

# Terrain Recognition



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Operační program Vzdělávání pro konkurenceschopnost

Název projektu: Inovace magisterského studijního programu Fakulty ekonomiky a managementu

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## Warm-up

*Answer the questions:*

- How can terrain affect military operations?
- How can weather affect military operations?
- Why is terrain recognition so important?
- What is “terrain-oriented reconnaissance”?
- What is the main goal of terrain reconnaissance?

*After reading the text compare your answers with the facts mentioned in it.*

## Reading

*Read the text and answer the questions at the end of the text.*

Skilful leaders know the importance of terrain, weather, and light to friendly operations. They also understand how these same factors affect the enemy's ability to fight. The success of your mission is closely linked to how much attention you give to terrain analysis and the reconnaissance aspects of the troop leading procedures.

Making good use of the information on your map and what you can see on the ground around you increases your chances for success in navigation. Once you have repeatedly practiced the skills of identifying and discriminating among the many types of terrain and other features, you'll recognize how valuable these features can be. You will eventually become proficient in visualizing the actual shape of the land by studying the map and estimating contours, terrain features, and distances. You'll choose good routes and arrive at your objectives on time.

- What must skilful leaders know?
- Which factors affect the enemy's ability to fight?
- Why must a leader give much attention to terrain analysis and the reconnaissance aspects?
- What can increase a leader's success in navigation?

*Read the text.*

## Terrain Evaluation

*Read the dialogue between Lieutenant Lee and Sergeant Keen evaluating terrain before attack.*

**Lt. Lee:** Look, the area in front of us has been assigned as our company's zone of action. It is limited to the left by those railroad tracks over there and to the right by that secondary road.

**Sgt. Keen:** Do you mean the road that runs between those narrow strips of trees, sir?

**Lt. Lee:** Yes, that's the one. The 1st platoon is to attack on the left, the third on the right, and the 2nd platoon will stand by as company reserve.

**Sgt. Keen:** Will we attack in full daylight, sir?

**Lt. Lee:** I don't know yet. All I know is that the attack will be tomorrow, but H-hour has not been stated yet.

**Sgt. Keen:** They might decide on a night attack. The terrain is rather flat and open.

**Lt. Lee:** O.K. You'll now return to the barracks and take care of all preparations. You needn't tell the men any details concerning the exercise yet.

What do Lt. Lee and Sgt. Keen talk about?

Resource: J. Dvořák, H. Hrdlička. *Vojenské odborné texty z jazyka anglického*. 1997



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# Speaking and vocabulary exercises

*Answer the questions below:*

- What do Lt. Lee and Sgt. Keen talk about?
- What are the boundaries of the company's future battlefield?
- What is the 2nd platoon task?
- When is the attack planned?
- What is the type of the terrain?

*Explain the meaning of words and phrases in English.*

skilful leaders, friendly operation, terrain analysis, reconnaissance aspects, repeatedly practice the skills, estimate terrain features, estimate terrain contours, routes; zone of action, railroad track, secondary road, company reserve, full daylight, H-hour, flat and open terrain.

*Find the verbs to these nouns in the texts and make sentences with some of them:*

increase, practice, discrimination, estimation, choice, attack

Resource: J. Dvořák, H. Hrdlička. Vojenské odborné texty z jazyka anglického. 1997

## Terrain Analysis

*Fill in the gaps in the text using the following words:*

Preparation   environment   key   operation   continuous   weapons   enemy   affect   evaluating  
studied

The success of any military ..... depends on how well you, as the leader on the ground, have ..... the terrain and planned for how weather and light will ..... your soldiers and the ..... . You must be skilful in ..... these effects on your own soldiers' ability to perform, but you must also analyse how the terrain, weather, and light will affect enemy troops, ....., and tactics.

Terrain analysis is a ..... element of the *reconnaissance* step in the Army's troop leading procedures (TLP). It's also an essential element of the Intelligence ..... of the Battlefield (IPB) process. IPB is a systematic and ..... process of analysing the enemy and the ..... in a specific geographical area. IPB includes four steps:

Define the battlefield environment

Describe the battlefield's effects

Evaluate the threat

Determine threat courses of action (COA).

*Read the statements and decide whether they are true or false.*

- 1 Skilful leaders understand how the factors, such as terrain, weather, and light affect the enemy's ability to fight.
- 2 They don't have to pay attention to terrain analysis.
- 3 They have to pay attention to the reconnaissance aspects of the troop leading procedures.
- 4 The knowledge of the information on the map increases leaders' chances for success in navigation.
- 5 Leaders have to be able to discriminate among the many types of terrain and other features.
- 6 Weather conditions don't usually impact the commander's decision.
- 7 Terrain often determines type of combat.
- 8 The construction work is done by recon patrols.

## *Check your answers.*

- 1 Skilful leaders understand how the factors, such as terrain, weather, and light affect the enemy's ability to fight. **T**
- 2 They don't have to pay attention to terrain analysis. **F**
- 3 They have to pay attention to the reconnaissance aspects of the troop leading procedures. **T**
- 4 The knowledge of the information on the map increases leaders' chances for success in navigation. **T**
- 5 Leaders have to be able to discriminate among the many types of terrain and other features. **T**
- 6 Weather conditions don't usually impact the commander's decision. **F**
- 7 Terrain often determines type of combat. **T**
- 8 The construction work is done by recon patrols. **F**



*Match the verbs with their definitions:*

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1 to fight     | a to keep a road, machine, etc. in good condition          |
| 2 to determine | b to restrict; to restrain                                 |
| 3 to maintain  | c to make stg. stronger or more intense                    |
| 4 to reinforce | d to hide something  |
| 5 to obtain    | e to take part in a battle                                 |
| 6 to provide   | f to have to do (with); to conduct oneself; to do business |
| 7 to conceal   | g to make a firm decision to do stg.;                      |
| 8 to deal with | h to comprise; to hold                                     |
| 9 to limit     | i to get possession of; to acquire; to earn                |
| 10 to contain  | j to prepare; to supply; to procure beforehand             |

*Work in pairs.*

*You are members of a group of scouts. Enemy soldiers captured one of your troop members and keep him prisoner of war. Your task is to go into the area, reconnoitre the terrain and locate the person. Make as many questions as possible on how to perform your task. Then pass the information to your commander who will decide on necessary steps how to rescue him.*

*After that report to the class on how you accomplished the task.*

*For more reading and vocabulary go to*

[http://www.mc.edu/rotc/files/5013/1471/9569/MSL\\_202\\_L08a\\_Navigational\\_Methods\\_Route\\_Planning.pdf](http://www.mc.edu/rotc/files/5013/1471/9569/MSL_202_L08a_Navigational_Methods_Route_Planning.pdf)



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# Thanks for your attention



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