**The Battle of Carentan**

**Consolidating the Omaha and Utah Lodgments**

**(7-13 June 1944)**

**Fact Sheet**

* 1. **Overview:** This Army University Press-Combat Studies Institute virtual staff ride examines the actions of the 101st Airborne Division (101st ABN DIV) at the Battle of Carentan, France (9-13 June 1944). After the successful landings on 6 June 1944 there was danger that the Germans would drive a wedge into the gap between V Corps at Omaha Beach and VII Corps at Utah Beach. LTG J. Lawton Collins (VII Corps) IAW guidance from U.S. First Army and General Eisenhower directed the 101st ABN DIV to capture the important road junction city of Carentan and consolidate the U.S. lodgment into one continuous beachhead. The VSR examines the division’s fight to capture the city in a fight against the heavily reinforced *6th Fallschirmjäger (Parachute) Regiment* (7-12 June 1944). The staff ride then looks at the German counterattack to retake the city using the *17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division* (12-13 June) against the 101st ABN DIV reinforced with elements of the 2nd Armored Division.
  2. **Learning Objective:** The primary learning objective is to discuss the enduring insights of war as a human endeavor, especially at the battalion, brigade/regiment, and division level. Significant portions of the staff ride can also be tailored to concentrate on issues important to company leadership. As with the other Normandy modules, the staff ride examines joint forcible entry operations at the operational level and LSCO at the tactical level. The study highlights the linkage between the tactical and the operational levels and how operational level decisions affect tactical operations. The study specifically examines:
     1. Principles for Forcible Entry Operational Success
     2. Offensive and Defensive
     3. Warfighting Functions
     4. Elements of the Operational Art: Phasing and Transition, Culmination, Risk

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

* 1. **Preliminary Study:** The primary readings for the staff ride are *THE BATTLE OF CARENTAN, 7JUNE (a modified e*xcerpt from CMH PUB 100-12*, Utah Beach to Cherbourg and* CMH Pub 7-4-1*, Cross-Channel Attack).* Character packets include:
     1. The 101st (101st ABN DIV) and 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment (501st PIR).
     2. The *6th Fallschirmjäger (Parachute) Regiment (6th FJR*)*.*
     3. The 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment (502d PIR).
     4. The 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR).
     5. The 327th Glider Infantry Regiment (327th GIR).
     6. The *17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division (17th PzGD)*
     7. Combat Command A, 2d Armored Division (CCA, 2d AD).
  2. **Field Study:** The field study consists of numerous discussions at select locations (staff ride stands). CSI instructors facilitate the field study on computer generated terrain. The staff ride requires approximately **3 hours** to execute.
     1. STAND 1: The Battle of ST. Come-Du-Mont (8-10 June 1944)
     2. STAND 2: The Causeway Fight, (9-10 June 1944)
     3. STAND 3: The Battle for Ingouf Farm (11 June 1944)
     4. STAND 4: The Attack on Carentan (10 and 11 June 1944)
     5. STAND 5: The Fall of Carentan (12 June 1944)
     6. STAND 6: The *17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division* Counterattack (12 and 13 June 1944)
  3. **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.
  4. **Support Requirements:** The hosting organization is required to provide the following:

a. A venue large enough to accommodate all participants. Standard audience cap is about 30 personnel. The quality of the facility, such as an AAR room in a mission training center, may allow an increase of up to 50-60 personnel.

b. Two projectors (with cables) and two screens, large enough for the audience to see. The staff ride instructor team will bring the computers to connect to the projectors.

c. Funding for government civilian travel with a DTS cross-org LOA.