/072/72-6/CMH_Pub_72-6.pdf. This publication covers the entire Aleutians Campaign with a section specifically devoted to Attu. Students should read the entire work to understand the context for Attu invasion.

“The Battle of Attu. A Forgotten Battle Eighty Years Later.” By LTC Roderick A. Hosler. From *On Point. The Journal of Army History*. Winter 2023. Volume 28. Number 2.

This article is in a free pdf version on this website. This article is focused directly on the US invasion of Attu and is the key reading for the staff ride.

2. Students wishing to read in more depth on Attu should consult:

Thousand-Mile War: World War II in Alaska and the Aleutians. By Brian Garfield.

The Aleutians 1942–43: Struggle for the North Pacific (Osprey Campaign, 333). By Brian Lane Herder

3. A video on YouTube is also available:

[Battle of Attu - Pacific War #77 DOCUMENTARY \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77DOCUMENTARY)

Summary.

As with all staff rides, the unit is responsible for determining training/learning objectives and desired outcomes for the staff ride and tailoring the staff ride to meet the unit's needs. The AUP staff ride team is able to help the staff ride instructor/facilitator in determining what those might be and whether the staff ride itself will support the desired objectives. Contact the AUP staff ride team for further information or clarification of these instructions.