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USMC School of Advanced Warfighting

Academic Year 2018-19

Overall classification: **Unclassified**

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Agenda



- Mission
- Program Outcomes
- Faculty
- Class Composition
- Curriculum



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Mission



SAW develops **lead planners** and **future commanders** with the **will and intellect** to solve **complex problems**, employ **operational art**, and design/execute **campaigns** in order to **enhance the Marine Corps' ability to prepare for and fight wars.**

Operational Art

What military organizations do to win campaigns

Operational Planning

How military organizations prepare for war

Educational Focus: The Operational-Level of War

- Graduates Awarded Masters Degree in Operational Studies
- Marine Graduates Receive 0505 MOS



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Program Outcomes



1. Formulate solutions to complex problems and apply operational art in an uncertain geostrategic security environment.
2. Employ knowledge of the operational level of war, the art of command, and ethical behavior in warfighting.
3. Quickly and critically assess a situation, determine the essence of a problem, fashion a suitable response, and concisely communicate the conclusion in oral and written forms.
4. Demonstrate the competence, confidence, character, and creativity required to plan, lead, and command at high level service, joint, and combined headquarters.
5. Design and plan adaptive concepts to meet current and future challenges.

Planner/Leader

(Creative) Problem-Solver

Operational Artist

Adaptive Planner (Futurist)

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Faculty



Colonel James Fullwood
Director

**Post O-6 Command, TLS, &
SAW**

Lieutenant Colonel Rod McHaty
Deputy Director

**Post O-5 Command, TLS, &
SAW**

Lieutenant Colonel Whit Johnson
Operations Officer

Post O-5 Command & SAMS

Dr Gordon Rudd
Academic Dean

PhD: Duke University

Dr Wray Johnson
Professor of Military History

PhD: Florida State University

Dr Daniel Marston
Professor of Military History

PhD: Oxford










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Class Composition



	AY 2015	AY2016	AY 2017	AY 2018	AY 2019
	18	18	18	19	19
	-	-	1	-	-
	2	2	2	2	2
	2	1	2	2	2
IMS					
Infantry	6	7	7	7	9
Artillery	1	3	1	1	1
Armor	3	-	1	1	-
AAV	-	-	1	-	-
Engineer	1	1	1	1	1
Intel	1	3	2	2	2
SOF	-	-	1	-	1
Log/Supply	1	1	3/1	3	3
Aviation	3	1	7	3	-
Adjutant	-	-	-	-	1
Public Affairs	-	-	-	-	-
Comm	1	2	-	1	1
Military Police	-	-	-	-	-
Fiscal	1	-	-	-	-
Medical	-	-	2	-	-

Curriculum Overview



- 48 Weeks in the AY
 - 32 weeks of Seminar (~105 x 2-hour seminars)
 - 8 weeks of Planning Exercises
 - **7 weeks of Staff Rides (3 events)**
 - 1 week Oral Exams (fall semester)
- ~ 20 papers + planning products
- ~ 21,000 pages of reading



Curriculum Design: 3 Concurrent Courses

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

Lines of Education

Operational Art

Yorktown
STAFF RIDE

P

P

P

P

Oral Exam

Europe
STAFF RIDE

P

Asia-Pacific
STAFF RIDE

P

P

Oral Exam

Operational Planning

Plan Ex
Yorktown

P

P

Plan Ex
MSTP-Tunisia

P

Plan Ex
Italy

P

Plan Ex
Burma

P

Plan Ex
MARO

P

Plan Ex
Contemporary

P

Innovation and Future War

Topic
Proposal

P

P

Outline &
Essay

P

P

1st
Paper

P

2nd
Paper

P

Final
Paper

P

Future War
Presentation

Slides

Themes

- National Values and U.S. Marine Corps Ethos
- Operational Art and Planning
- Military Innovation
- Naval, Joint and Multinational Operations
- Technology & Operations in the Information Environment (OIE)
- Leadership and Command
- Irregular Warfare
- Cultural and Regional Influences in War
- Critical Thinking and Complex Problem-Solving

Plan Ex – Planning Exercise
 P– Graded Papers
 ✦ QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Event

Operational Art



American Revolution
Napoleon & Clausewitz
Moltke & the Franco-Prussian War
The Boer War
The Marine Corps and Small Wars
World War I
World War II
Korea
Post Conflict Operations
Huk Rebellion
Malayan Emergency
Indo-China Wars
Algerian Revolution
Vietnam
Falklands
Desert Shield and Desert Storm
Operation Iraqi Freedom
Afghanistan
Irregular Warfare Theory
Critical Thinking
Decision-Making
Airpower Theory
Design & Systems Theory

✓ Comprehend the operational level of war & explore the principal issues that inform and shape campaign design

✓ Employs the case study approach – i.e., reenactment of historical examples supported by theory



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Operational Planning



A series of planning problems in which the students master selected steps of the Marine Corps Planning Process and other design and planning techniques

Six Planning Exercises

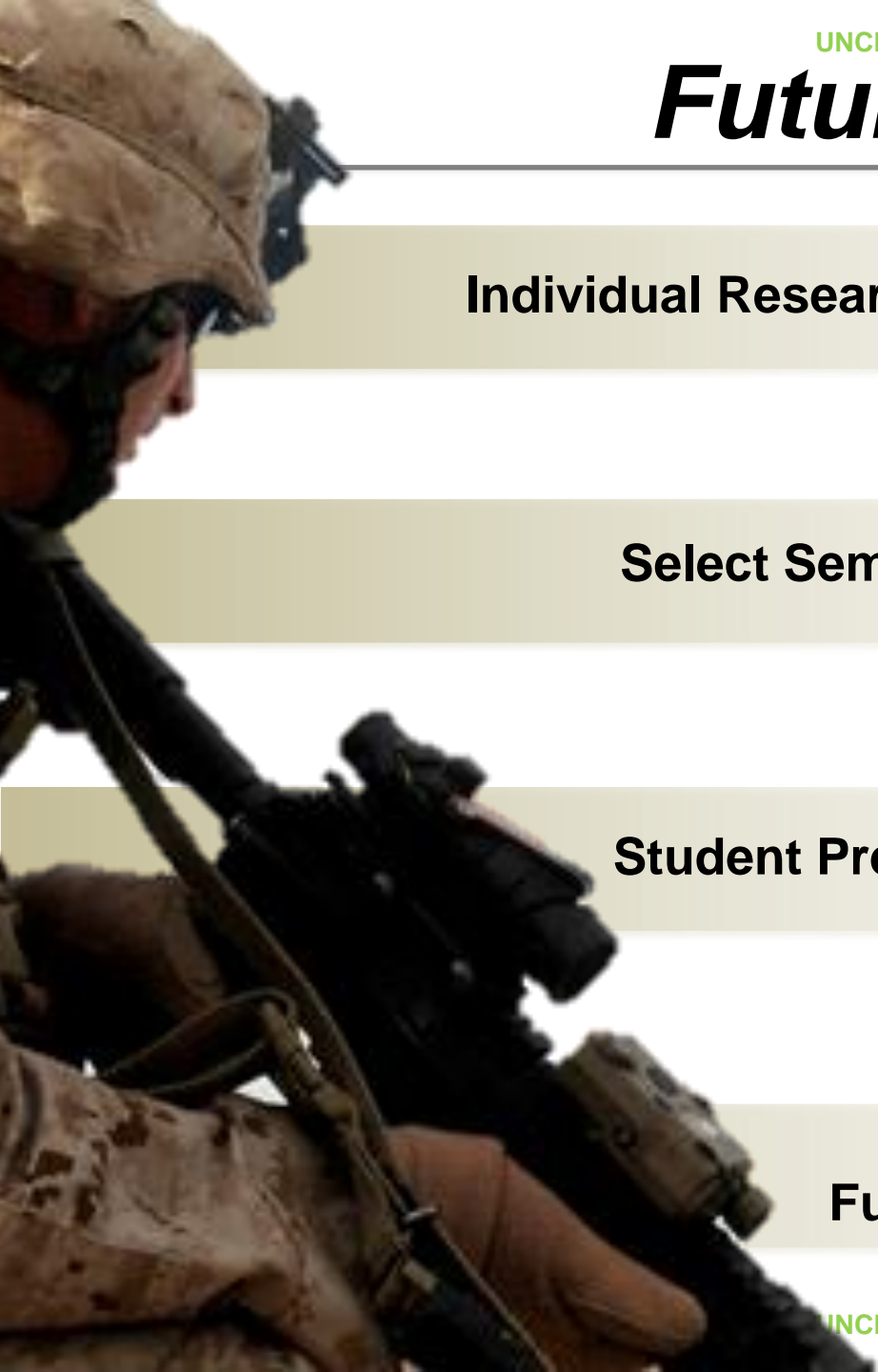
- American Revolution – Yorktown
- Contemporary Deterrence and Compellence Operation -- MAGTF in North Africa
- WWII Amphibious Operations in Italy
- WWII Amphibious Operations in CBI Theater
- Contemporary Prevent/Protect -- Mass Atrocity in South Sudan
- Contemporary Final Exercise -- JTF design

15 Seminars → Theory, Doctrine, Application



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Future War



Individual Research

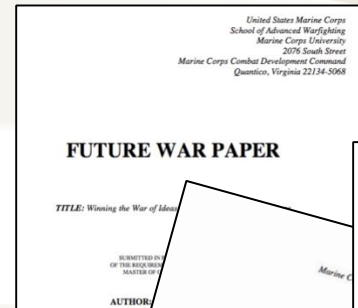
Select Seminars

Student Presentations

Future War Paper



The future war course stresses recognizing how existing paradigms may lose their relevance with regard to evolving technological, social, political, and other pressures





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Staff Ride Program



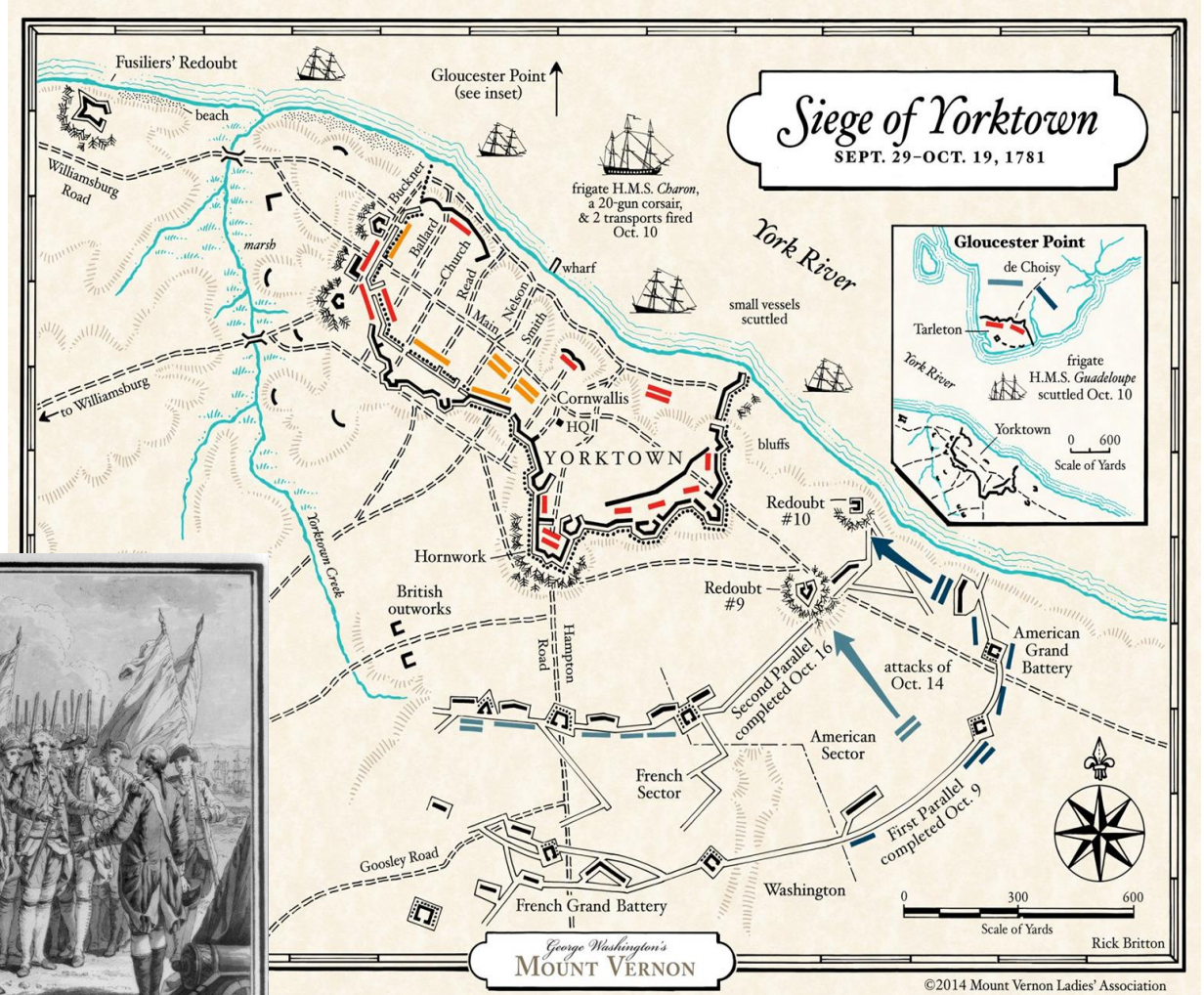
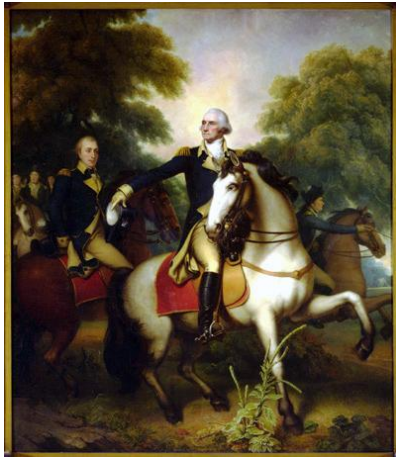
- Key component of school's educational methodology
- 6+ weeks in duration (15% of curriculum)
- 6 countries; 12 campaigns; 36 battles

The staff rides complement the planning problems and serve as a venue to examine campaigning at the operational level



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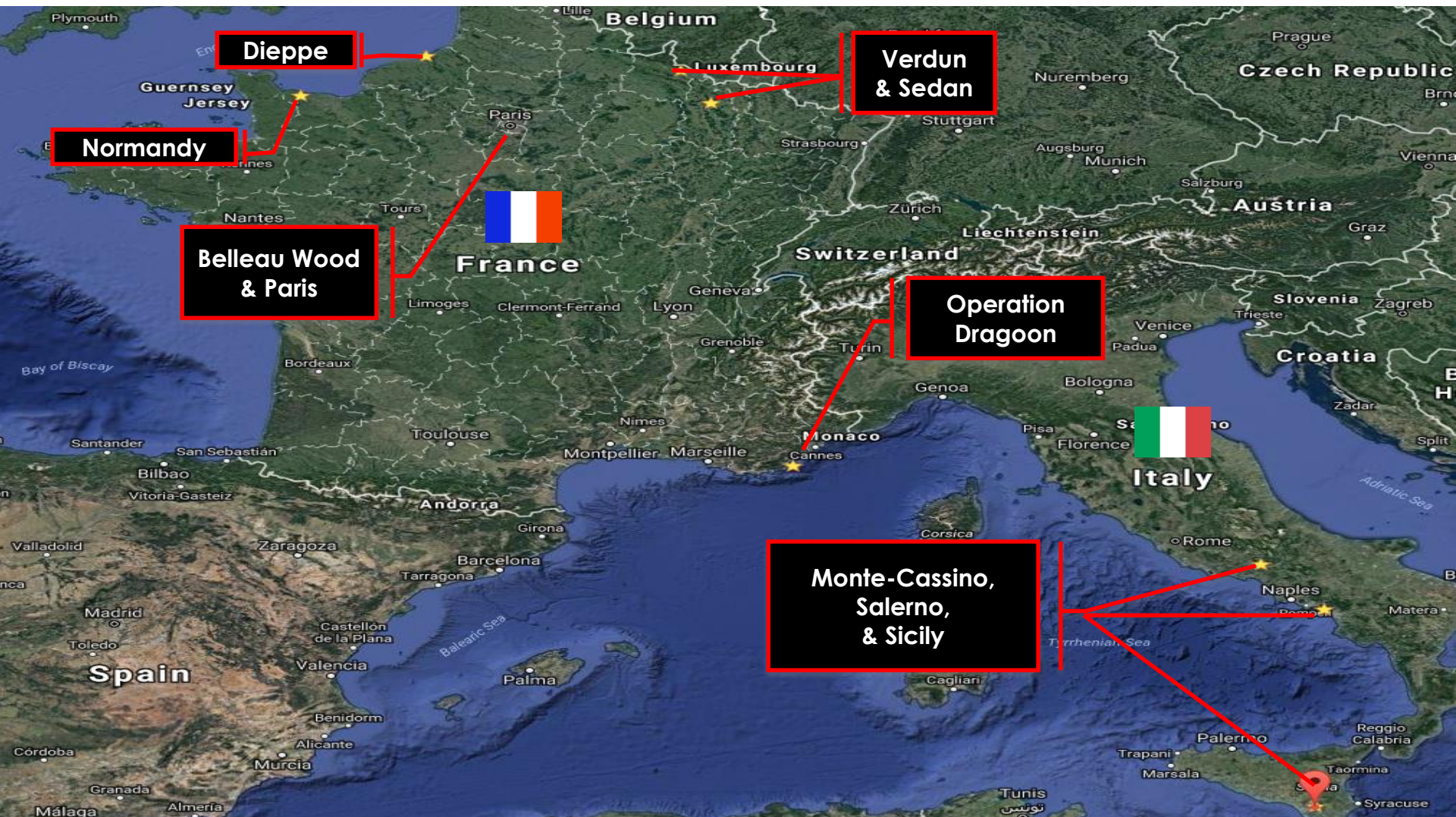
Staff Ride 1: Yorktown Campaign





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Staff Ride 2: Europe (WWI & II)

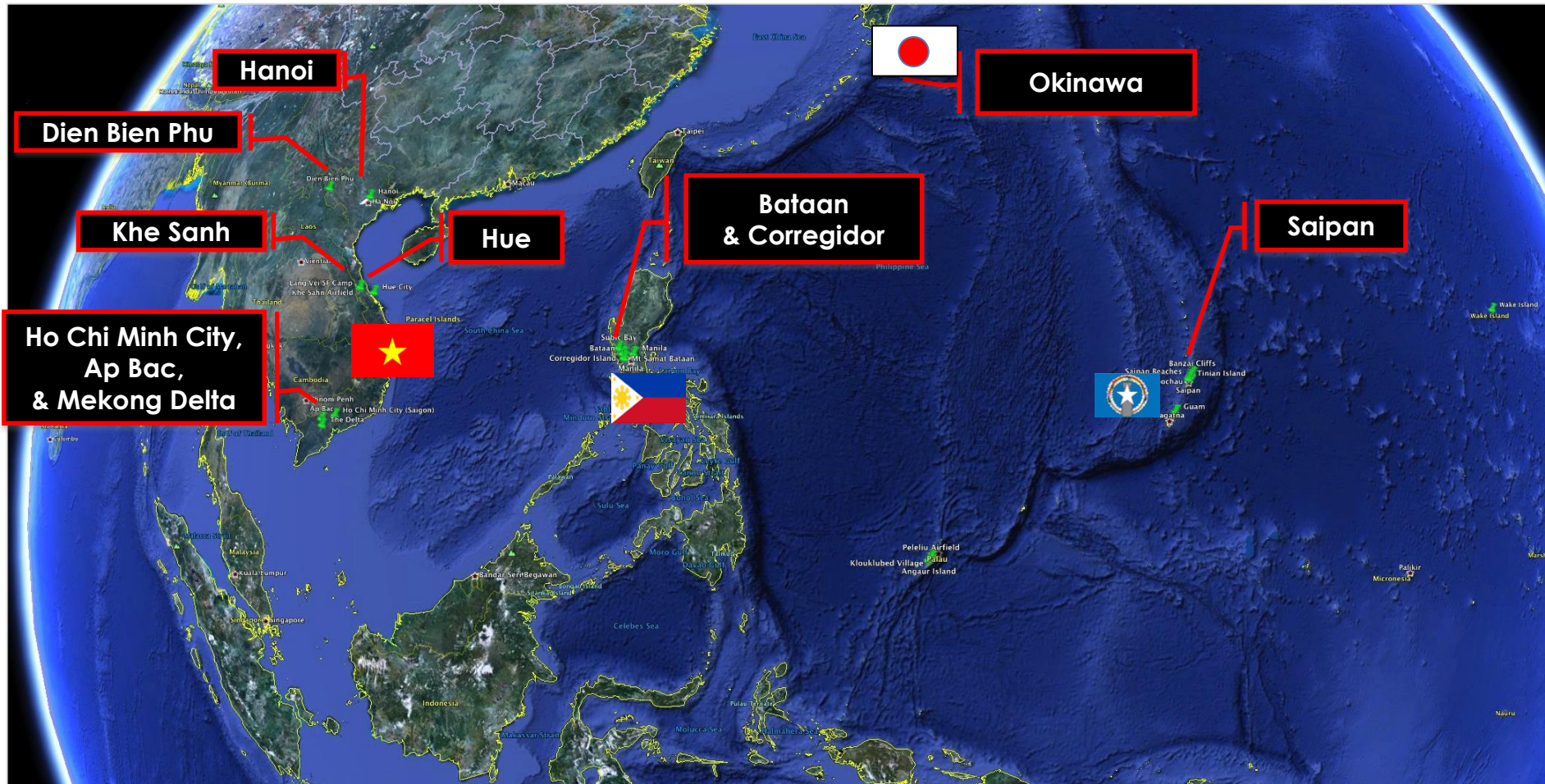


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Staff Ride 3: Asia - Pacific



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