

Munda Point VSR Fact Sheet

- I) This Virtual Staff Ride (VSR) examines the Battle of Munda Point during the New Georgia Campaign in the Pacific Theater during World War II. The study focuses on the 43rd Infantry Division's and later the XIV Corps' effort to seize Munda Airfield from Japanese defenders between 29 June and 5 August 1943. It studies Joint Operations in Forcible Entry and Amphibious operations, operational decisions at corps and division level, tactical decisions at division, regimental, and battalion level, and the unique challenges of warfare in jungle environments. The challenges of sustainment in forcible entry operations and jungle warfare are also considered. A module dedicated to health service support is available to participants.
- II) Primary theme for discussion:
 - A) Joint and Forcible Entry Operations.
 - B) Corps and Division-level unified land operations.
 - C) Sustainment as an enabling and limiting factor in large-scale combat operations.
 - D) Offensive and defensive operation in jungle environments.
 - E) Operations in contested airspace and its effect on Land Component Commands (LCCs)
 - F) Medical support operations in austere environments.
- III) Preliminary Study. A Preliminary Study Packet is available from the staff ride team and consists of excerpts taken from the secondary sources listed below. The packet provides guidance on dividing up the participants into small groups for "role playing" several of the American or Japanese units fighting on New Georgia Island.
 - A) "Northern Solomons", a history of the larger campaign published by the US Army Center for Military History. It is available for download at no cost to the user at this link: <https://history.army.mil/html/books/072/72-10/index.html5>
 - B) "Cartwheel: The Reduction of Rabaul", also published by the US Army Center for Military History, has several chapters devoted to the Northern Solomon's campaign as part of the larger strategy to isolate and later contain the Japanese base from 1942-45. It is available for download at no cost to the user at this link: <https://history.army.mil/html/books/005/5-5/index.html>
- IV) Field Study.
 - A) Field study is conducted in a classroom environment. It requires at least one instructor and one virtual terrain technician. The Staff Ride Team can conduct the VSR in any conference room, classroom, or auditorium/lecture hall facility. All materials are unclassified. Units are responsible for TDY expenses.
 - B) Time requirements are four hours but can be adjusted to suit unit training calendars. A minimum of four hours is required.
- V) Integration. An integration period is conducted immediately following the field study and is an informal opportunity for participants to articulate the insights gained and personal impressions on the conduct of the Ryukyus Campaign.
- VI) Equipment requirements:

- A) Two projectors and two screens.
- B) One computer for a PowerPoint presentation to coincide with movements over the virtual terrain.