

The White Papers: Training the Infantry Small Unit

Target Location and Elevation

Purpose

To make Marines comfortable and confident with basic map work to determine target location and elevation.

Standard

Each drill is completed in two minutes or less. Target location is within 200 meters, and elevation within 75 feet MSL. Standard grid is six digits.

Equipment

1:50k maps, laminated, and enough for one per Marine.

Event Description

Marines start by plotting their known point—briefed as an observation post.

Once plotted, the drill begins with a paint:

“You are currently located at OP Blue, grid 123 456. Looking out over the engagement area, you see a target. You shoot a magnetic azimuth with your compass of <BLANK> heading. Using the WRM formula, you estimate the distance at <BLANK> meters. What is the target location and elevation? Begin.”

Best Practices

Plan ten to twenty targets per training block to allow repetitive practice of the drill. Brief only one target at a time.

Plot targets on acetate. This facilitates grading by allowing the instructor to overlay the acetate and the student’s map to quickly determine error.

Debrief Points

Neatness in plotting enemy position. Neat plots are accurate plots.

Use of the ‘declinated’ N to S index line to determine enemy location on the map.

Correct use of equations to convert meters to feet MSL.

“There is no single ‘best’ approach to developing tactical proficiency. However, any approach should be adaptable to all echelons and to all grades.”

MCDP 1-3 *Tactics*

