



## SUMMARY SHEET

1. Introduction to Map Reading.

- a. What is a Map? A Map is a graphic representation of the earth's surface or a part of it, drawn to scale on a plane.
- b. Maps are important for the information they supply and for planning purposes.
- c. Due to the supply problem of providing maps, care should be taken to protect them from weather and unnecessary marking.
- d. MAPS MUST NOT FALL INTO UNAUTHORIZED HANDS.
- e. Categories of military maps:

## (1) By scale.

- (a) Large - 1:25,000 and larger.
- (b) Medium - 1:75,000 to 1:600,000.
- (c) Small - 1:600,000 and smaller.

## (2) By type.

- (a) Planimetric.
- (b) Topographic.
- (c) Plastic relief.
- (d) Photomap.
- (e) Plastic relief photomap.
- (f) Photomosaic.
- (g) Military city maps.
- (h) Special maps.
- (i) Terrain model.
- (j) Joint operation graphic.
- (k) Pictomap.

## f. Accuracy of maps.

- (1) Impossible to obtain precise accuracy on small and medium scale maps.
- (2) High degree of accuracy of large scale maps of areas within continental limits of the United States.
- (3) Accuracy of maps of foreign areas may be determined from marginal coverage diagram.

2. Marginal Information - Contains necessary data to interpret the map.3. Topographic Symbols and Map Colors.

a. Map Symbols.

- (1) Map detail represents ground features.
- (2) Attempts to show maximum detail without impairing legibility.
- (3) Exaggerated in size for legibility.
- (4) Center of symbol usually corresponds to true center of feature represented.
- (5) Symbols may vary due to scale of map.
- (6) Most of the symbols can be identified from the legend.

b. Map Colors.

- (1) Black ----- Man-made features other than main roads.
- (2) Blue ----- Water features.
- (3) Green ----- Vegetation.
- (4) Brown ----- Relief features.
- (5) Red ----- Road Classifications.
- (6) Others ----- Gray for relief features, yellow for cities.

c. Commonly used topographic symbols.

(1) Railroad.

(2) Stream.

(3) Roads.

(4) Buildings.

(5) School.

(6) Church.

4. Military Symbols.

a. Unit, activity or installation symbols.

(1) Troop unit (rectangle).

(2) Command Post (rectangle with staff).

(3) Observation post (triangle).

(4) Logistical installation (circle).

b. Basic Military Symbols.

- (1) Branch (military police, infantry, signal, etc.).
- (2) Strength (squad, company, army, etc.).

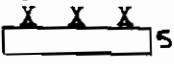
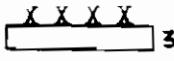
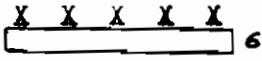
c. Construction of a military symbol.

- (1) Troop unit (rectangle).
- (2) Branch (inside troop unit rectangle).
- (3) Strength (top troop unit rectangle).
- (4) Parent organization (right side troop unit rectangle).
- (5) Sub-Unit (left side troop unit rectangle).
- (6) Sub-sub-unit (left side sub unit).
- (7) Sub-sub-sub-unit (left side sub-sub-unit).
- (8) Sub-sub-sub-sub-unit (left side sub-sub-sub-unit).

d. Unit Strength Symbols.

- (1) Squad. ●
- (2) Section. ● ●
- (3) Platoon or detachment. ● ● ●
- (4) Company or Battery. ■
- (5) Battalion. ■ ■
- (6) Regiment or Battle Group. ■ ■ ■
- (7) Brigade or Combat Command. X
- (8) Division. X X
- (9) Corps. X X X
- (10) Army. X X X X
- (11) Army Group. X X X X X

e. Symbols for Corps, Army and Army Group. Examples:

- (1) Fifth Corps.  5
- (2) Third Army.  3
- (3) Sixth Army Group.  6

f. Symbols commonly used by MP Units.

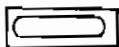
- (1) PW Collecting Point. 
- (2) MP Co. 

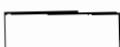
(3) Traffic Control Post (fixed). 

(4) Main Supply Route. 

(5) Mobile Patrol w/Radio. 

g. Branch of Service Symbol.

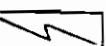
(1) Armor. 

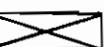
(2) Artillery. 

(3) Medical Corps. 

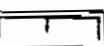
(4) Military Police. 

(5) Ordnance. 

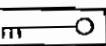
(6) Signal. 

(7) Infantry. 

(8) Mechanized Infantry. 

(9) Engineers. 

(10) Air Force. 

(11) Quartermaster. 

(12) Transportation. 

(13) Army Aviation. 

h. Supply Point Symbols.

(1) Class I (Rations). 

(2) Class III (PoL). 

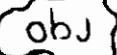
(3) Class V (Ammunition). 

(4) Water. 

i. Some Common Tactical Symbols.

(1) Forward edge of battle Area (FEBA). 

 FEBA

(2) Objective. 

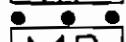
(3) Limiting Point. 

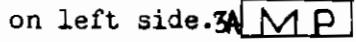
j. Construction of Symbols.

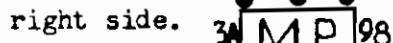
example: Construction symbol for the 3rd Platoon, Co A, 98th MP, battalion.

(1) draw basic troop unit symbol 

(2) Place branch of service inside. 

(3) Denote strength of unit above. 

(4) Place sub-units (platoon and Co) on left side. 

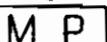
(5) Place parent unit (battalion) on right side. 

SUB-SUB-SUB  
SUB-SUB UNIT  
SUB UNIT  
UNIT

UNIT STRENGTH  
BRANCH  
OF  
SERVICE

PARENT ORGANIZATION  
(ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

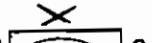
examples:

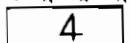
Co C, 503rd MP, Bn 

Command Post, 2nd Inf Div 

1st Plat, Co B, 98th MP, Bn 

1st MP Co 

Combat Command B, 2nd Armored Div 

Fourth Army 

## CLASSROOM ISSUE

## 1. Introduction to map reading:

A map is a graphic representation of a portion of the earth's surface drawn to scale on a plane as seen from above.

## 2. Marginal Data

Important factors to remember are the sheet name, series name, sheet number, scale, legend, and the contour interval note.

## 3. Map symbols and Colors

a. Symbols found on the map are explained in the legend

b. The basic colors are:

(1) Black - Man made features.

(2) Blue - Water features.

(3) Green - Vegetation.

(4) Brown - Elevation and relief. (Contour lines).

(5) Red - Main roads. (built up areas).

4. Military symbols are used as a standardized method for showing the quantity, strength, location, and movements of troops, activities, and installations. Normally these military symbols are not printed on maps because what they represent is constantly moving or changing. Usually the map user draws the symbols on his map or overlay.

5. Military grid coordinates are always read by starting in the lower left hand corner of the map, then reading right and up. Grid coordinates are established in 4, 6, and 8 digit figures.

6. Scale and distance are determined by the representative fraction and the graphic scale found in the margin of the map.

7. Elevation and relief is shown on most maps by the use of contour lines. Relief being the configuration or shape of the ground and elevation being height above or below mean sea level.

MAP REVIEW SUMMARY SHEET (CON'T)

8. Direction and azimuth determination are necessary to establish in which direction you desire to see or travel. An understanding of both will also help you locate areas, objects, and your own position on the map.

9. The declination diagram is found in the margin of the map it will show you true north, magnetic north, and grid north. This diagram must be used in order to convert one type azimuth to another.

10. Roadmaps, overlays, and aerial photographs are essential to the military police in performing most of their duties. Roadmaps will show most roads. Overlays are used to superimpose areas and objects on a map without marking directly on the map. Aerial photographs provide a day to day comparison of an area. They may be used as a map supplement or a map substitute.