

Laxmi Narain Dubey College, Motihari

(a constituent unit of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muz.)

NAAC Accredited 'B+'

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

**Topic: Topographical Forms and Technical
Terms**

NCC – Map Reading

B/C Certificate Examination

Instructor

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[MR 3: Topographical forms and Technical Terms]

Introduction

13. Topographical forms is a name used to describe geographical features which occur on the ground.

14. Following list of topographical forms and technical terms ^{are} ~~is~~ more commonly used.

Topographical forms.

15. Following are list of commonly used topographical forms :-

(a) Basin - An area of fairly level ground surrounded by hills or the area drained by a river.

(b) Col or Saddle - A narrow ridge of high land joining up to higher hills.

(c) Crest - The highest part of a hill or mountain range.

(d) Dead Ground - Ground which is not visible to the observer due to hills.

(e) Defile - Any feature whether natural or artificial which could cause a body of troops to contract its front. An example of a natural defile is mountain pass while a bridge is an example of artificial defile.

(f) Escarpment - The steep hill side formed by a sudden drop in the general ground level.

usually form a plateau.

(g) Knoll - A small isolated hill.

(h) Plateau - A table land, an elevated region of considerable extent generally fairly level.

(i) Ravine - A long deep valley closed at one end separating two spurs.

(j) Ridge - The line along a hill from which water flows in opposite directions.

(k) Spur - A piece of high ground jutting out from a range of hills into lower ground.

(l) Watershed - The line separating the water flowing into two different river systems, the ^{edge of a} river of a basin.

Technical Terms

16. Following are the important technical terms:-

(a) Bearing - The angle formed by a line joining two points and the north and south line. Bearings are always measured clockwise.

(b) Bench Mark - A permanent mark usually cut into a wall recording exact height for future reference. marked BM with the height on ordnance survey maps.

(c) Contours - A line drawn on the map joining up all points of equal height above sea level.

(d) Detail - All the topographical information on a map.

(e) Gradient - The slope of a hill expressed as a fraction.

(f) Grid lines - Lines running parallel to and at right angles to a North and South line through approximately the centre of the area covered by the grid system.

(g) Grid North - It is the direction of the north-south grid lines on a map.

(h) Horizontal Equivalent (HE) - The distance measured on the map between adjacent contour lines. It varies according to the nature of the relief.

(i) Magnetic variation - The difference between True North and Magnetic North.

(j) Setting - Placing a map so that North on the map points towards the North so that the objects on the map are placed in relationship to the same objects on the ground.

(k) Spot Height - A point on a map whose height has been determined by survey methods.

(l) Trig Point - A point fixed during the triangulation at the beginning of a survey, marked as a small triangle.

(m) True North - The direction of the North pole from the point.

(n) Vertical Interval (VI) - Successive contour lines. The VI is generally the same for any given scale.

triangle with the height.