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Eighth Army holds staff ride for Incheon landing

By Tyrone D. Scott, U.S. Forces Korea Staff Historian

INCHEON, South Korea — Eleven members of the 176th Financial Management Support Unit conducted a staff ride at the Incheon amphibious landing site Oct. 17.

Their duty stations included posts throughout South Korea and the event provided the group with an officer professional development opportunity.

Ronney Miller, the Eighth Army Command Historian, supported the event as a subject matter expert. The Eighth Army History Office is part of the Eighth Army, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea Joint History Office.

The Command History Office supports unit commanders and staff chiefs by offering professional development activities like staff rides.

The staff ride is a professional development opportunity for service members serving in combat arms, combat support or combat service support roles.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the first United Nations Command commander, led the Incheon landing called Operation Chromite. This offensive took place Sept. 15 - 18, 1950.

MacArthur said prior to the invasion about the enemy North Korean People's Army, "We shall land at Incheon and I shall crush them."

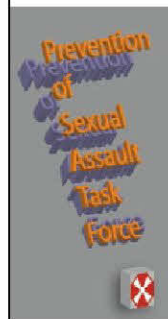
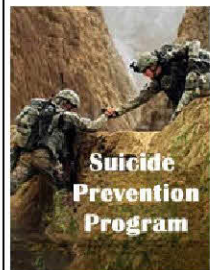
He ordered the U.S. Army X Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Edward M. Almond, to capture the port of Incheon and then secure a beachhead line. The 3d Battalion, 5th Marines started the operation as the advance attack force when they secured Wolmi-do Island. On Sept. 18, the UNC secured Kimpo Airfield and began preparing to liberate Seoul. Operation Chromite was a success.

The 176th Financial Management Support Unit staff ride participants took advantage of this professional development event. 1st Lt. James Walston from U.S. Army Garrison-Yongsan said, "We got up to Wolmi-do, at the peak of Wolmi-do, got a good terrain lay out. It was nice to be able to see everything from a bird's eye view."



1st Lt. James Walston from the 176th Financial Management Support Unit conducts a brief on Operational Chromite in Incheon, South Korea Oct. 17. U.S. Army photo by Tyrone D. Scott, Eighth Army Staff Historian

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