**Normandy Invasion – Pointe du Hoc**

**Virtual Staff Ride (VSR)**

**Fact Sheet**

* 1. **Overview:** This Combat Studies Institute virtual staff ride examines the actions of the Ranger Group at Pointe du Hoc, France (6-8 June 1944). Allied planners considered Pointe du Hoc key terrain because the Germans had positioned 6x 155mm guns at the Pointe that could range both Omaha and Utah beaches and the shipping areas leading to them. The Allied intelligence assessment believed that neither aerial nor naval bombardment would be sufficient to destroy the guns and that the position needed to be neutralized with ground troops. The VSR primarily focuses on the actions of the 2nd Ranger Battalion (-) at Pointe du Hoc (6-7 June) and then closes with the efforts of the relief column to relieve the Rangers (7-8 June).
  2. **Learning Objective:** The primary learning objective is to discuss the enduring insights of war as a human endeavor, especially at battalion and brigade/regiment level. There is also room for significant discussion on how the battalion assault onto the Pointe fit into the V Corps landing at Omaha Beach. Significant portions of the staff ride can also be tailored to concentrate on issues important to company and platoon leadership. As with the other Normandy VSR 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. Ship-to-shore movement control and Naval Surface Fire Support
     3. Offensive and defensive operations-phasing and transitions
     4. Warfighting Functions

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

* 1. **Preliminary Study:** The primary reading for the staff ride is CMH PUB 100-14. *Small Unit Actions*, “Pointe du Hoc (originally titled Pointe Du Hoe in the 1982 printing)” If desired, units may choose to role play the following:
     1. The Germans at Pointe Du Hoc
     2. LTC James Rudder
     3. Rangers in the Strongpoint Area.
     4. Rangers on the Coastal Highway
     5. Naval Support and the USMC at Pointe Du Hoc

* 1. **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 **2-3 hours** to execute.
     1. STAND 1: Pointe du Hoc
     2. STAND 2: The Assault Landing
     3. STAND 3: The Guns of Pointe du Hoc
     4. STAND 4: German Counterattacks at the Pointe
     5. STAND 5: Actions on the Coastal Highway
     6. STAND 6: The Relief
  2. **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.
  3. **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.