

O-0217
ORIENT A MAP TO NORTH USING A COMPASS

CONDITIONS

Given a objective topographical map and a compass in the daylight

OBJECTIVES

Orient the map to North to within 10 degrees in less than 4 minutes.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION

Training Outline

1. You want to use your map for navigation. First, you must “orient” the map to the ground. A map is considered oriented when it is in a horizontal position with its north and south corresponding to north and south on the ground. This allows you to easily see the terrain on the map as it corresponds to the terrain around you. Orienting the map with a compass is more accurate than using terrain association, and can be done when there are no visible prominent terrain features.

2. To orient the map using a compass:

a. Hold the map horizontally or place on a flat surface (DO NOT USE THE HOOD OF A VEHICLE OR ANY OTHER METAL SURFACE -- IT MIGHT ATTRACT THE COMPASS NEEDLE)

b. Look at the map and define the north/south grid lines and magnetic variation (see task O-0213 - Convert Between Map And Compass Azimuths). Determine where magnetic north is on the map

c. Hold the compass in front of you such that the north seeking arrow is free to rotate. Rotate your body until the arrow is pointing directly in front of your body.

d. Rotate the map until magnetic north on the map is pointing the same direction as the compass arrow.

e. Verify the map’s orientation by checking the location of prominent terrain features.

Additional Information

More detailed information on this topic is available in Chapter 5 of the Ground Team Member and Leader Reference Text.

Evaluation Preparation

Setup: Provide a map of the area and a compass to the student.

Brief Student: Tell the student to orient the map to magnetic north using the compass. Tell him to describe out loud all the steps he takes.

Evaluation

<u>Performance measures</u>	<u>Results</u>	
The individual:		
1. Identifies the magnetic north on the map	P	F
2. Locates magnetic north per the compass	P	F
3. Orients the map to magnetic north within 10°	P	F
4. Checks map orientation with terrain association	P	F

Student must receive a pass on all performance measures to qualify in this task. If the individual fails any measure, show what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.