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History Lessons from Gettysburg

Leadership from McLane Group companies learned first hand the lessons of Gettysburg on a recent Strategic Leader Staff Ride presented by members of the Army War College.

TEMPLE, TEXAS.

Members of several McLane Group companies converged at Gettysburg last week to participate in an Army War College program designed for team building and leadership development. Drayton McLane, Jr. led a group of 25 corporate leaders on a three-day leadership event June 18-20, 2007. Leadership from McLane Group, The Houston Astros, McLane Advanced Technologies, Lone Star Plastics, Classic Foods, MC International, and Leading Edge Brands participated.

Kim Bales, McLane Group Controller commented, "The Gettysburg Strategic Leader Staff Ride was an incredible opportunity for us to study the strategic choices made and the difficult lessons learned from the Gettysburg battlefield and learn how those apply to our businesses today. The time spent in Gettysburg provided not only an opportunity to take time out to reflect on leadership styles and strategic decision making, but also provided an opportunity for teambuilding as well."

United States Army War College located at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania hosted the Strategic Leader Staff Ride Program for McLane Group. The program's goal is to provide participants a relative understanding of the Battle of Gettysburg that enables them to identify and overcome contemporary strategic leadership challenges. Most importantly the participants learned the impact that technology, innovation, and logistics have on campaigns.

The program has a three-phased approach. First, participants prepare by reading the books *Killer Angels* and *Battle of Gettysburg*. Next is the field study and terrain walk phase where participants visit the Gettysburg National Military Park and actually walk the terrain of the three day battle. Finally, the integration phase consists of formal and informal discussions about the events and the decisions that shaped the outcome of the battle.

The Strategic Leader Staff Ride (SLSR) is an integral part of the U.S. Army's strategic outreach program and communication efforts. It affords senior Army leadership opportunities to engage the Nation and its leaders in order to increase understanding of strategic leadership, the role of landpower in support of the National Security Strategy, the Army's core competencies, and its Title 10 responsibilities. Additionally, the program allows them to increase awareness and exchange insights on the most important strategic issues facing the Army, academia, the government, and the business community. Finally, the SLSR program establishes a foundation for mutually beneficial, long-term, professional relationships and exchanges.

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