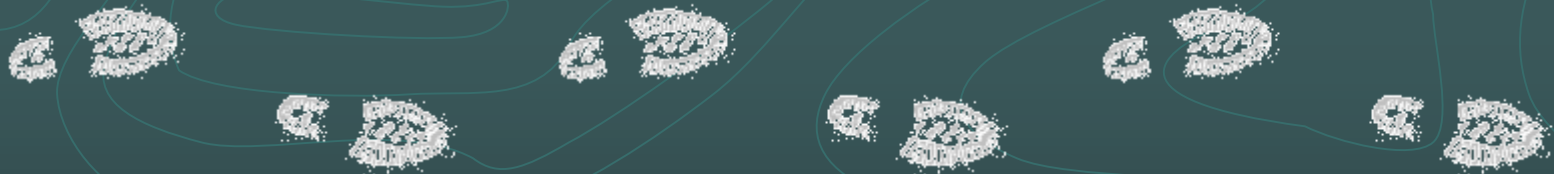


# Land Navigation



## Hall County EMA Search And Rescue Team Training

Ken Hughey  
January 2010

# Disclaimer

- Safety comes first. No action should be taken in Search and Rescue if the individual isn't completely comfortable that risks are controlled, the activity is safe, and they are personally prepared for the proposed activity.
- This presentation does not complete any level of training or provide for any type of certification. Formal education from qualified instructors and a long-term, personal commitment to continued training and practice is required for proficiency.
- Hall County EMA SAR makes no claims to the value or accuracy of the topics contained in this presentation. This is only provided for general knowledge of a key topic to help the Hall County EMA SAR team.



# Presentation Material Usage

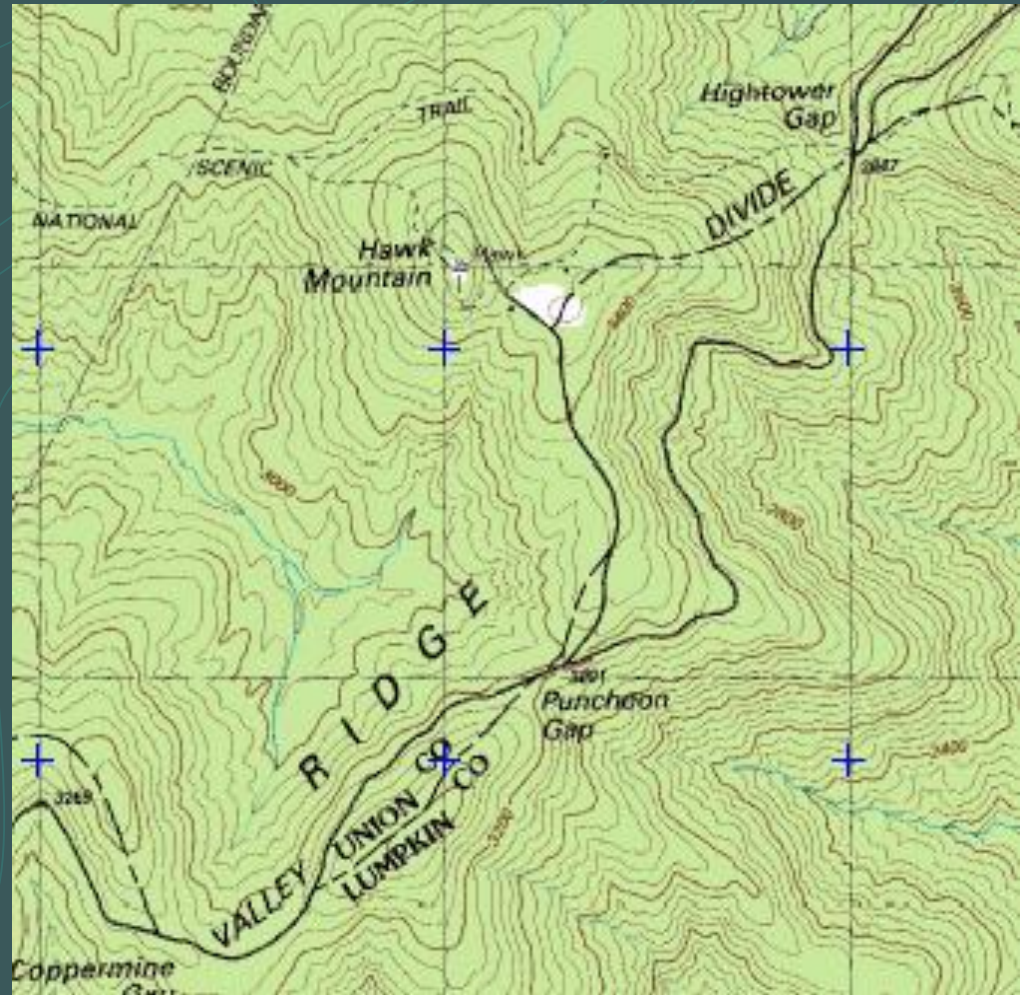
- Please provide citation information for any use of this material.
- Each citation should reference Hall County EMA Search & Rescue Team and related references included in this presentation.

# Objectives

- This training presentation is designed to provide a basic land navigation overview for the Hall County EMA Search & Rescue Team.

# Agenda

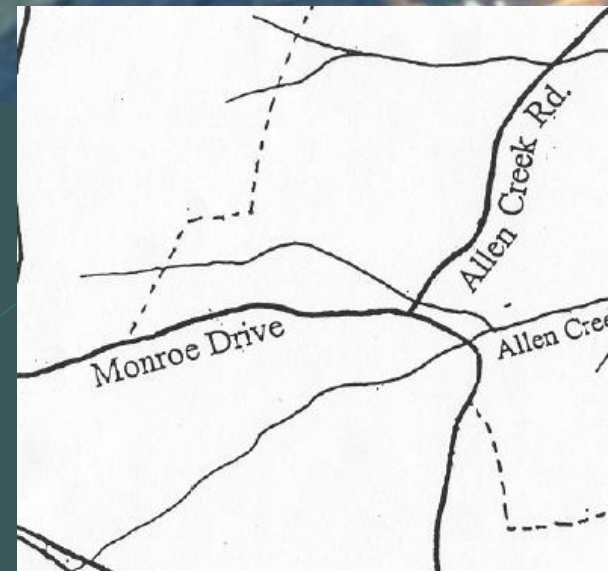
- Types of Maps used in SAR
- Marginal Information
- Map Colors
- Contour Lines
- Terrain Features
- UTM Grid System
- Distance & Direction
- Magnetic Declination
- Polar Coordinates
- Intersection & Resection





# Maps used in SAR

- Traditional Road Maps
- County Road Maps
- Ariel Photography Maps
- Topographical Maps
- “Hand Written Maps”



# Topographical Map

- Primary type of map used in SAR operations
- Known as “Topos”
- Primary type of USGS Topo Map used is the 1:24,000 scale (1” on map = 24,000” on ground)
- Modern software allows us to view / modify and print these maps (or portions of these maps) on our own printers.



# Topo Maps

- Portray the shape and elevation of the terrain
- Show graphic representation of selected manmade and natural features to scale



# Topo Maps

- USGS publishes topo maps in a variety of scales.
  - Most popular for land SAR is the 7.5-minute map. (1:24,000 scale)
- 7.5-minute maps have quadrangle dimensions of 7.5 minutes.



# Topo Maps

- USGS maps are supposed to be updated every 5 to 10 years, but often it is longer.
- They accurately depict terrain and relief (elevation and slope).
- Manmade features may differ.

# Topo Maps

- Top of the map is always true north.
- Vertical lines of longitude point north and south.
- Horizontal lines of latitude point east and west.
- Space outside the margin line identifies and explains the map. (Marginal Information)



# Marginal Information or

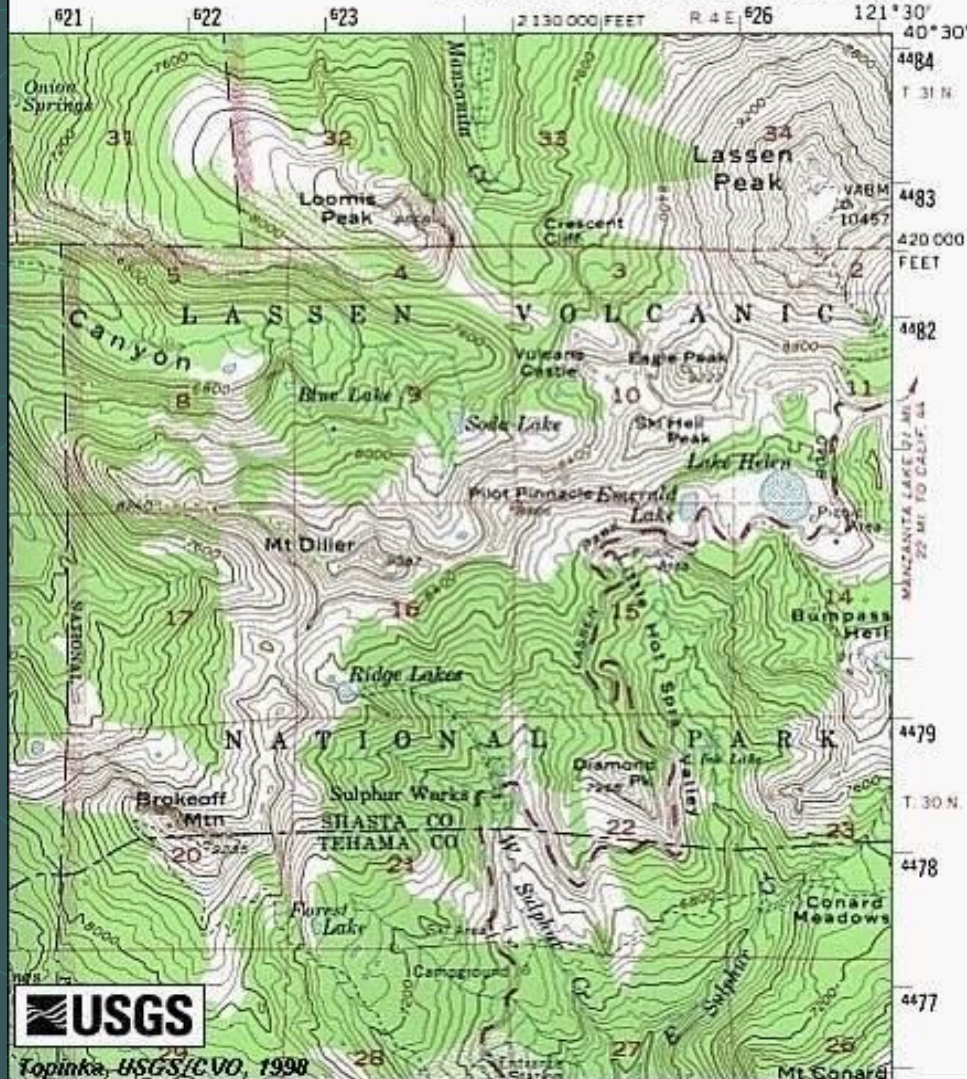
## What's all that stuff along the edges of the map?

# Map Name

- Topos are identified in the upper right margin by quadrangle name, state or states in which it is located, series, and type
- Quadrangle is also called a “Quad”
- Usually named after a prominent, immoveable place or landmark within the mapped area

LASSEN PEAK QUADRANGLE  
CALIFORNIA  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1765 III  
(PROSPECT PEAK)



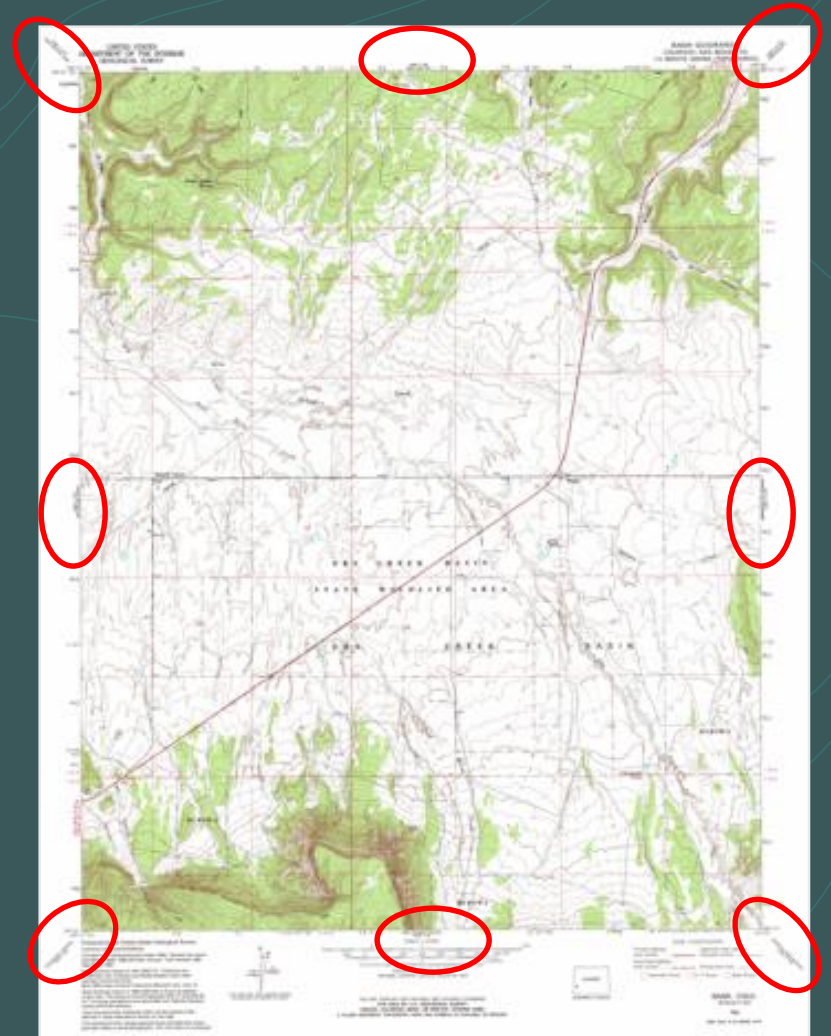
# Map Name

- Title block in lower right margin shows quad name, state name, date, any revisions (photo revised)
- Geographic coordinates are shown at all four map margin corners



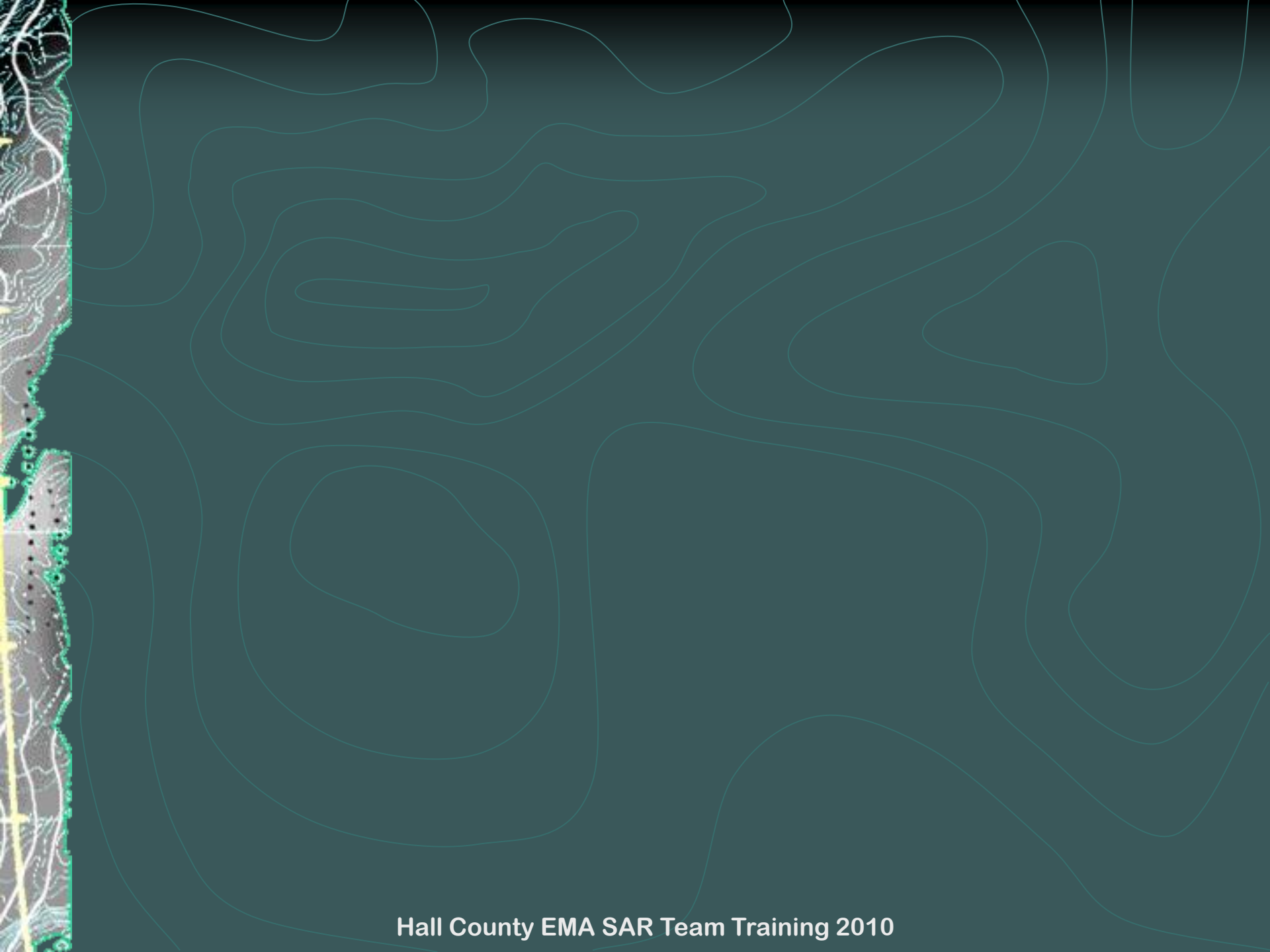
# Adjoining Map Names

- Adjoining Map (Quad) names are shown on each corner and each side of the map



# Road Classification

- Road Classification Legend is placed in the lower right margin.
- Tailored for each map to include only classes of roads and route markers that are shown in the body of the map
- Trails are not included in the legend unless there are no roads on the map.



# Road Classification

## ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather,  
hard surface .....



Light-duty road, all weather,  
improved surface ....



Secondary highway, all weather,  
hard surface .....



Unimproved road, fair or  
dry weather .....



Interstate Route



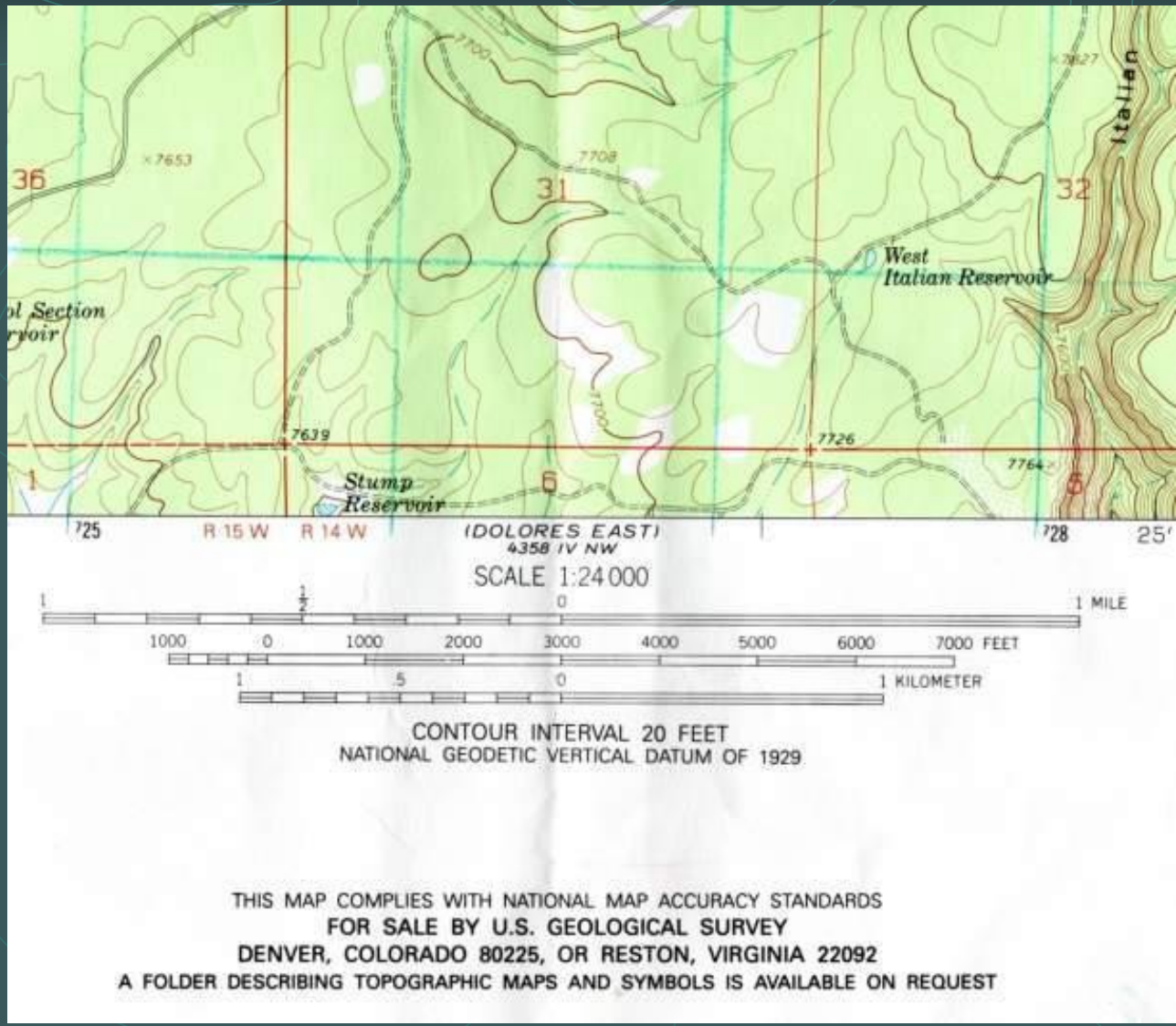
U.S. Route



State Route

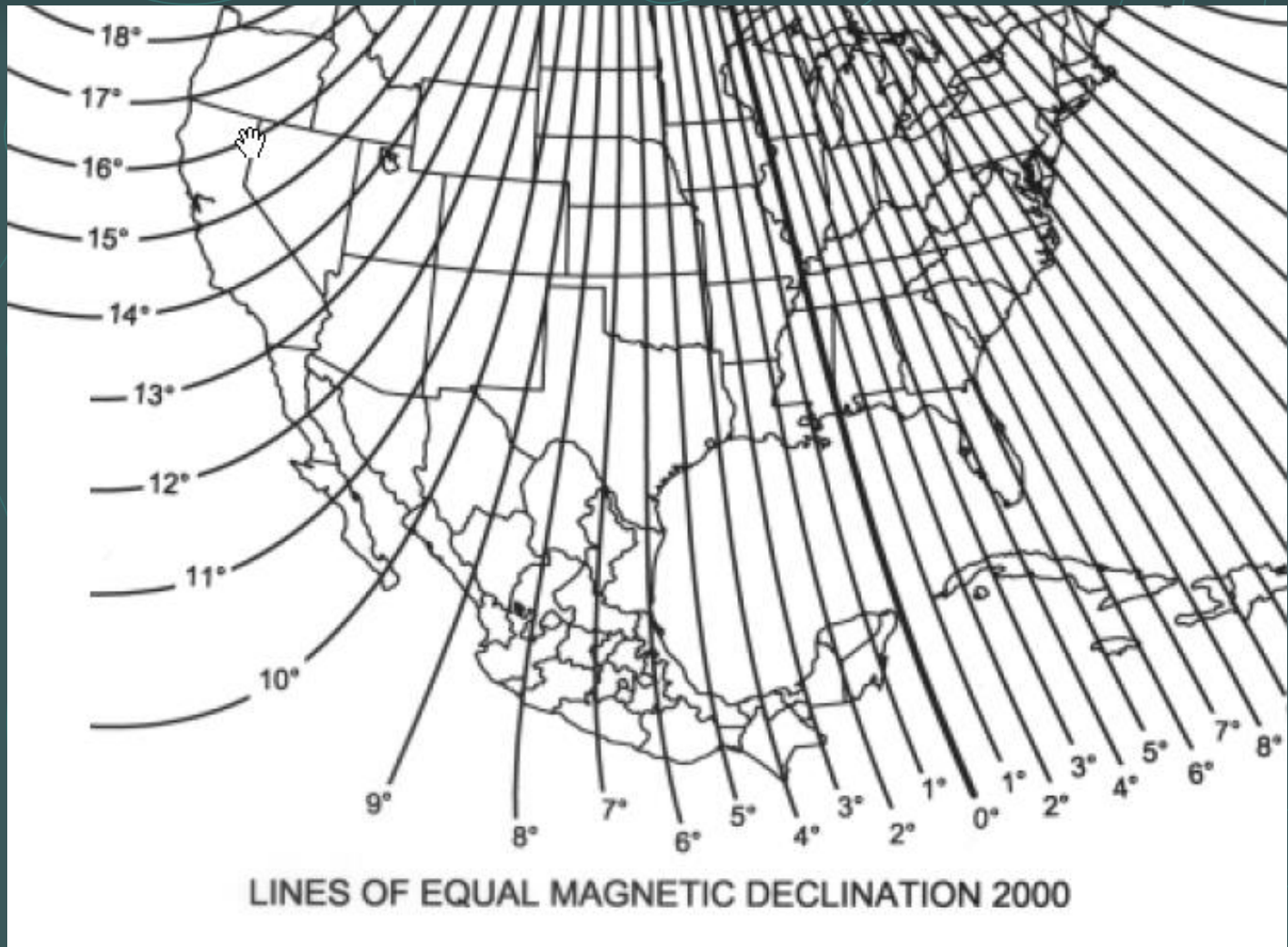
# Map Scale

- Center of the lower margin contains:
  - Map Scale expressed as a ratio (1:24:000, 1" on map = 24,000" on ground)
  - Distance Scales (miles, feet, kilometers)
  - Contour-interval



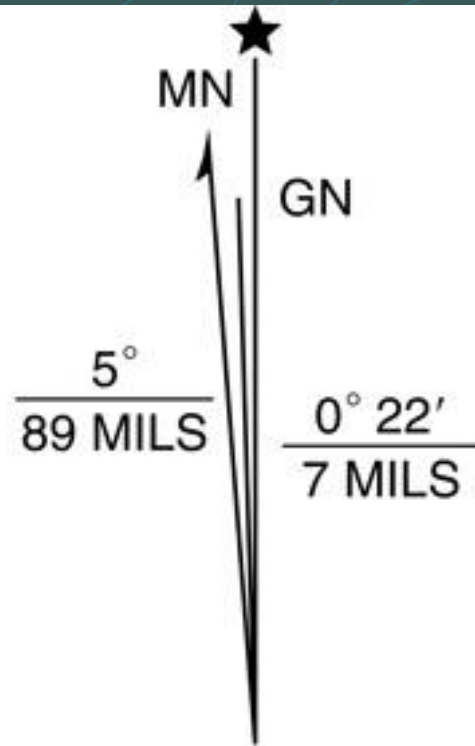
# Magnetic Declination Info

- Magnetic declination for the year of filed survey or revision
  - Determined to the nearest 0.5 degree from the latest isogonic chart
  - Shown by a diagram centered between the credit legend and bar scale
- The declination diagram indicates the angular relationship between true north, grid north, and magnetic north.





# Magnetic Declination Info



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



# Map Colors and Map Symbols

# Map Colors

- Brown: Contour lines
- Green: Vegetation
- Blue: Water
- Black: Manmade objects
- Red: Roads and built-up areas
- Purple: New changes or updates on the map

# Map Symbols



**CHURCH**



**SCHOOL**




**TANKS**

## **BENCH MARKS:**

**BM X231 MONUMENTED**

**X231 NON - MONUMENTED**



**MINE OR QUARRY**



**BUILDING OR STRUCTURES**

**·227 SPOT ELEVATION IN METERS**

## **RAILROADS:**




**SINGLE TRACK**



**MULTIPLE TRACK**



**CEMETERY**



# Contour Lines and Elevation

# Contour Lines

- Represent relative elevation
- Every point along a continuous line is at the same elevation



# Contour Lines

- Three types:

**Index**

**Intermediate**

**Supplementary**

- Every fifth line is darker.
- Have numbers superimposed on them indicating the elevation along that particular line

# Intermediate Contour Lines

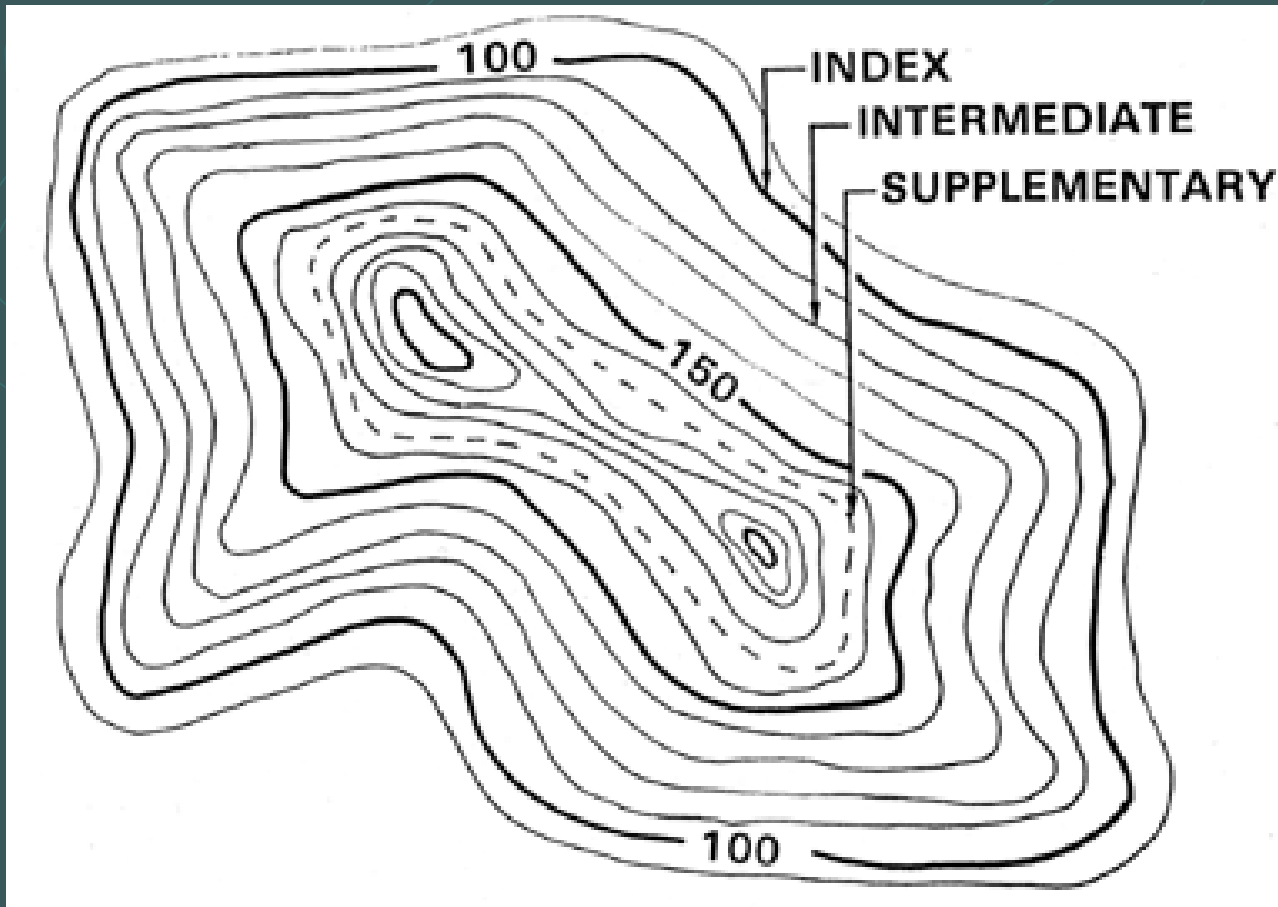
- Lighter brown lines
- Fall between index lines
- Are not numbered





# Supplementary Contour Lines

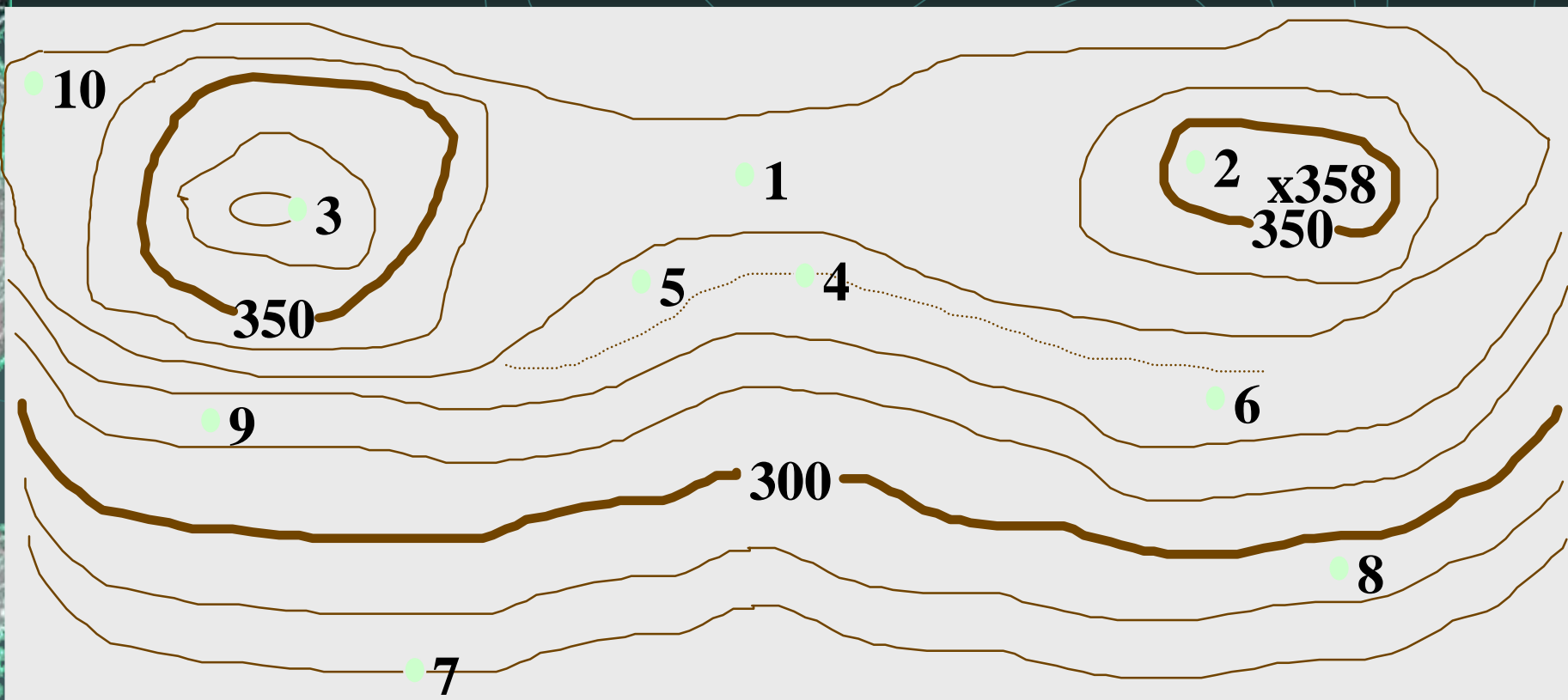
- Dashed lines that may be used when:
  - The terrain is very flat
  - There are large distances between contour lines
- Shows a difference in elevation that is half of the elevation of the contour lines between which it falls



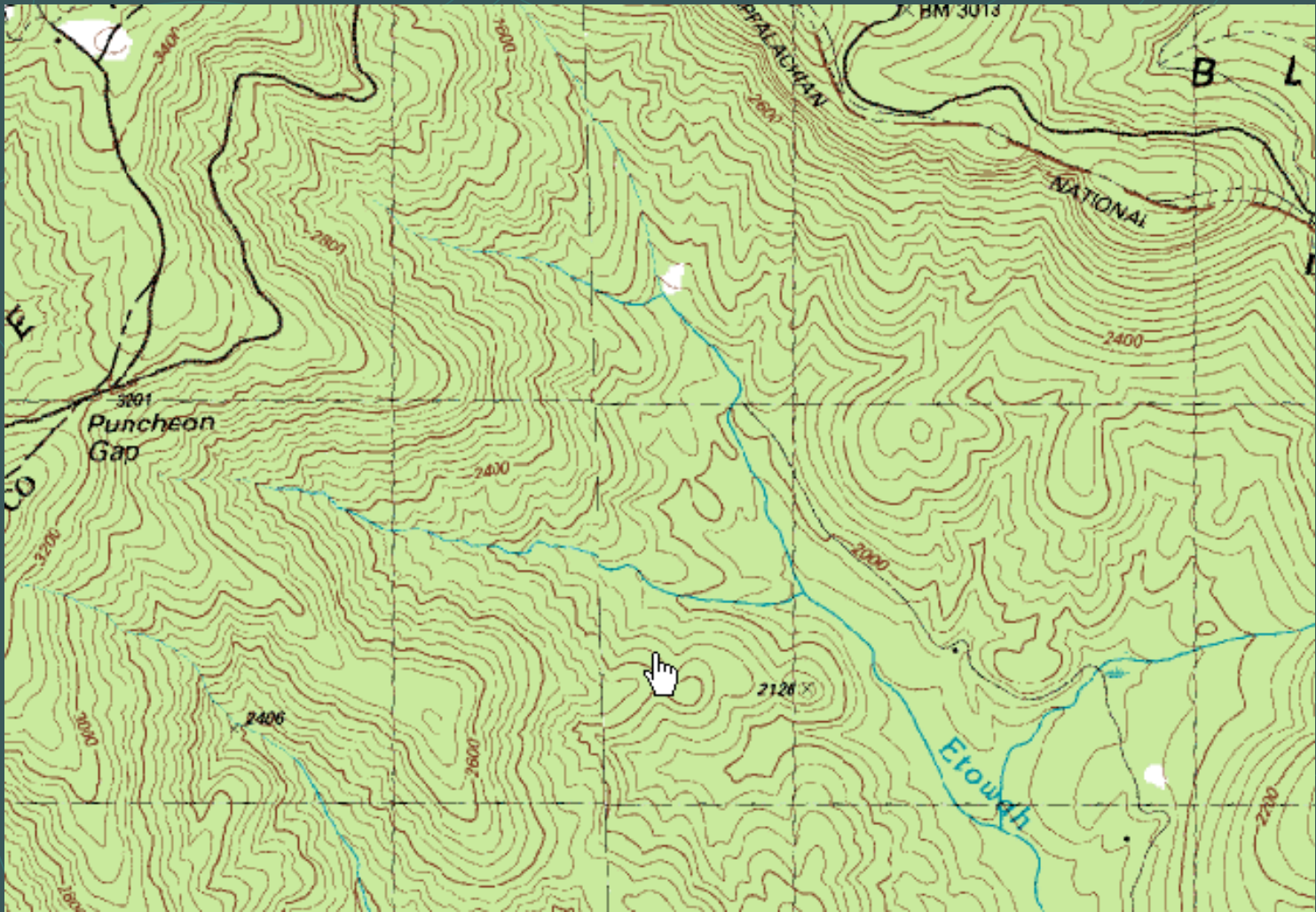
A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines and a yellow path. The rest of the slide has a dark teal background with faint, light blue contour lines.

# Determine Elevation

1. Check contour interval
2. Find given elevation
3. Determine direction of the slope
4. Count contour intervals



Elevation of Point: 7 = ? 3 = ? 9 = ? 1 = ? 4 = ?  
 8 = ? 10 = ?



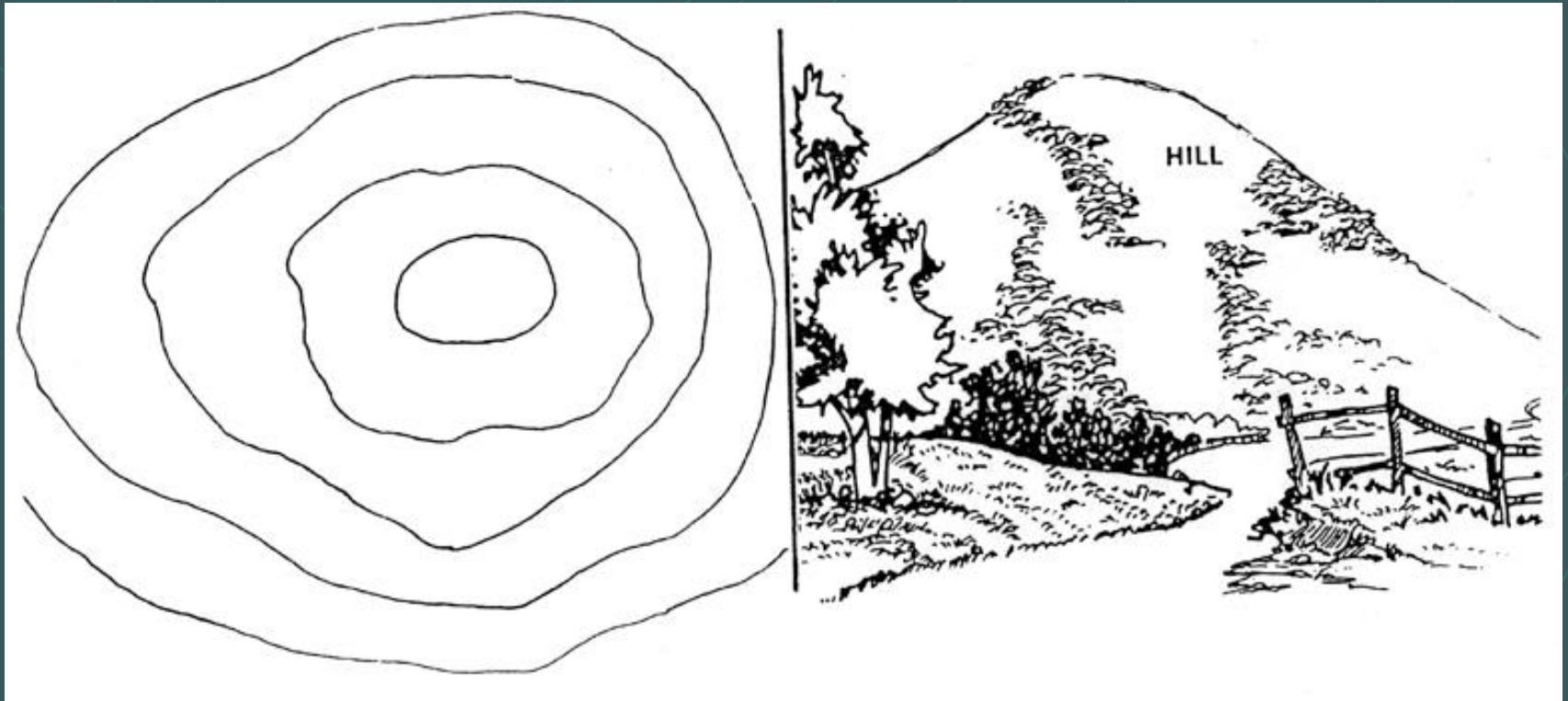
A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a fragment of a topographic map. It features brown contour lines, a yellow road, and a green area representing a forest or park. The rest of the slide has a dark teal background with faint, light blue contour lines.

# Terrain Features on the Topo

# Ridgeline

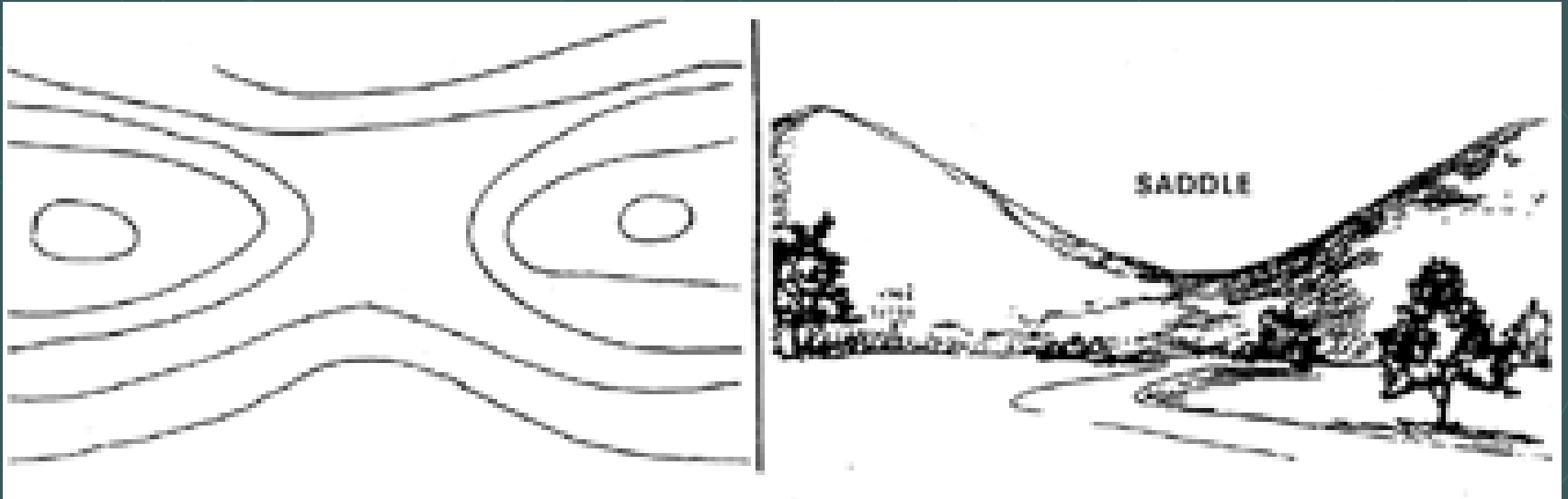


# Hill





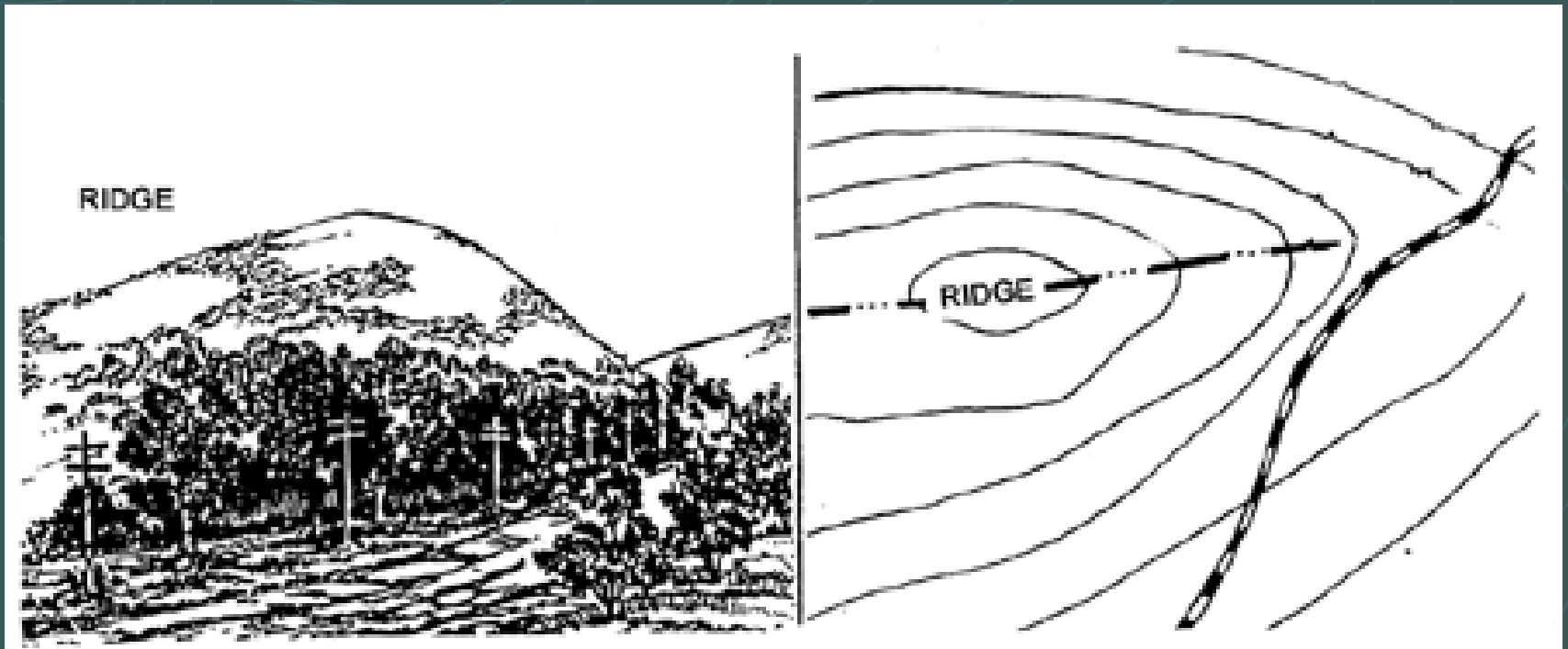
# Saddle



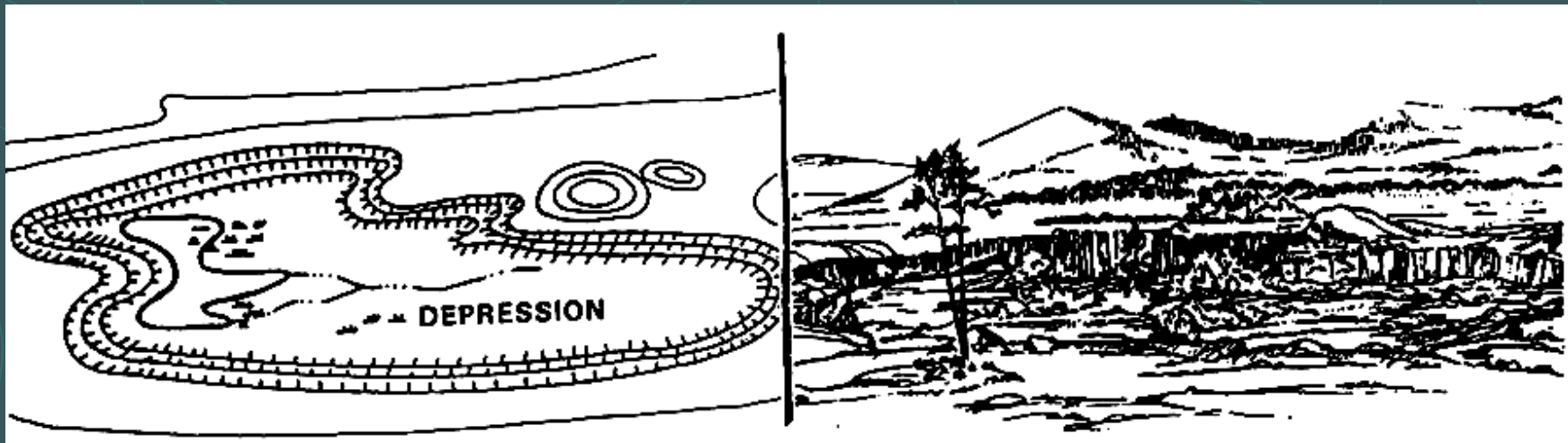
# Valley



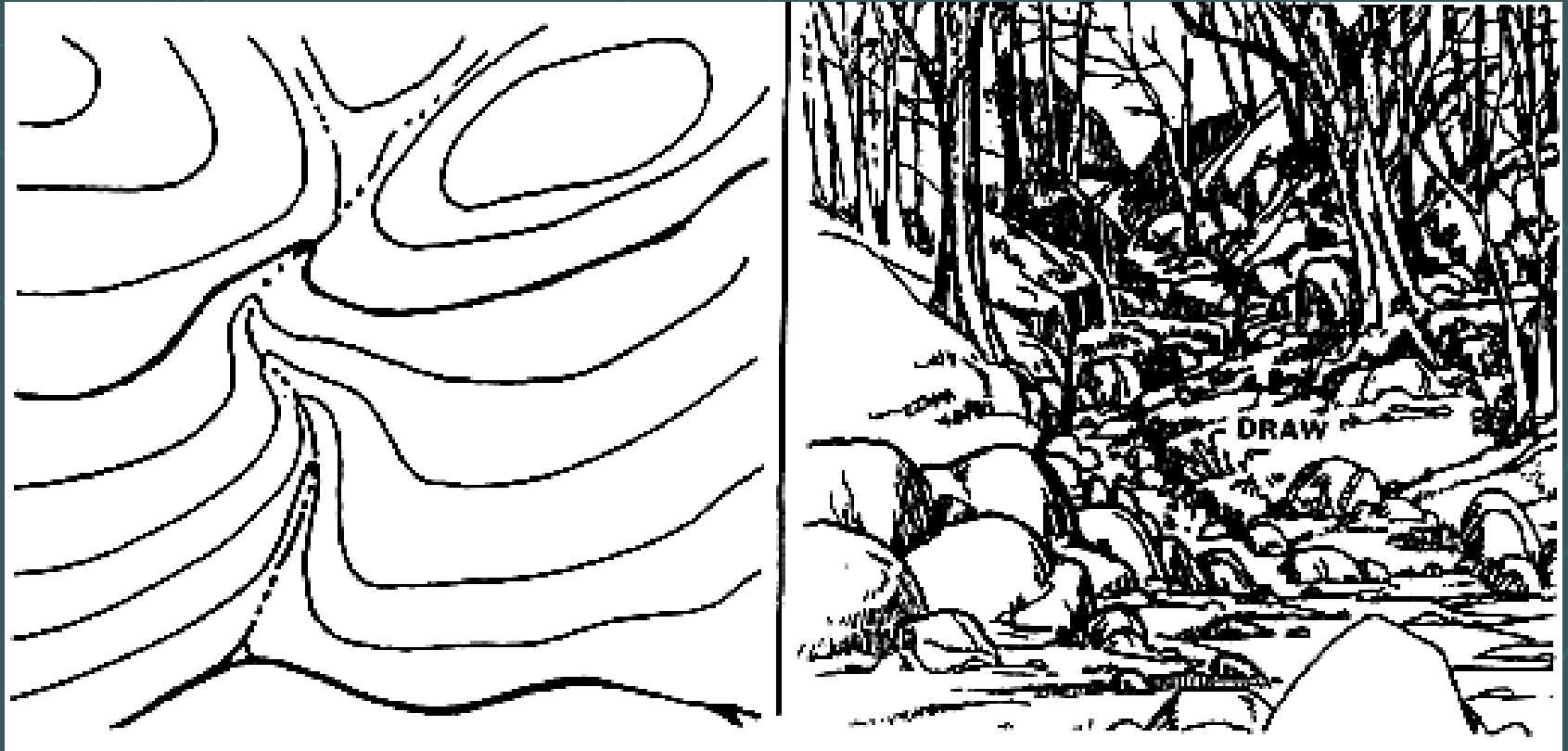
# Ridge



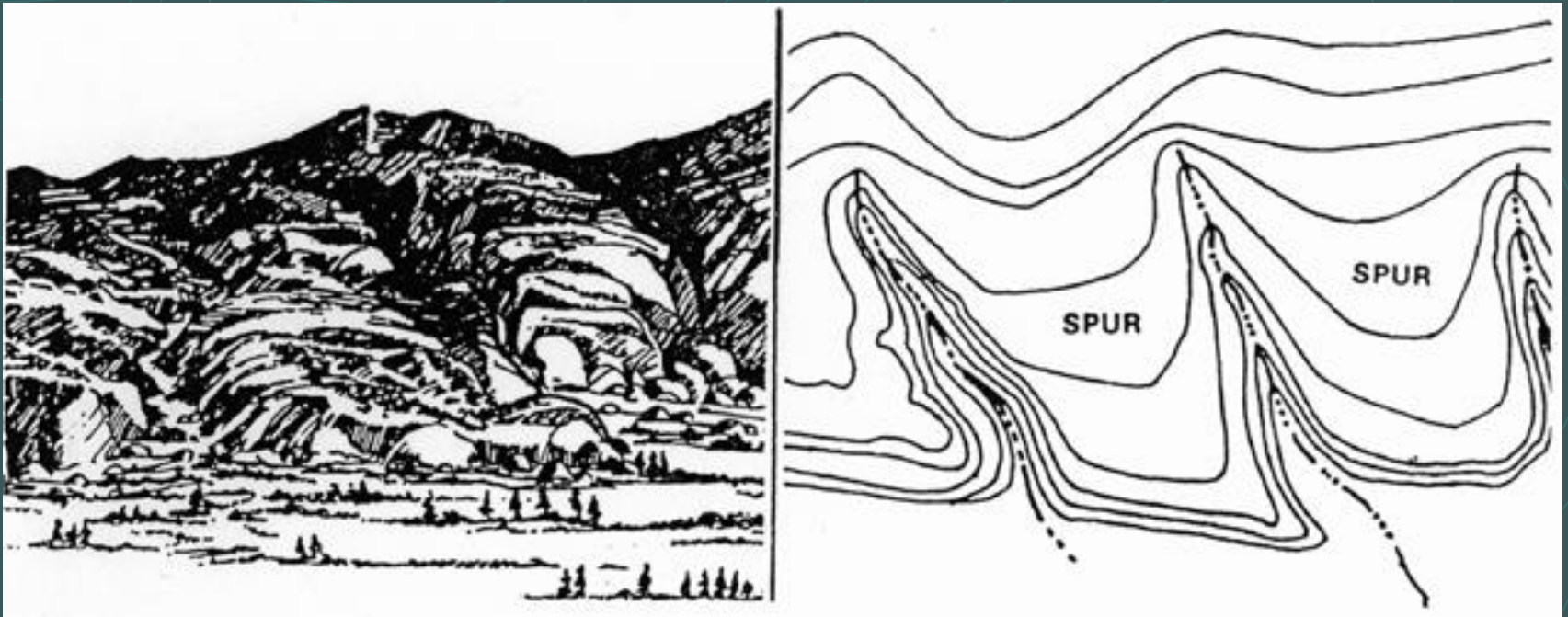
# Depression



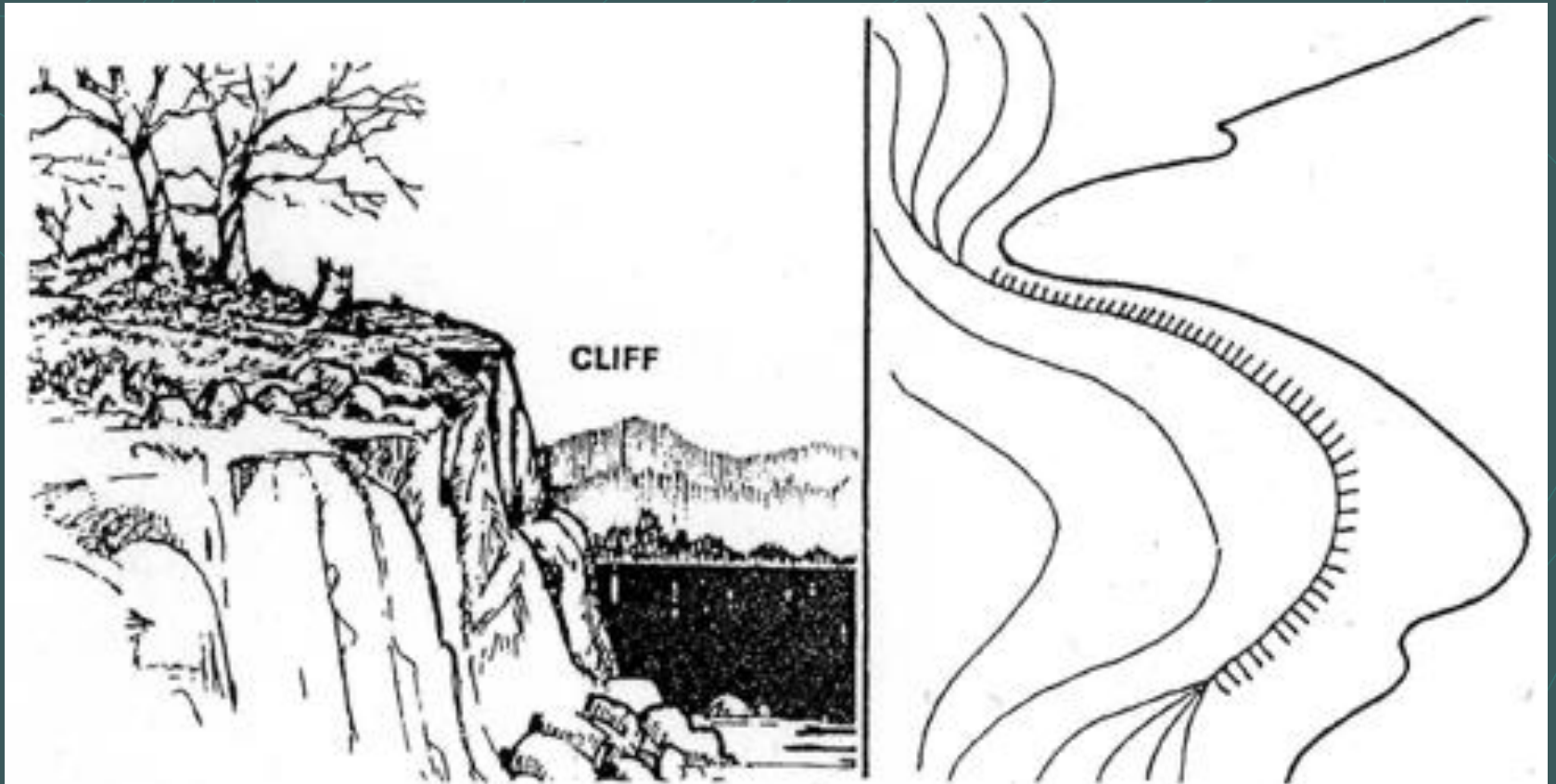
# Draw



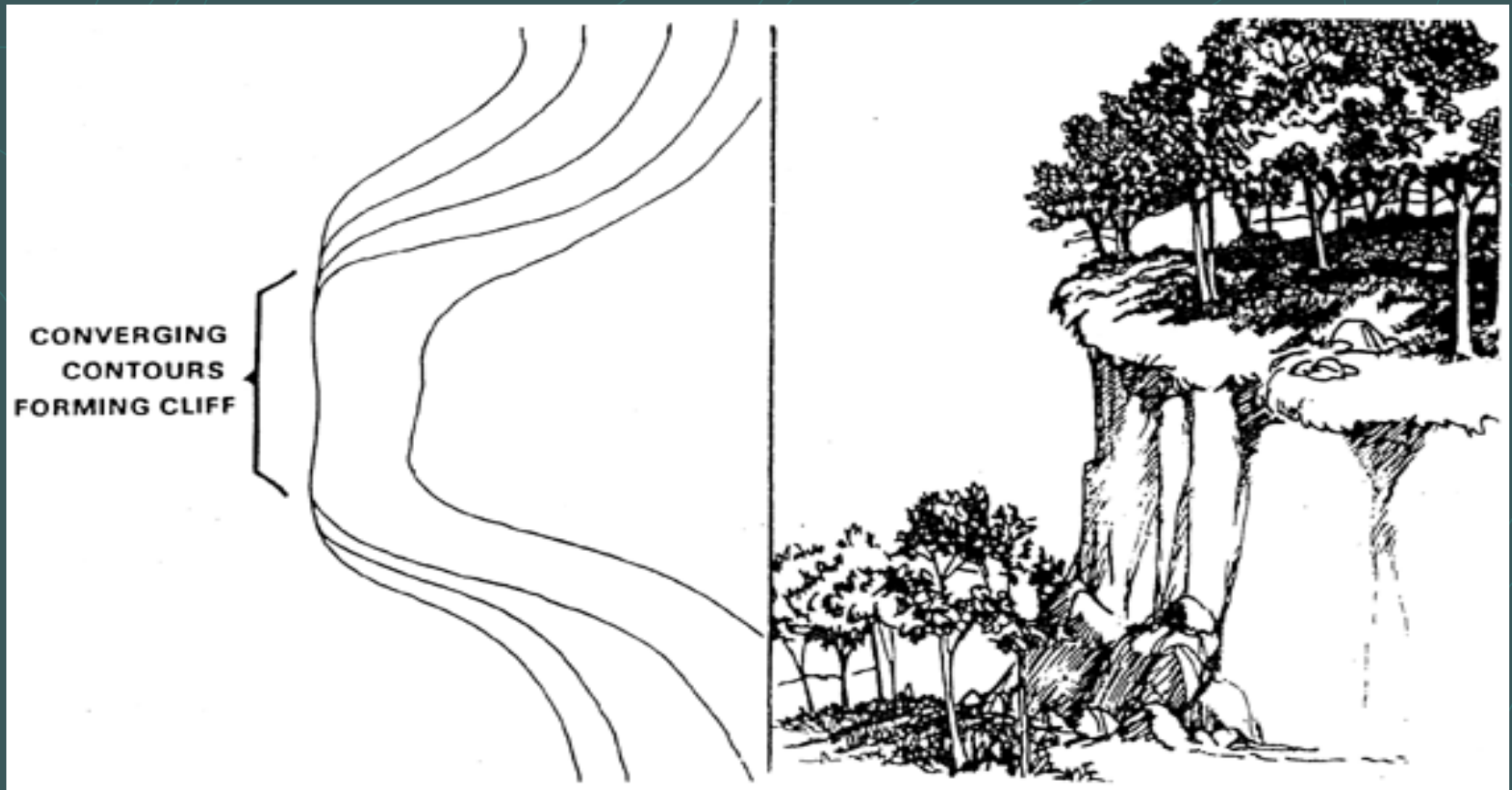
# Spur



# Cliff

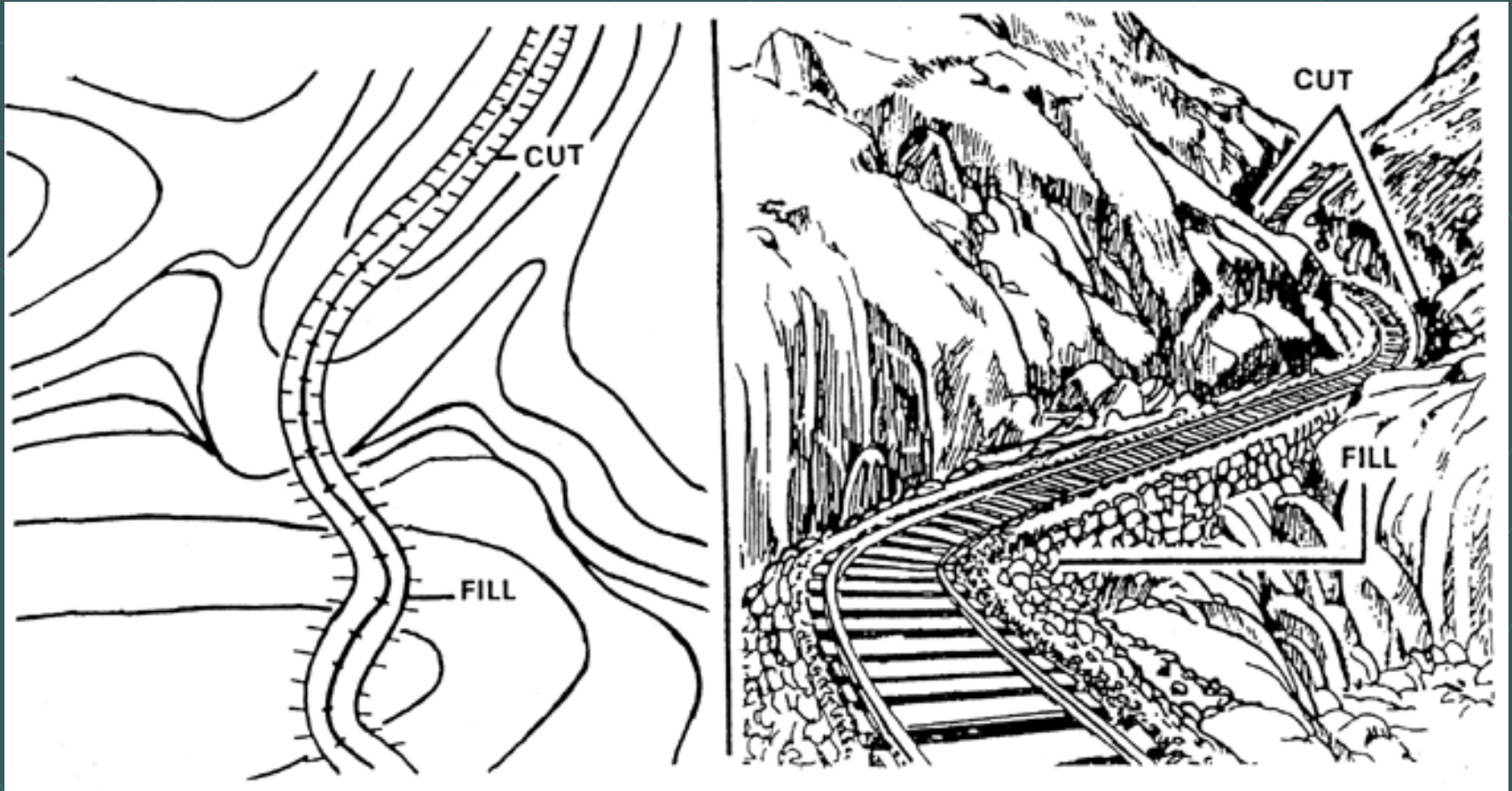


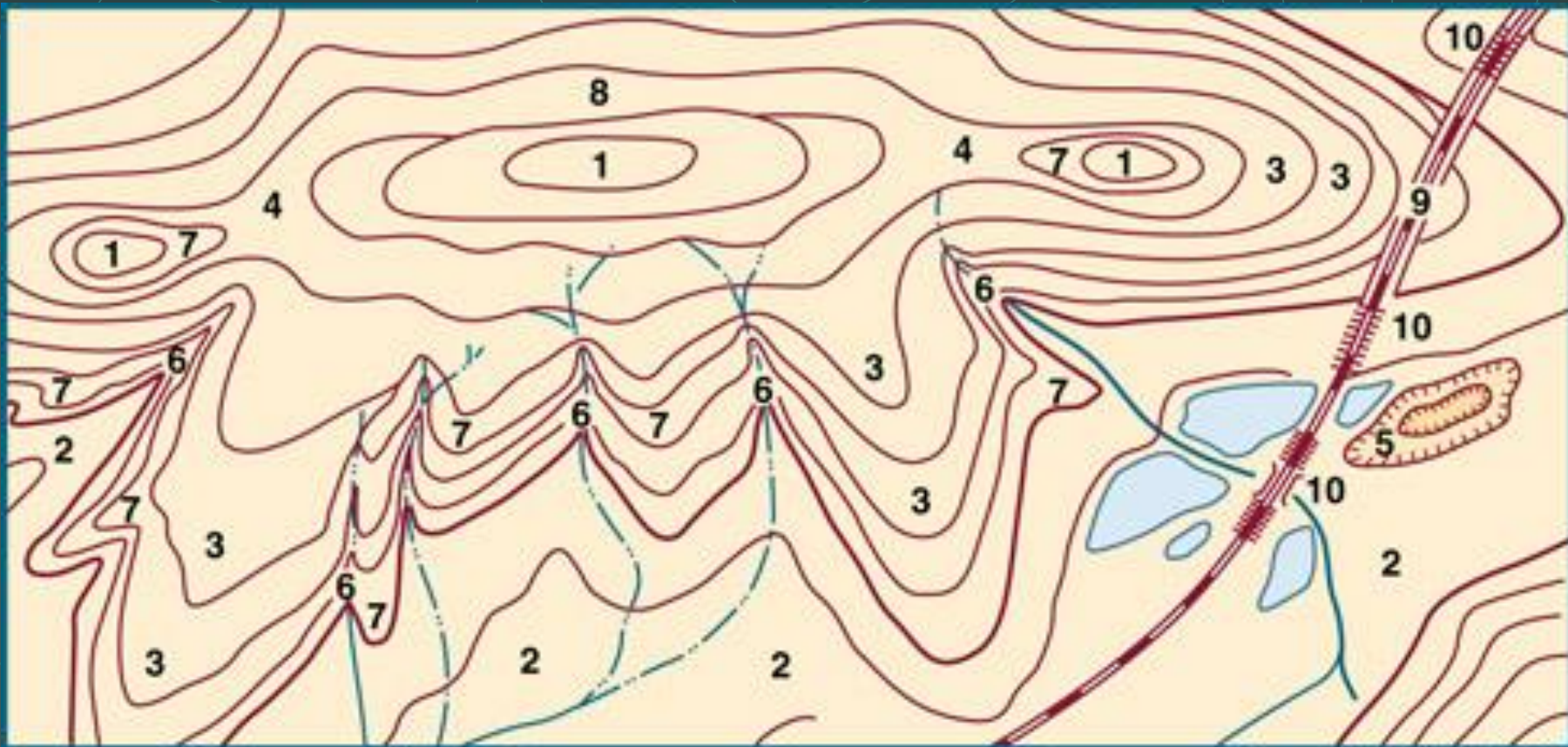
# Cliff



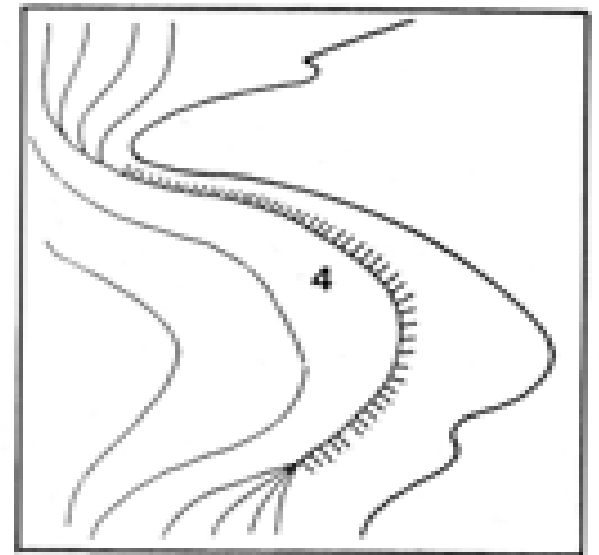
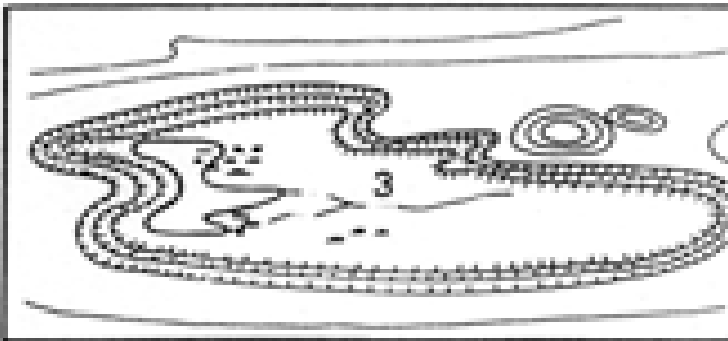
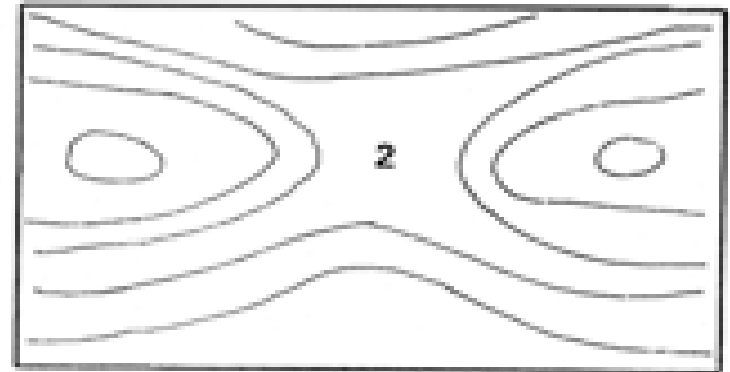
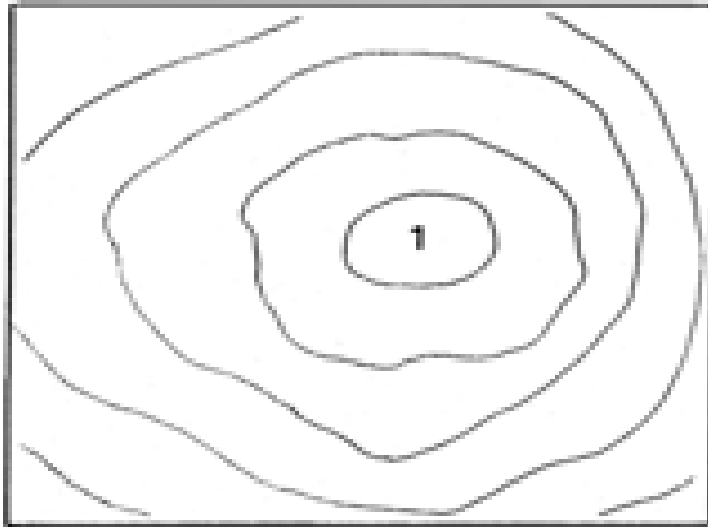


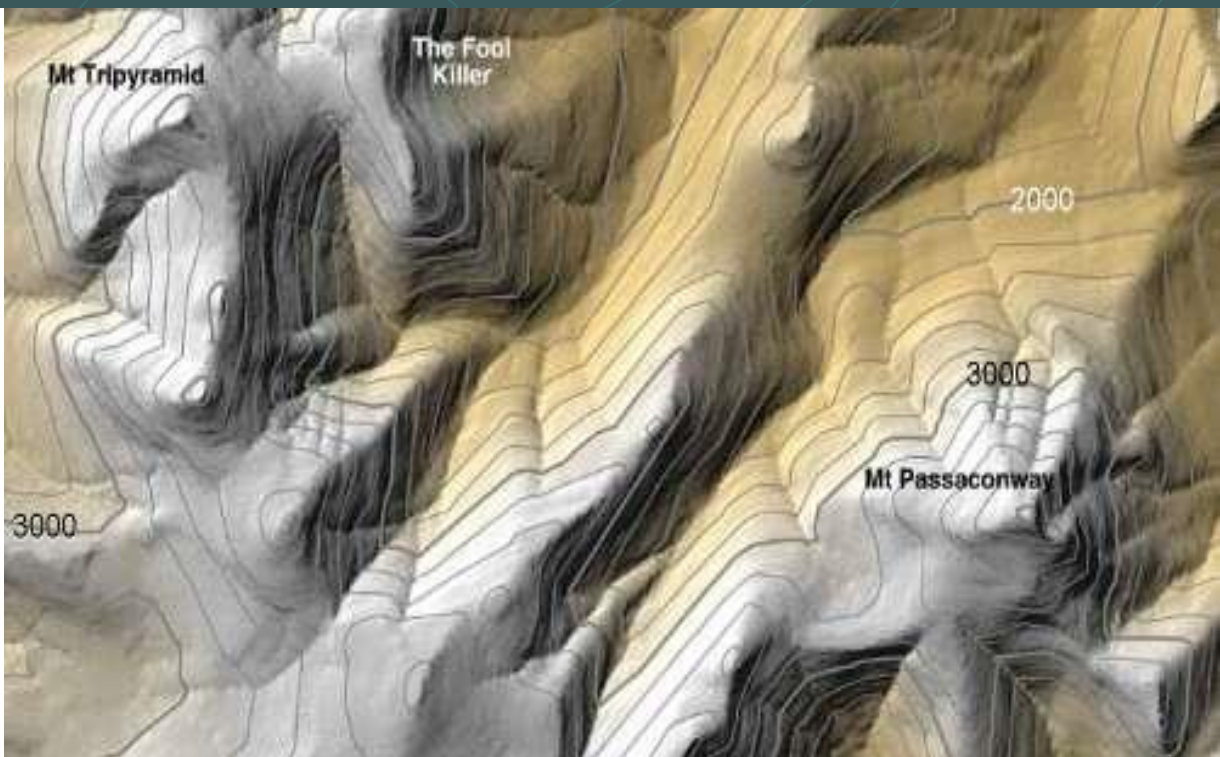
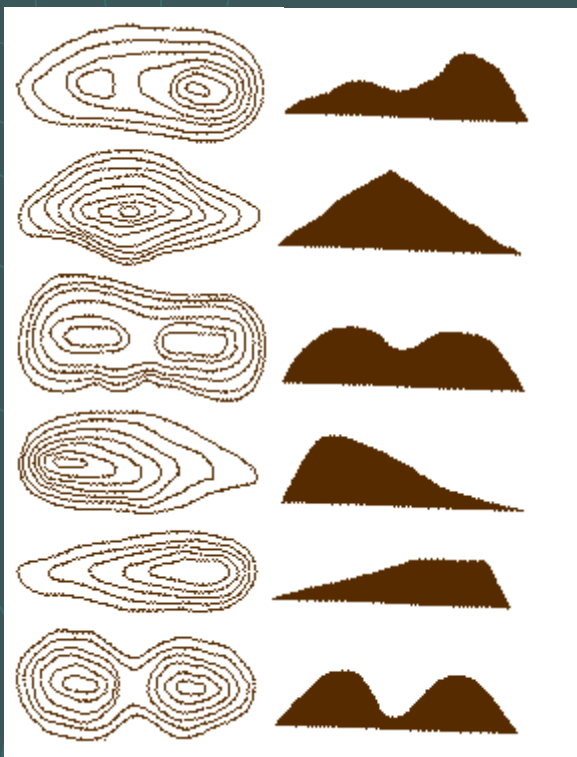
# Cut & Fill





- |           |           |               |          |          |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|
| 1. Hill   | 3. Ridge  | 5. Depression | 7. Spur  | 9. Cut   |
| 2. Valley | 4. Saddle | 6. Draw       | 8. Cliff | 10. Fill |





A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines, a grid, and a yellow line.

# **Grid Systems**

## **UTM / MGRS**

### **And**

## **The US National Grid**

### **(USNG)**

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines, a grid, and a yellow line indicating a path or boundary.

# Discuss Grid Systems

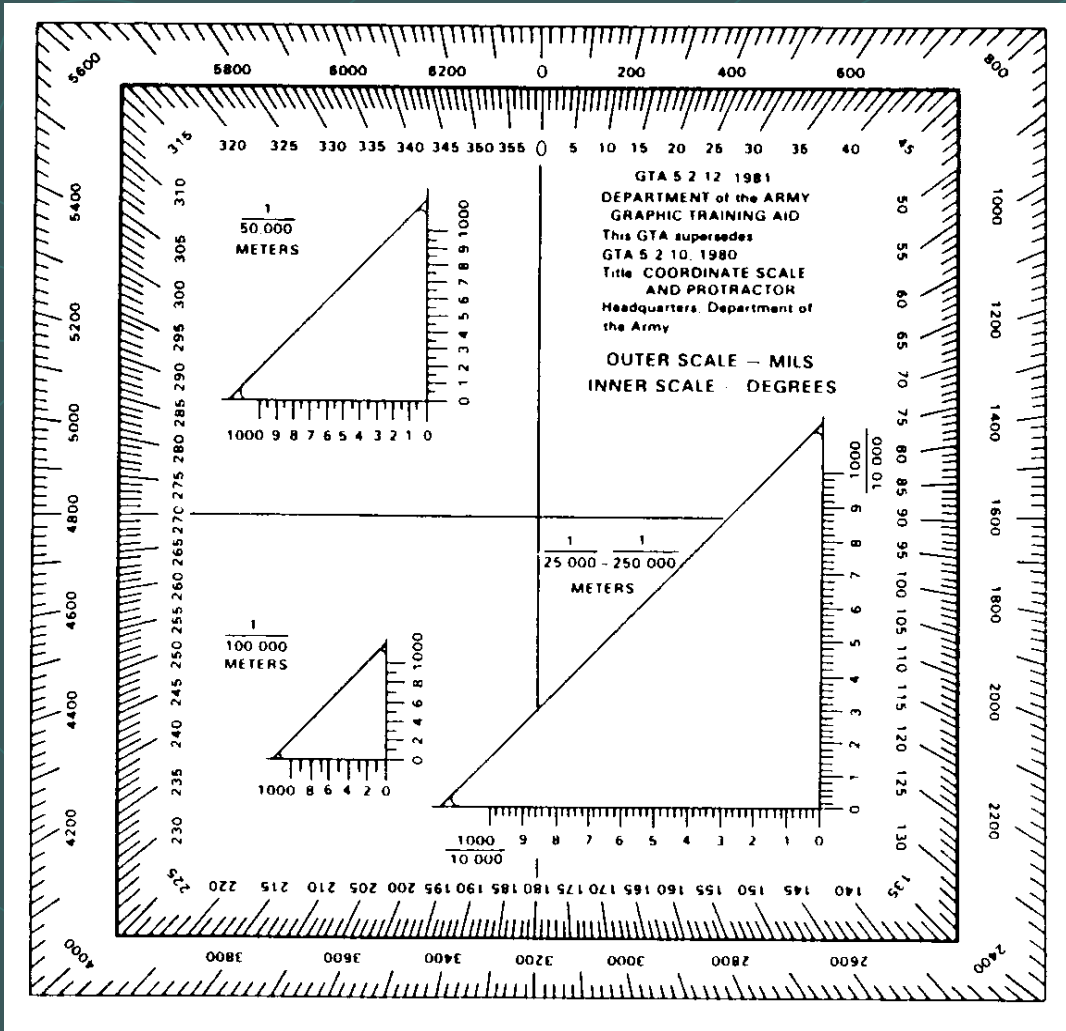
- Goal of unified UNGS.
- Practical Issues of Grid Systems and Actual SAR Missions.
- Older maps with pre-printed Grids with older Datum.
- Search teams and Command **MUST** be on the same system or nothing is accurate !!

A vertical strip of a topographic map is visible on the left side of the slide. It shows contour lines, a road, and some vegetation. The map is oriented vertically.

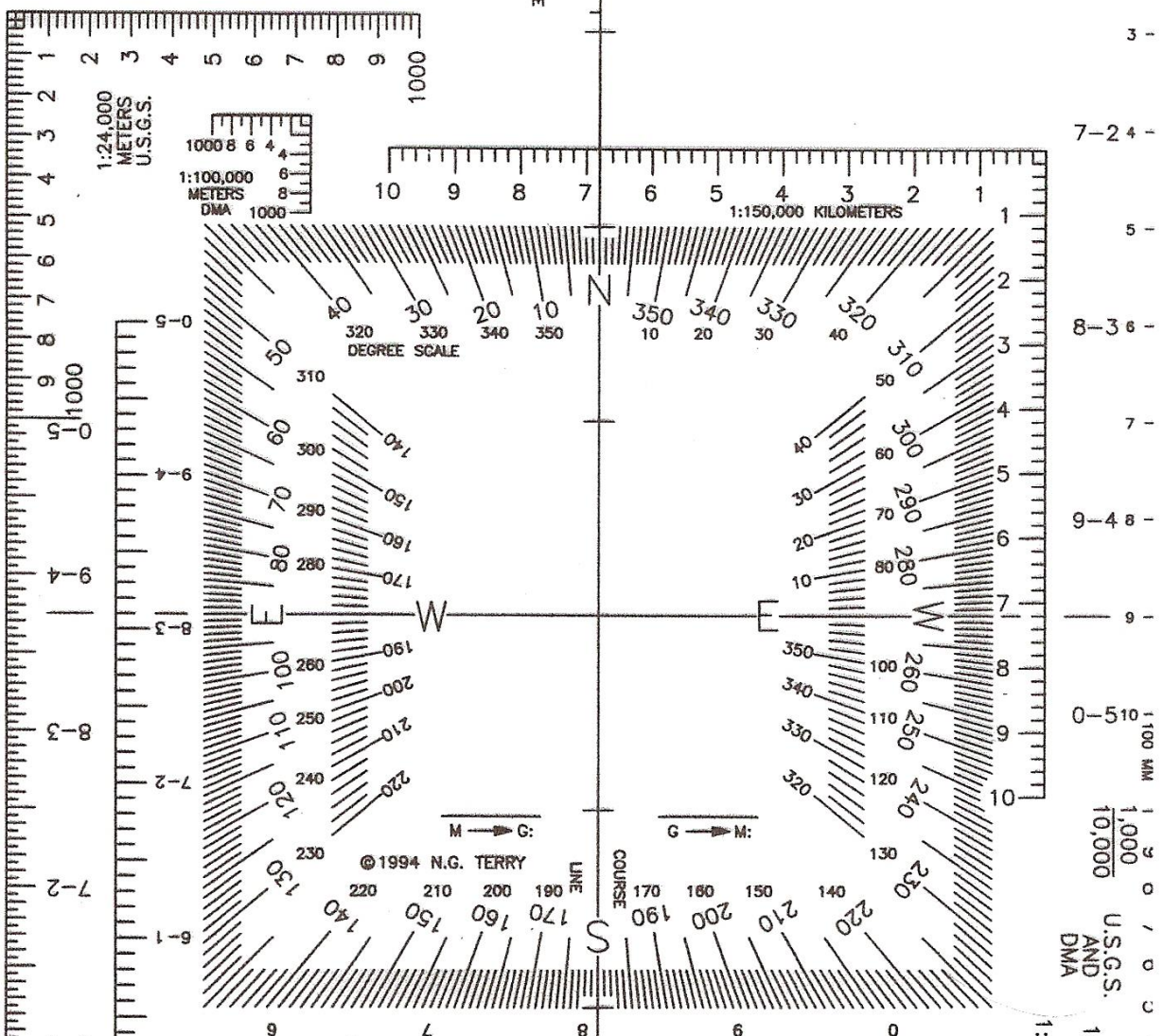
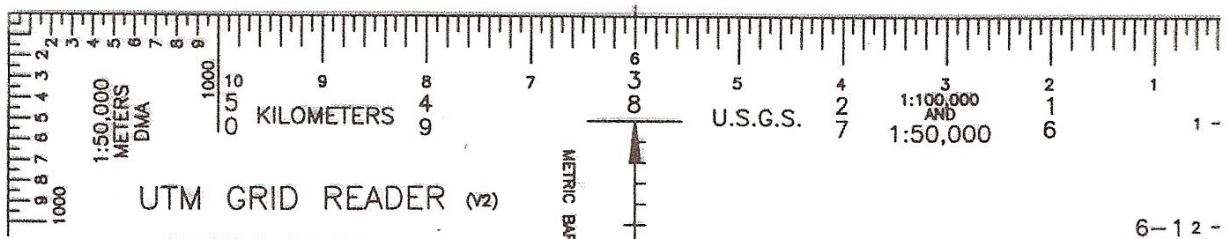
# This Exercise

- For this exercise, we're using MGRS with the older NAD27 Datum, in order to utilize pre gridded topo maps.
- For the field team, the principles of plotting MGRS / UTM coordinates is the same for the USNG coordinates.

# Protractors







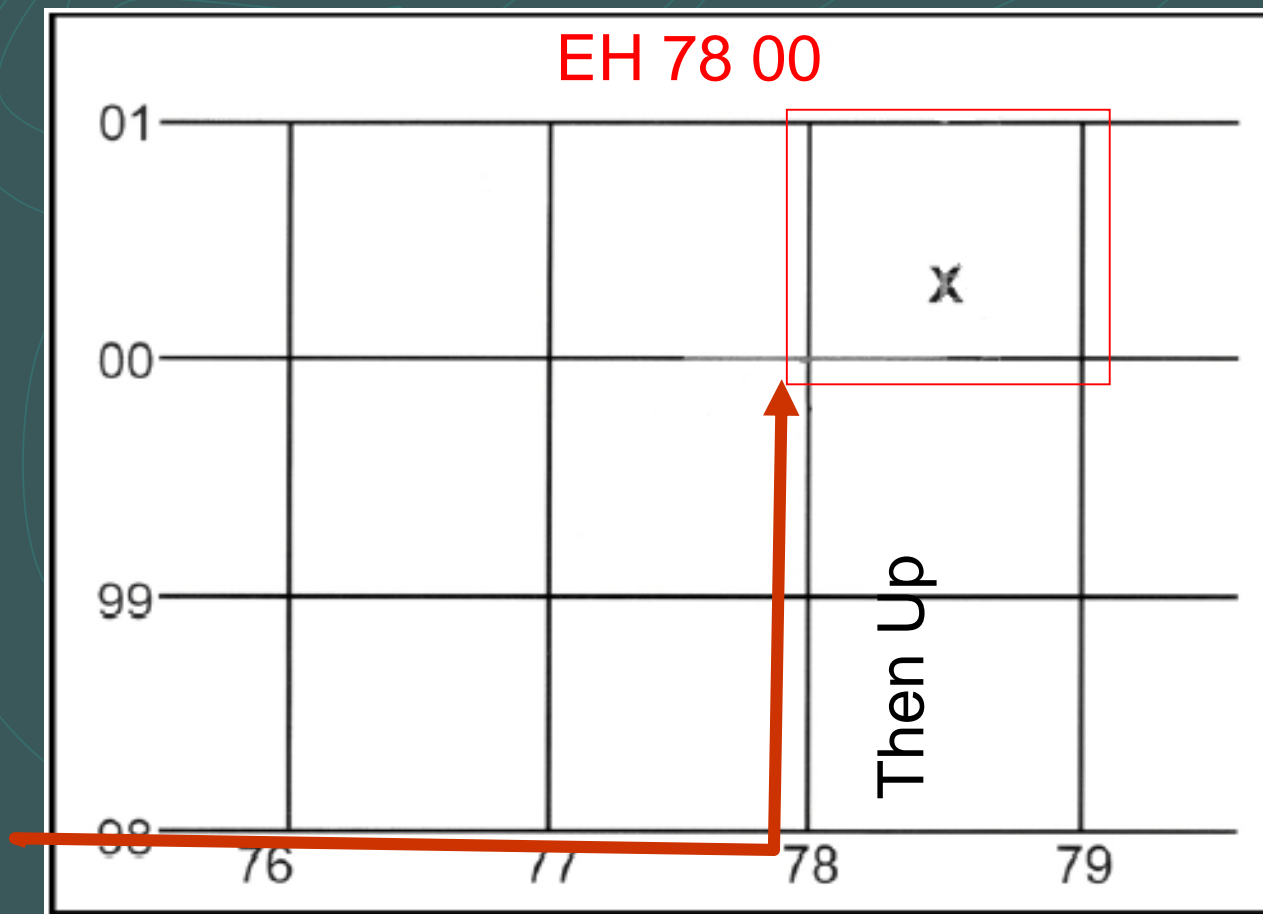
A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with a grid overlay. The map features contour lines, a river, and a grid of yellow and white lines. A yellow crosshair is visible on the grid.

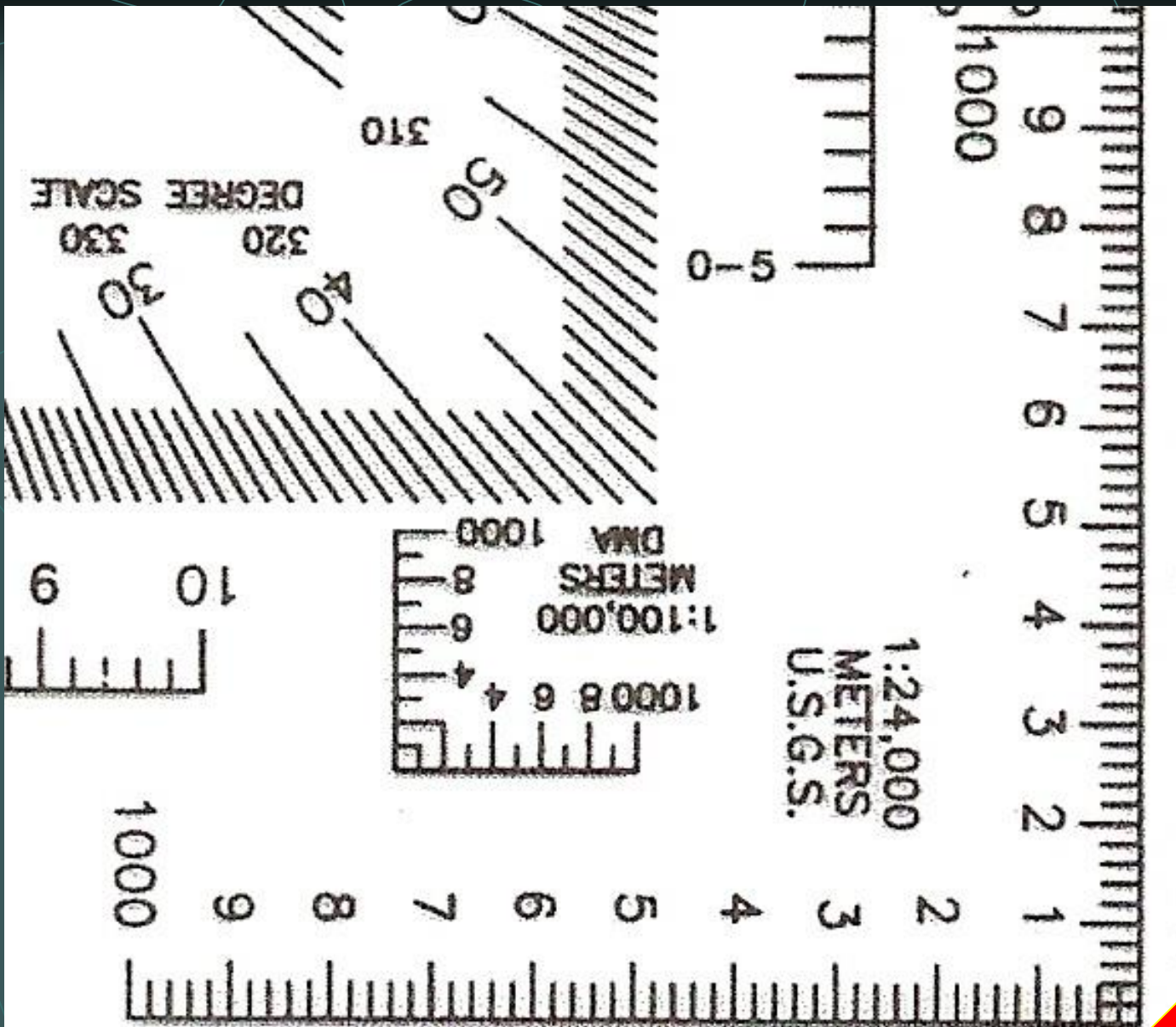
# Determining UTM Grid Coordinates

- Select the correct scale on the protractor.
- Place the horizontal scale on the grid line with the “0 mark” at the lower left-hand corner of the grid square.
- Slide scale right into until the vertical scale intersects the center of your plot point.
- Read right then read up

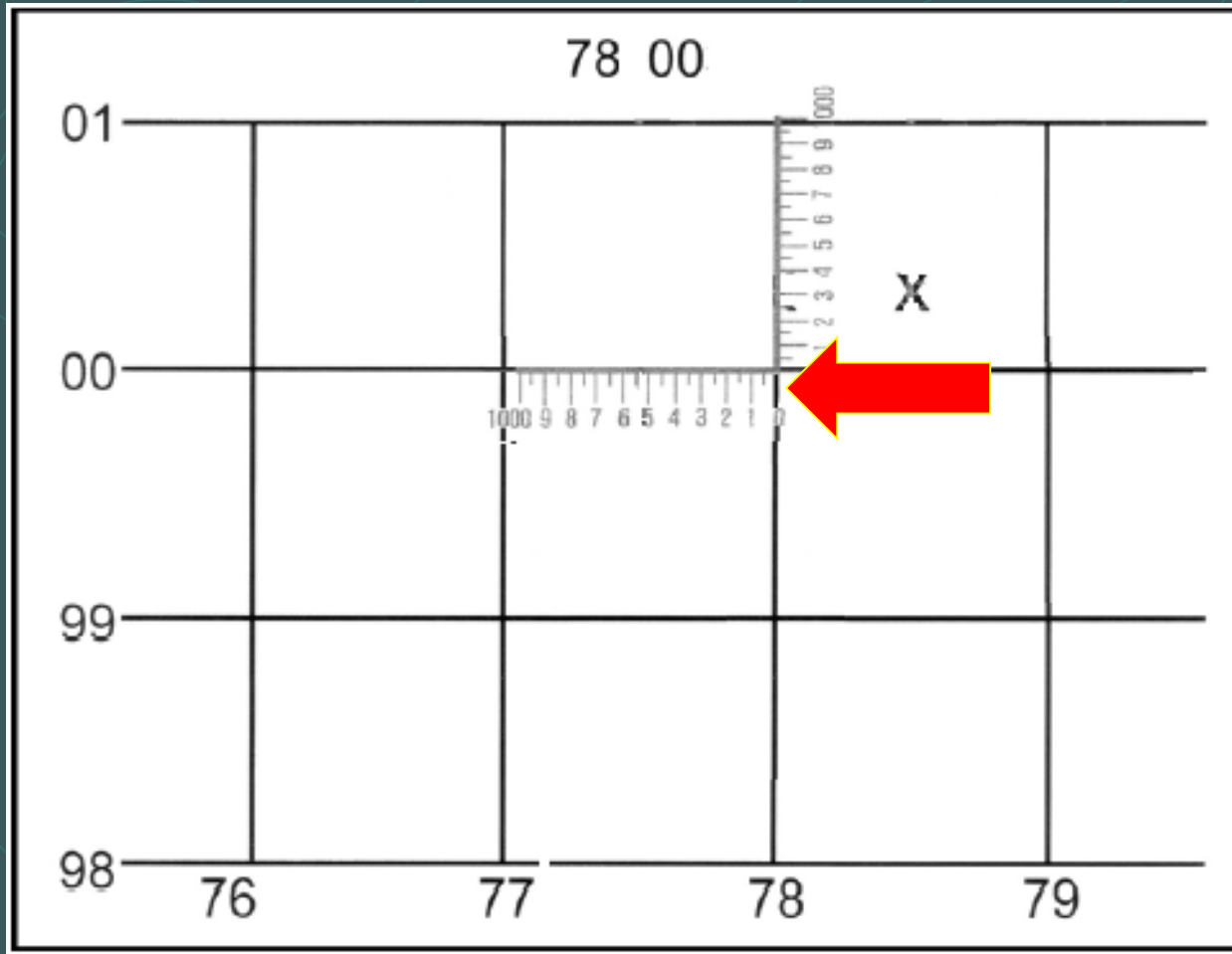
# 4 Digit Grid Coordinates (1000 Meters)

78 00



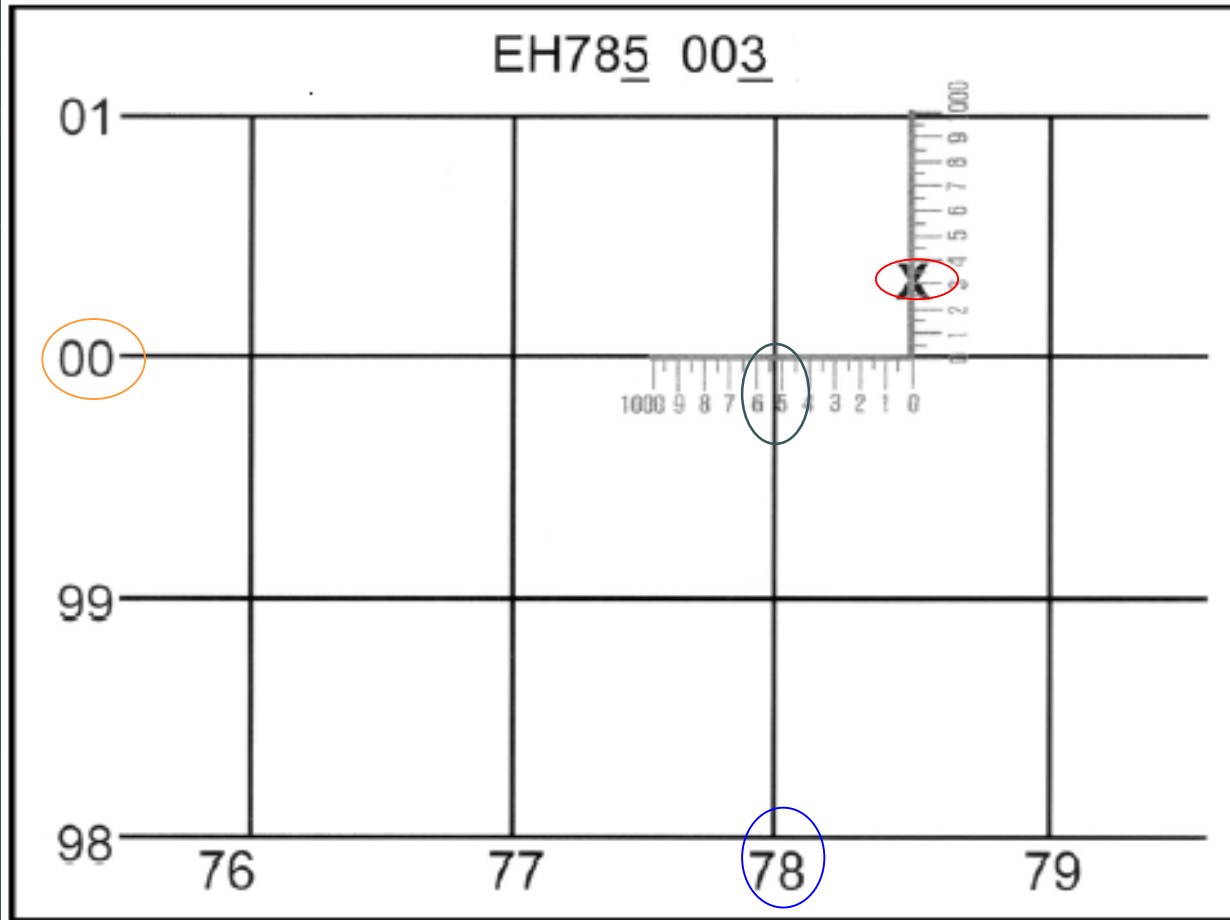


# Zero "0" Mark



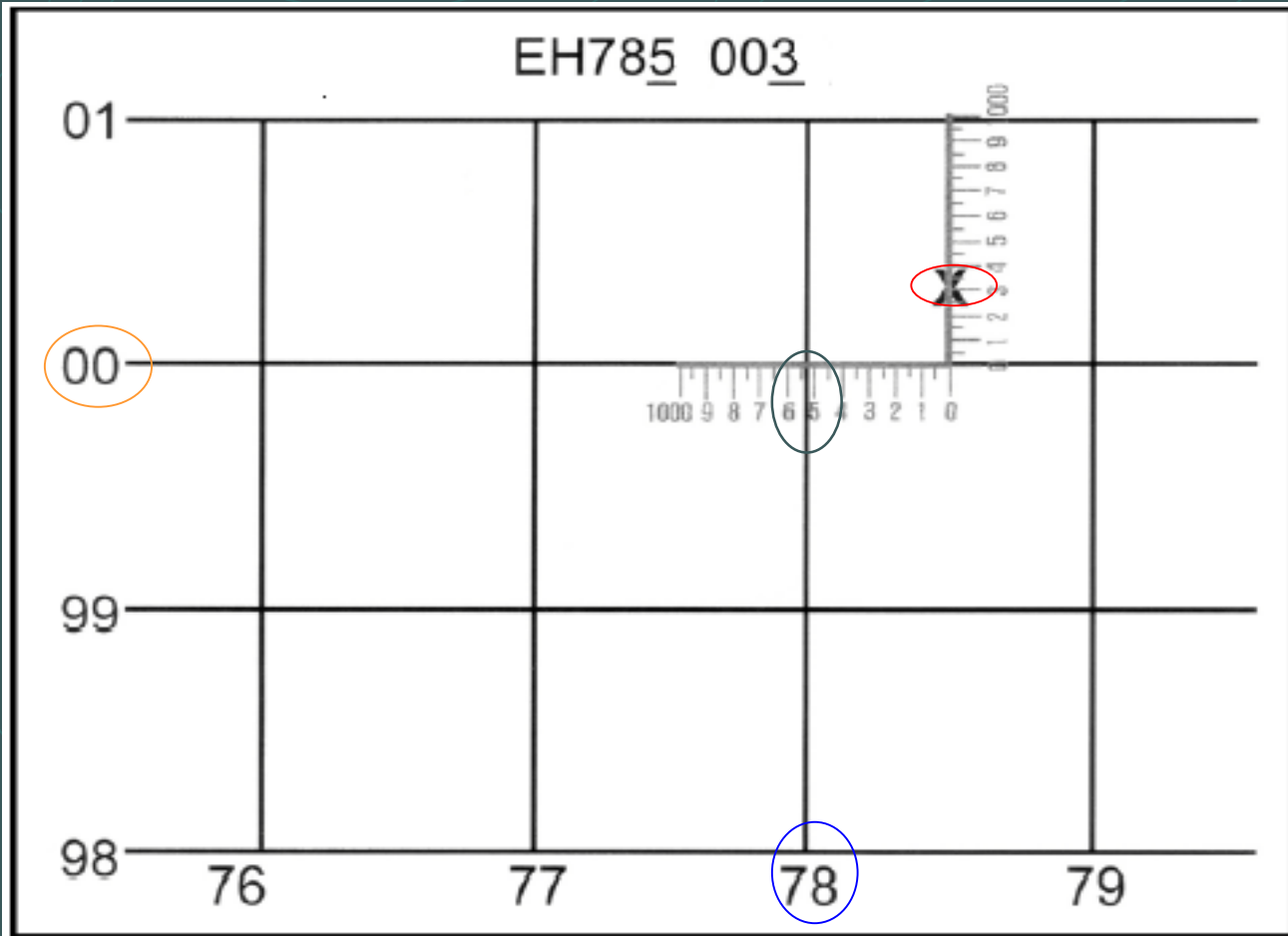
# 6 Digit Grid Coordinates (100 Meters)

785003

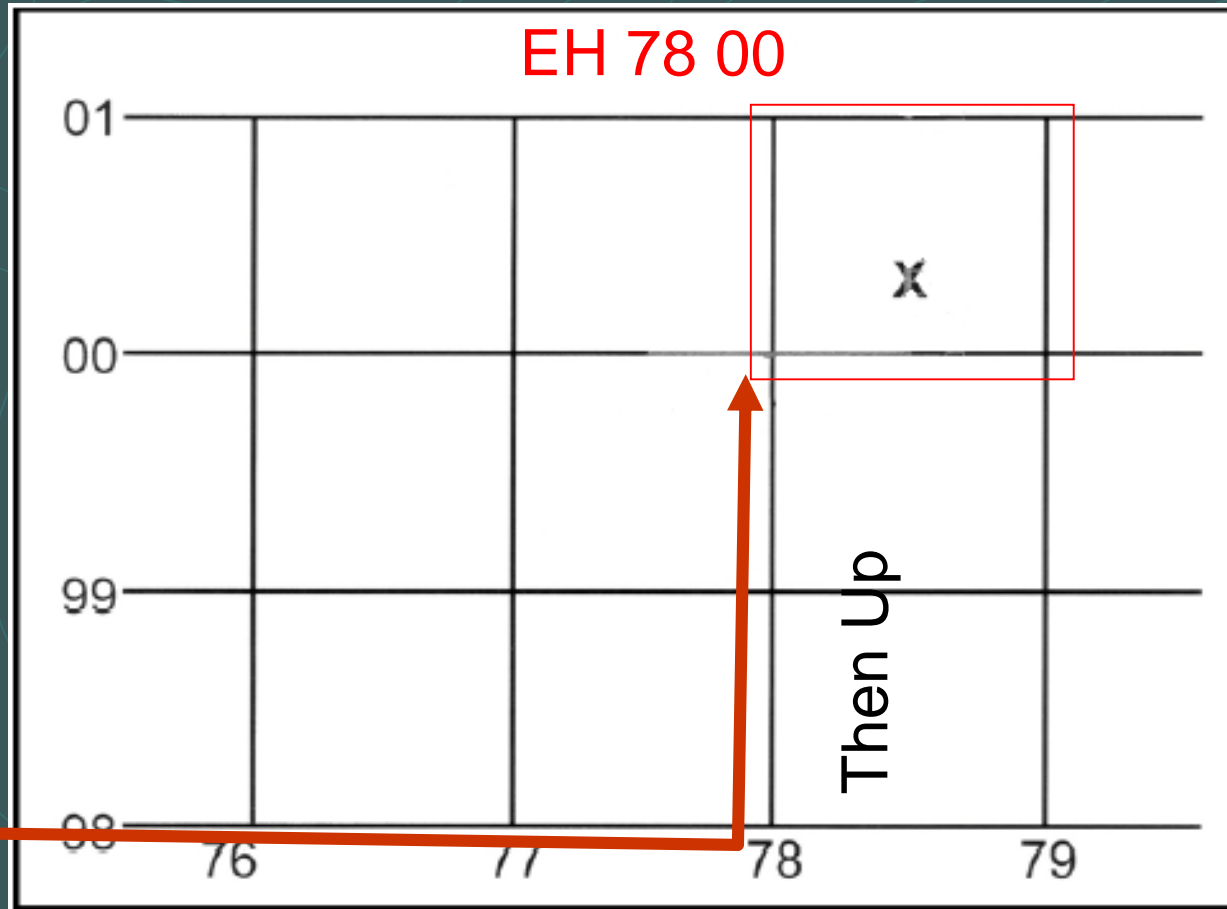


# 8 Digit Grid Coordinates (10 Meters)

78530032

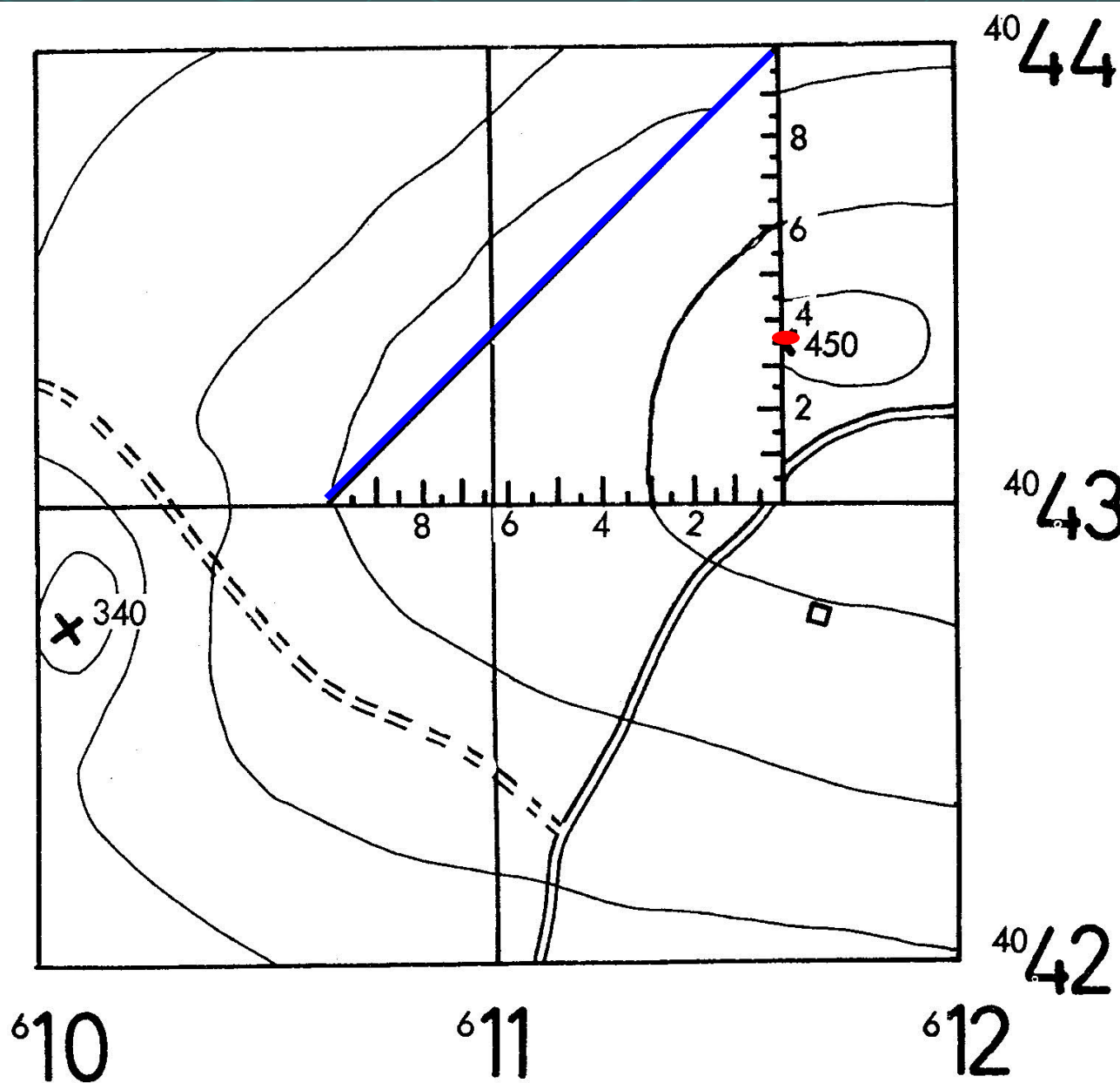


# 4 Digit Grid Coordinates (1000 Meters)





# What is the 4, 6 and 8 digit UTM?



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines, a yellow path, and a red line. The rest of the slide has a dark teal background with faint, light blue contour lines.

# Distance Measurement

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines, a road network, and a yellow line indicating a path. The background of the slide is a dark teal color with faint, light blue contour lines.

# Distance Determination

- Straight Line Distance
- Road / Curved Path Distance



# Azimuth Plotting



# Azimuths

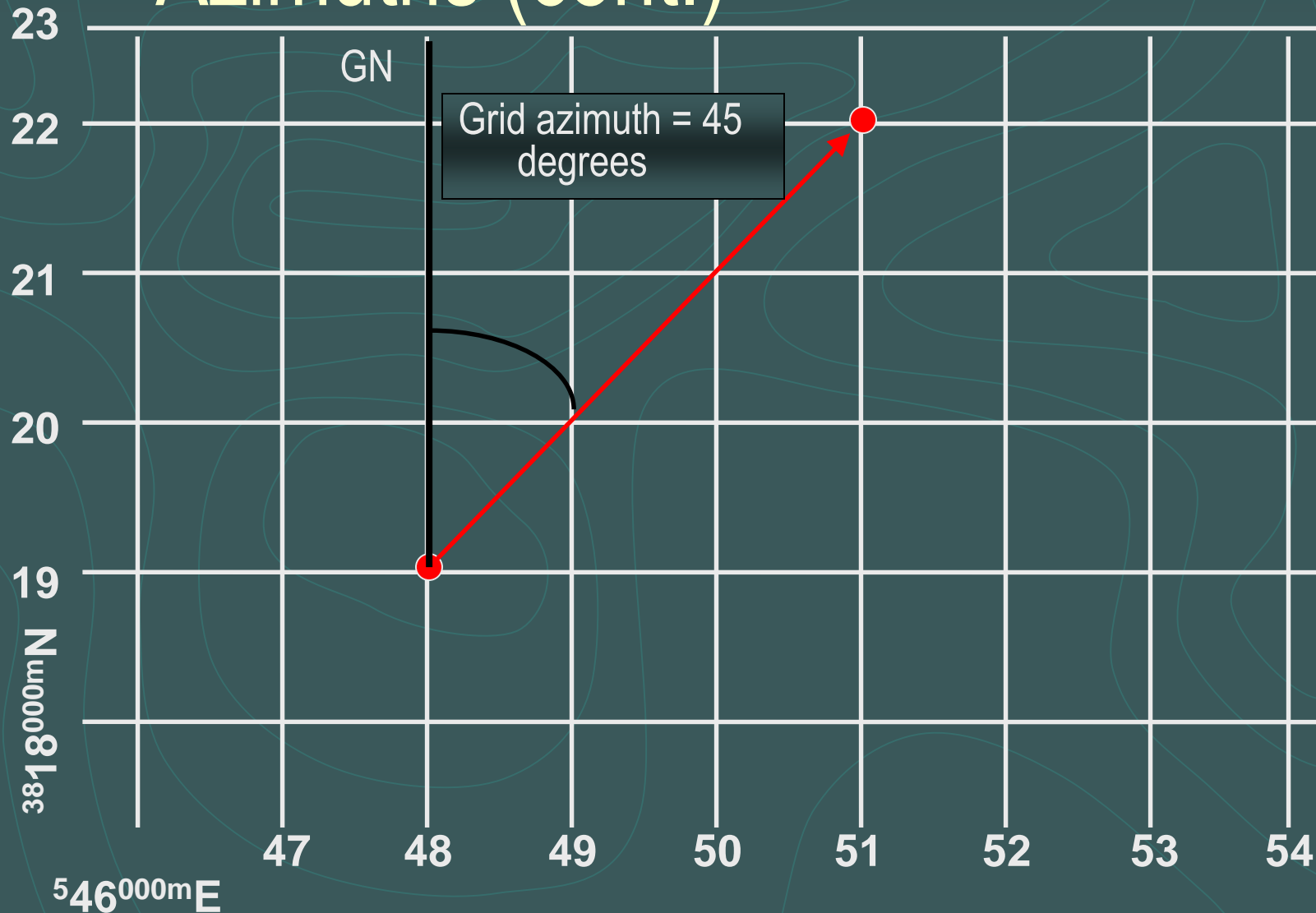
- An azimuth is a direction
- Defined as a horizontal angle measured clockwise from a baseline
- There are two types dealt with
  - magnetic azimuths measured with true north as its base
  - grid azimuths measures with grid north as base



# Measuring Azimuths

- Plot two coordinates on the map
- Connect them with a straight line
- Place the index point of the protractor on the point the azimuth is to be measured from
- Ensure the protractor grid lines are parallel to N-S gridlines on a map
- Where the line crosses the protractor indicates azimuth

# Azimuths (cont.)





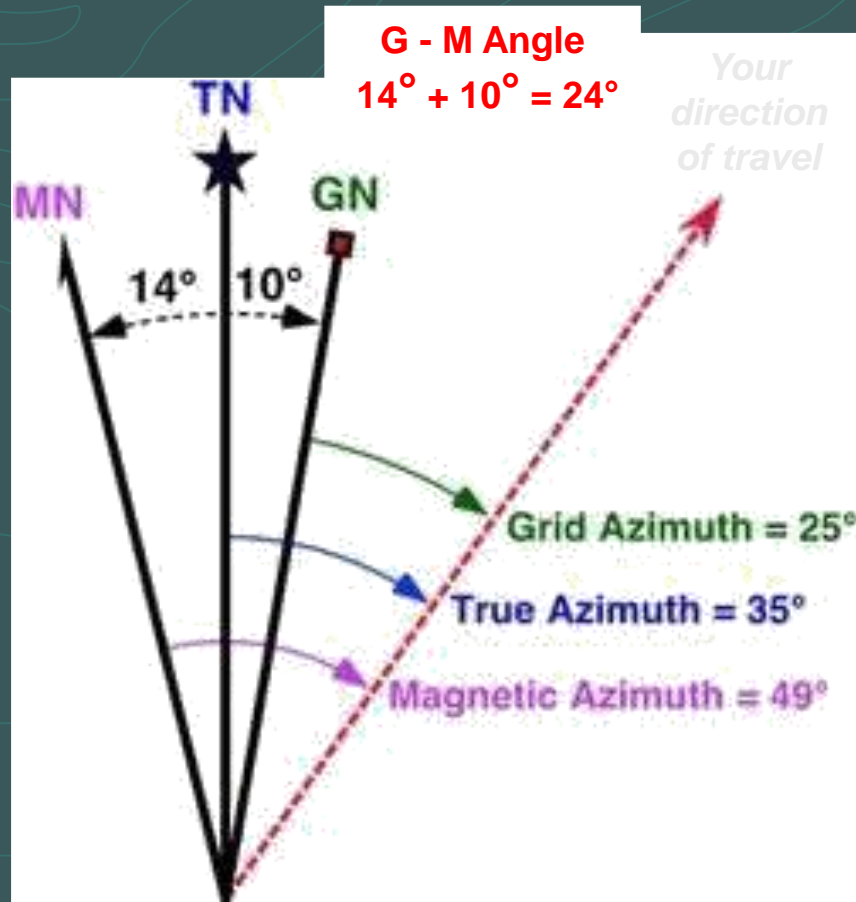
## Map Information – Direction

- **True North.** A line from any point on the earth's surface to the north pole. Is represented by a star.
- **Magnetic North.** The direction to the north magnetic pole, as indicated by the north-seeking needle of a magnetic compass. The magnetic north is usually symbolized by a line ending with half of an arrowhead.
- **Grid North.** The north that is established by using the vertical grid lines on the map. Symbolized by the letters GN. Used for UTM grid by military and rescue teams for its accuracy and simplicity.



# Map Information – Direction

**G-M ANGLE.** The angular difference between GN and MN.





# Map Information – Direction

Why do we need to know all this?

So that we can navigate using a **map**, the **ground** (we often forget the ground is important) and **compass**.

You cannot follow a GN with a compass; nor can you plot a MN with a protractor. To assist you in making the conversion from MN to GN, and vice versa, a declination diagram is placed on the map margin.

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a portion of a topographic map with contour lines, a grid, and a yellow line.

## Map Information – Direction

Remember the following.

When using a **map** - use a protractor to measure **GRID** Bearings. Do not use the compass magnetic needle.

*(unless map has MN Lines Drawn on it)*

When using the **ground** – use a **Compass** to Measure **MAGNETIC** Bearings.

With GN and G-M ANGLE you can find the MN.

With MN and G-M ANGLE you can find the GN.



# Converting Azimuths

- Use the GM angle to convert grid to magnetic and magnetic to grid
- When going from Grid to Magnetic (our area)
  - LARS ( Left Add/ Right Subtract)
- Magnetic to Grid
  - LSRA (Left Subtract/Right Add)

# Map Information – Direction

## CONVERSION (example 1)

**G - M Angle**  
 $14 + 10 = 24^\circ$

**Your  
Direction  
of Travel**

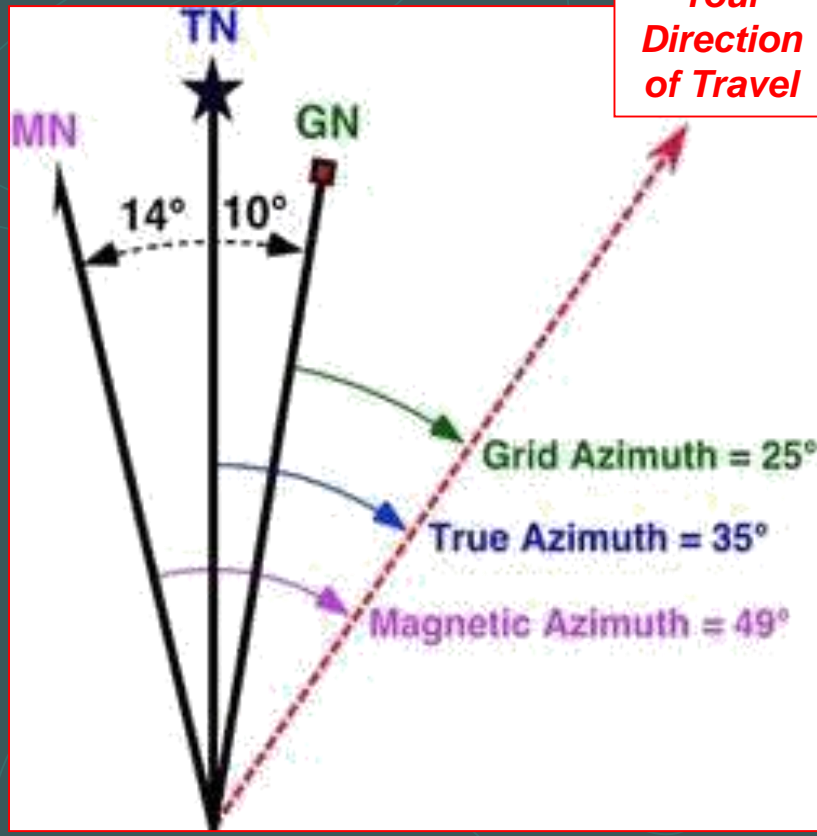
### HOW?

*From map to compass (GRID to MAGNETIC).*

1. You measure the bearing of a point on the map with a protractor. It is  $25^\circ$  GN.
2. The G-M ANGLE on the Map is  $24^\circ$
3. So GN to MN ADD  $25^\circ + 24^\circ = 49^\circ$  MN (Put this on your compass)

*From compass to map (MAGNETIC TO GRID)*

1. You measure the bearing of a landmark on the ground with a compass. It is  $49^\circ$  MN.
2. The G-M ANGLE on the Map is  $24^\circ$
3. So MN to GN SUBTRACT  $49^\circ - 24^\circ = 25^\circ$  GN (Draw this on your map)

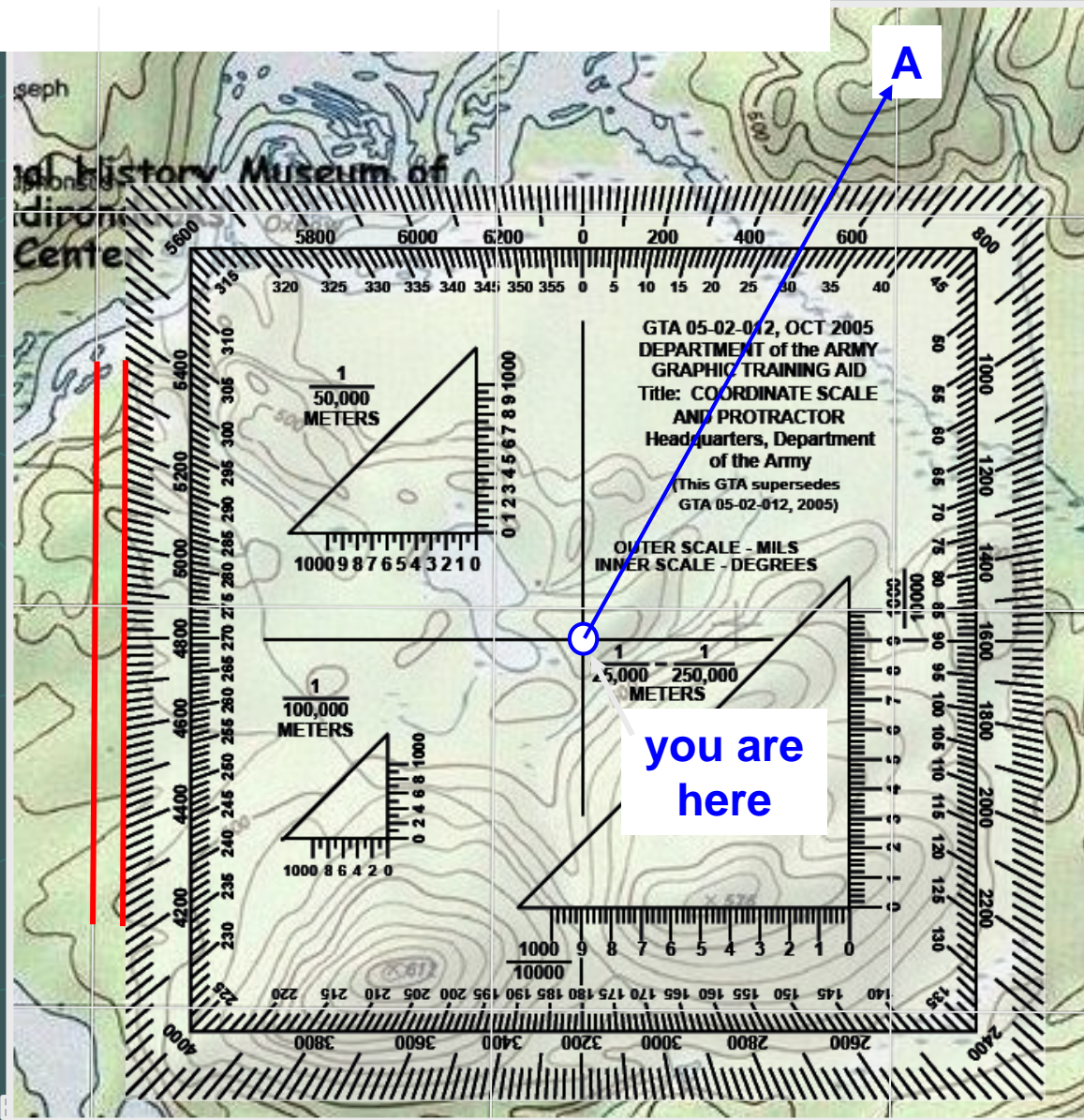


# Map Information – Direction

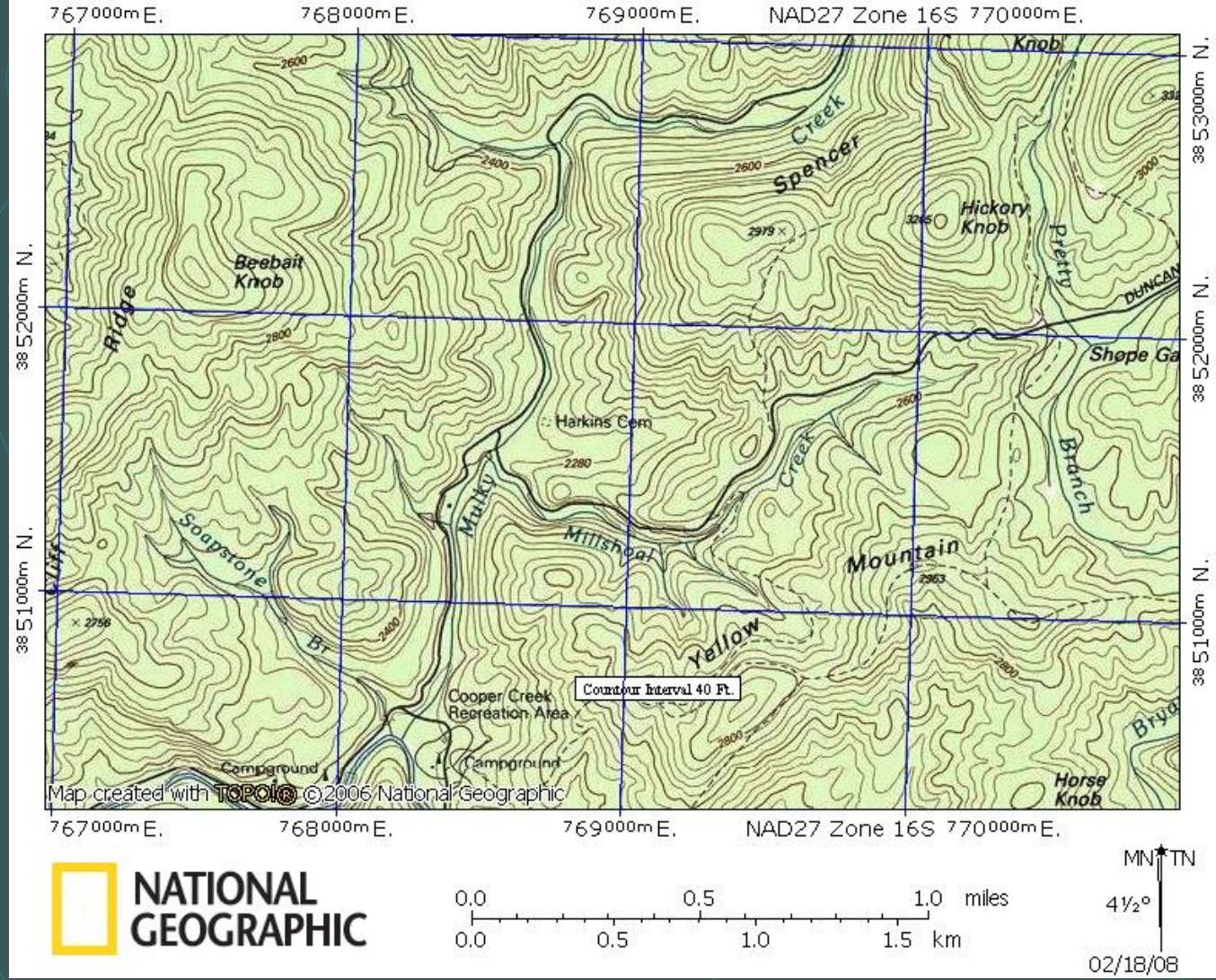
PROTRACTOR (with a protractor the map does NOT have to be oriented)

From **map** to **compass**.

1. You are in thick woods and cannot see any landmarks. But you decide to go to a hill (A) on the map.
2. With protractor **aligned** with GRID LINES drawn on the map and the center of the protractor aligned on your map position (**you are here**).
3. You see that the azimuth is **29°**
4. Convert this to MN azimuth and put this on your compass.



TOPO! map printed on 02/18/08 from "Harkins Cemetary.tpo"



# Advanced Techniques





A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines, a yellow path, and a red crosshair. The rest of the slide has a dark teal background with faint, light blue contour lines.

# Attack Points

- A clear, obvious point near the objective that you can use as a base for attacking (final leg of your navigation) it.
- Look for something clear, like a trail intersection or obvious terrain feature, not too far away.

# Handrails

- When possible try to make use of easy-to-follow linear features, such as trails, creeks, fences, or stone walls.



# Catching Feature

- You can use a large, easy-to-find feature beyond your target (“a catching point”) or on the way to your target (“a collecting point”) to help plan.

# Aiming Off

- You probably will drift off your bearing, particularly in open woods. A nice trick is to just accept this, look for a nice catching feature to one side of the target, and **DELIBERATELY AIM OFF**, so you hit that feature and then know which direction to turn for the final attack point to the target.

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a portion of a topographic map. It features contour lines, a grid, and a yellow line indicating a path or boundary. The map is partially cut off by the edge of the slide.

# Your Teams Mission

- You are located at UTM 67455212 (Point #1).
- What is the name of this location?
- What type of terrain feature is this?
- What is the elevation at this point?
- Your next point to recon is .....

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a portion of a topographic map. It features contour lines, a road, and a creek. Two points are marked: Pt 1 is a yellow crosshair on the road, and Pt 2 is a yellow crosshair on the creek. The background of the slide is a dark teal color with faint, light blue contour lines.

## UTM 68755322 (Pt 2)

- Describe this location?
- What is the map bearing from Pt 1 to Pt 2?
- What is the Magnetic Azimuth from Pt 1 to Pt 2?
- What is the distance from this point to the nearest hill top?
- How many creeks do you cross between Pt 1 and Pt 2?
- Your next point to recon is .....

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a portion of a topographic map with contour lines, a road, and a yellow line.


## UTM 69925466 (Pt 3)

- Describe this location?
- You take a magnetic bearing to the nearest hill West of your location. That bearing is 264 Deg. You decide to plot a bearing from your location to this hill. What is the bearing you will plot on the map?
- What is the map bearing from Pt 3 to Pt 2?
- Your next point to recon is .....

# UTM 70325394 (Pt 4)

- This point represents a campsite along a dirt road. Between the road and a creek.
- Your next point to recon is .....



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines, a grid, and a yellow line indicating a path. The map is partially cut off on the left edge.

## UTM 70575382 (Pt 5)

- Describe the terrain that this point is located on?
- What is the distance from Pt 4 to Pt 5?
- What is the elevation change from Pt 4 to Pt 5?
- Are you going up or down as you go from Pt 4 to Pt 5?
- Your next point to recon is .....

# UTM 71195254 (Pt 6)

- Describe this point?
- You see a large hill at magnetic azimuth of 267 Deg. What is the name of this hill?
- Your next point to recon is .....

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a portion of a topographic map. It features contour lines, a creek, and a road. A yellow crosshair is visible on the map, and a small red dot is marked near the creek.

## UTM 70615228 (Pt 7)

- Point 7 represents another remote campsite.
- How many meters to the nearest creek?
- What is the elevation of this campsite?
- Your next point to recon is .....



## UTM 69305230 (Pt 8)

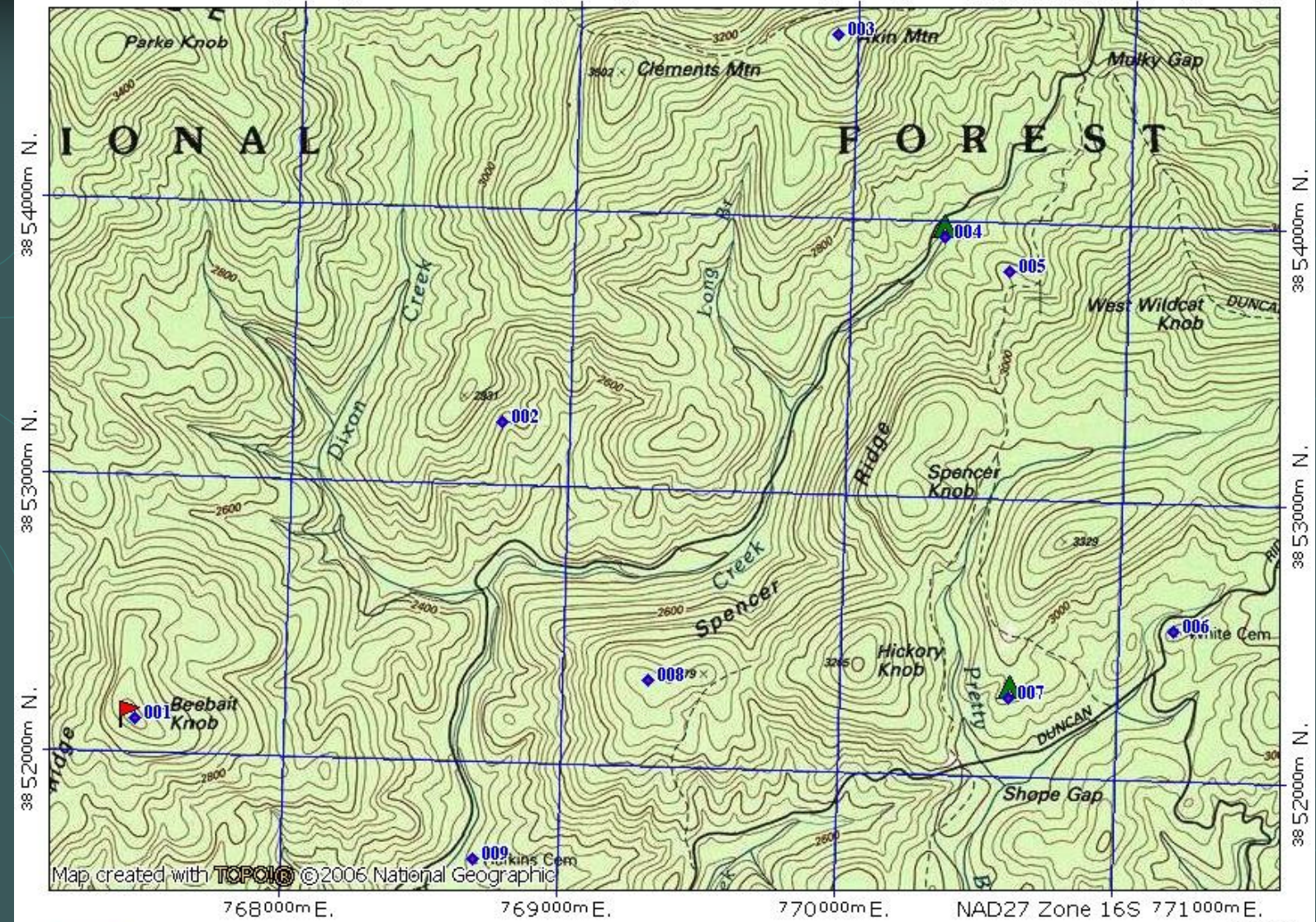
- What kind of terrain feature is this?
- What is the grid azimuth from Pt 7 to Pt8?
- Describe the trip if you follow this azimuth?
- Your last point to recon is .....

# UTM 68695164 (Pt 9)

- What is at this point?.
- From this point you travel 270 Deg grid azimuth until you hit a road. From that point, what is the road distance to Pt 4?
- Now the real fun begins.....this part sets the professionals from the wannabes.

# TOPO! map printed on 02/18/08 from "Harkins Cemetary.tpo"

768000m E, 769000m E, 770000m E, NAD27 Zone 16S 771000m E.

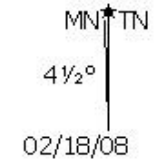
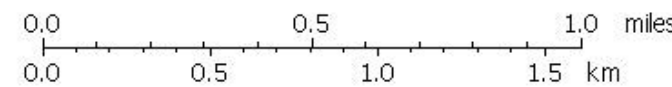


38 54000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 52000m N.

38 54000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 52000m N.

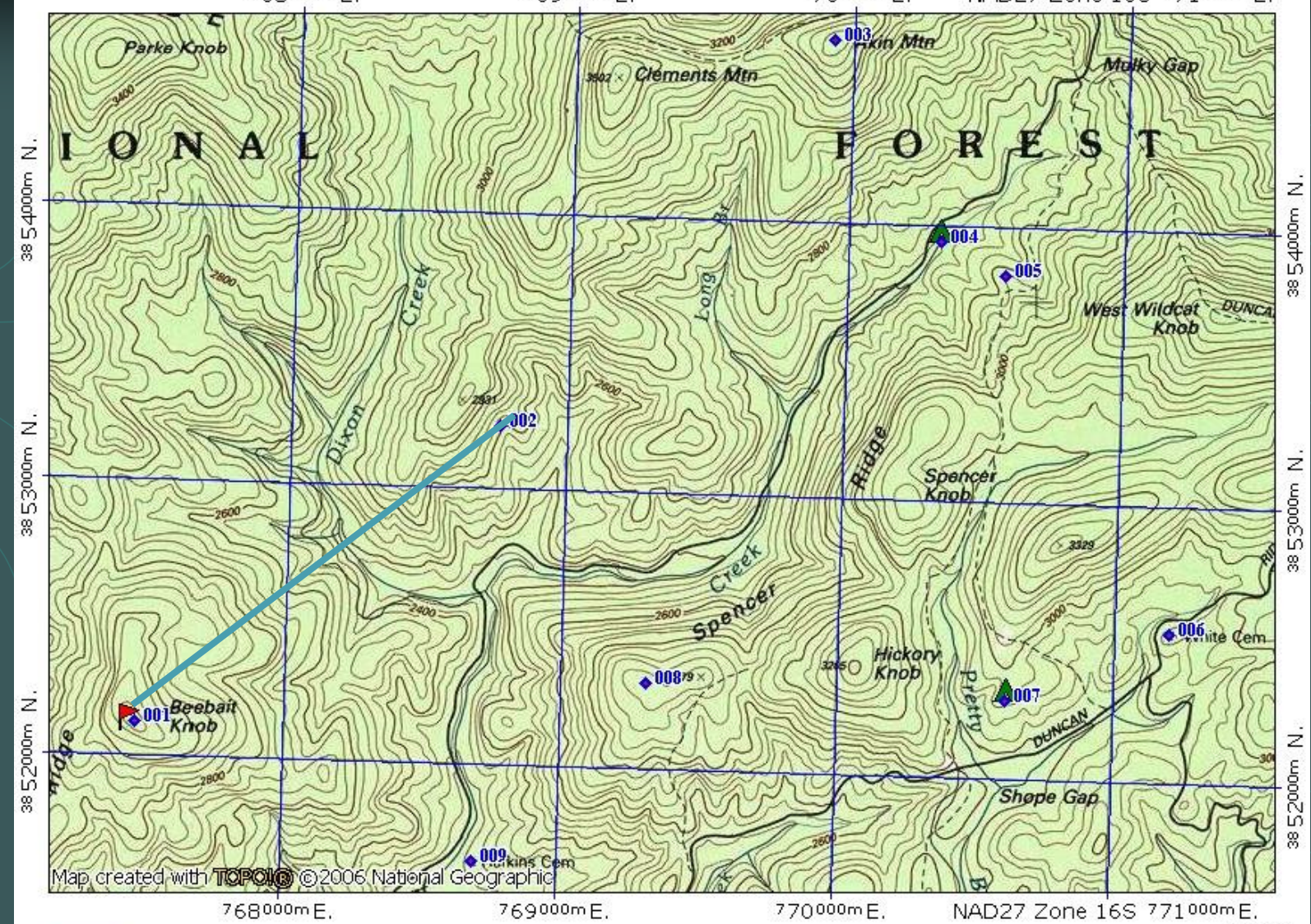
Map created with **TOPOLIC** ©2006 National Geographic

768000m E, 769000m E, 770000m E, NAD27 Zone 16S 771000m E.

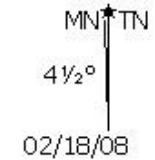
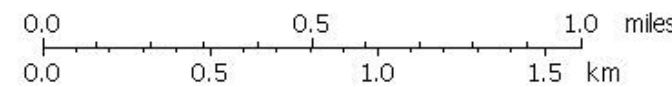


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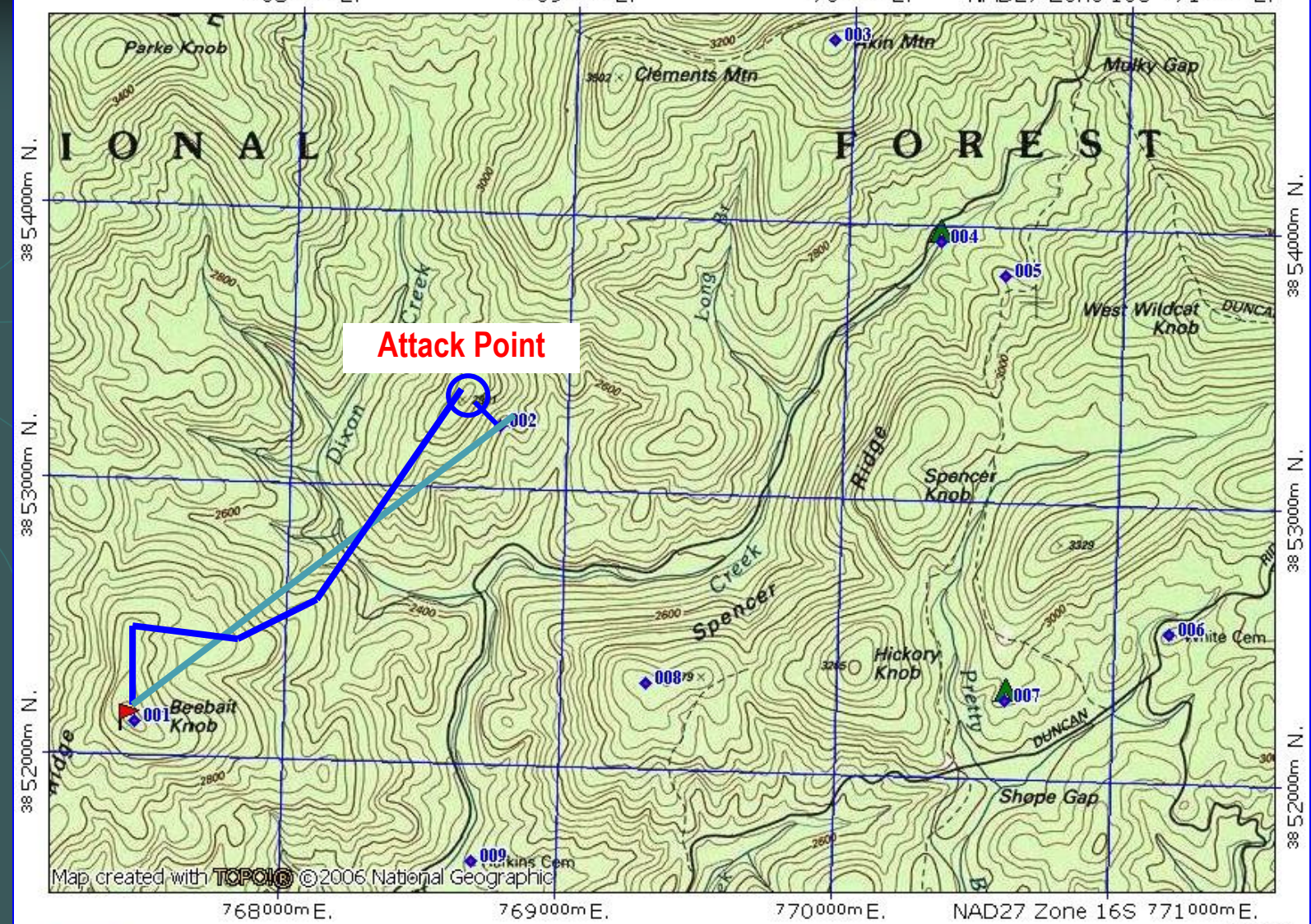


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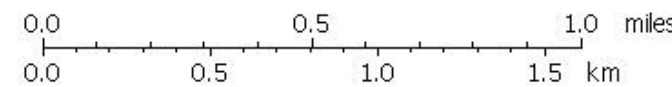


38 54000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 52000m N.

38 54000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 52000m N.

Map created with **TOPOLIC** ©2006 National Geographic

768000m E, 769000m E, 770000m E, NAD27 Zone 16S 771000m E.



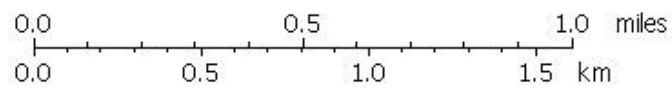


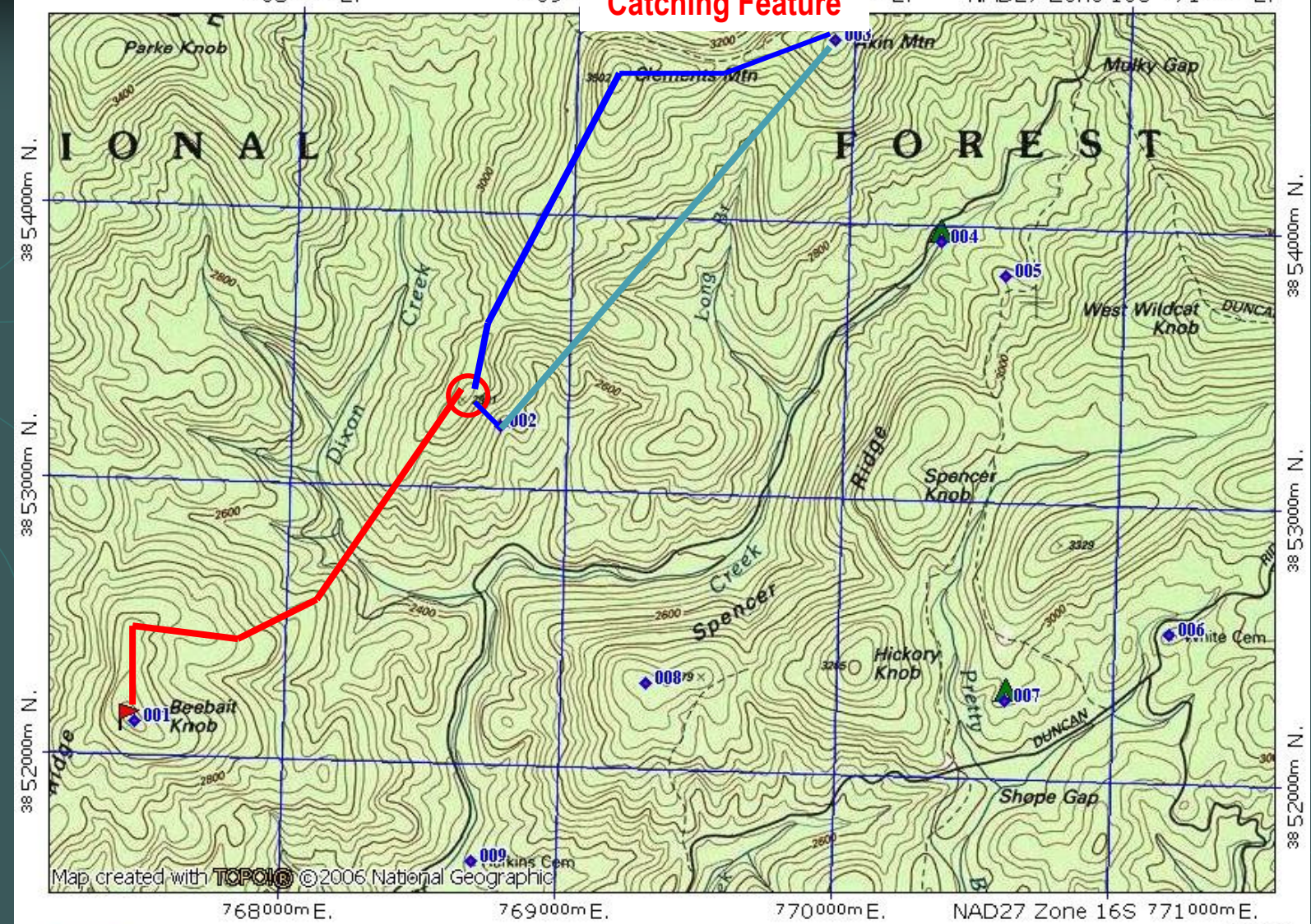
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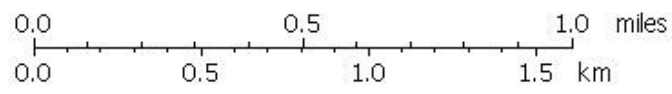


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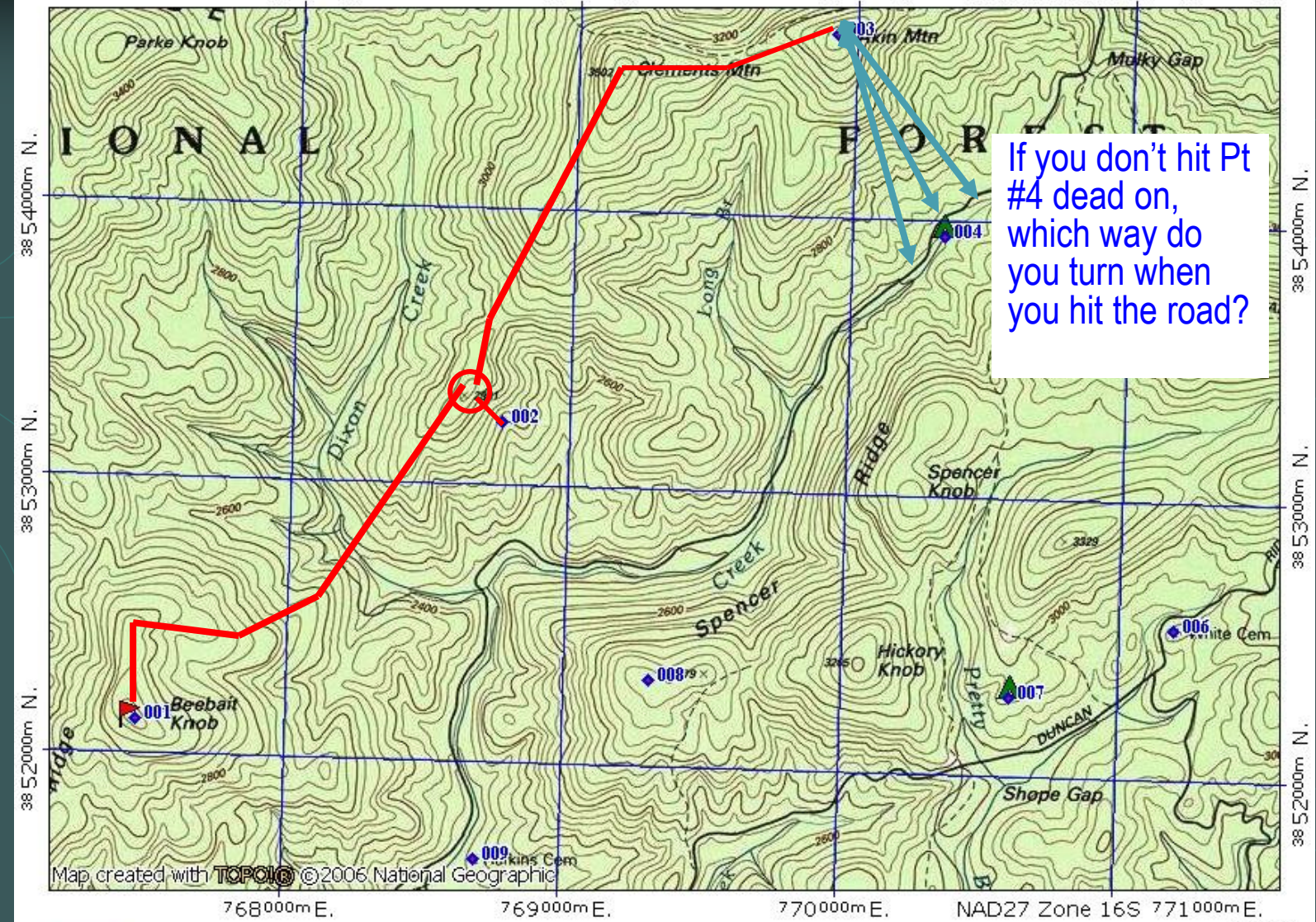


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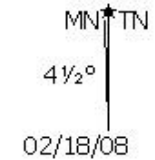
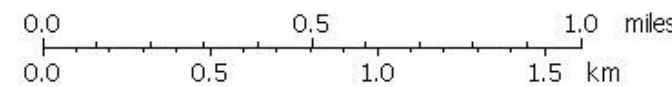
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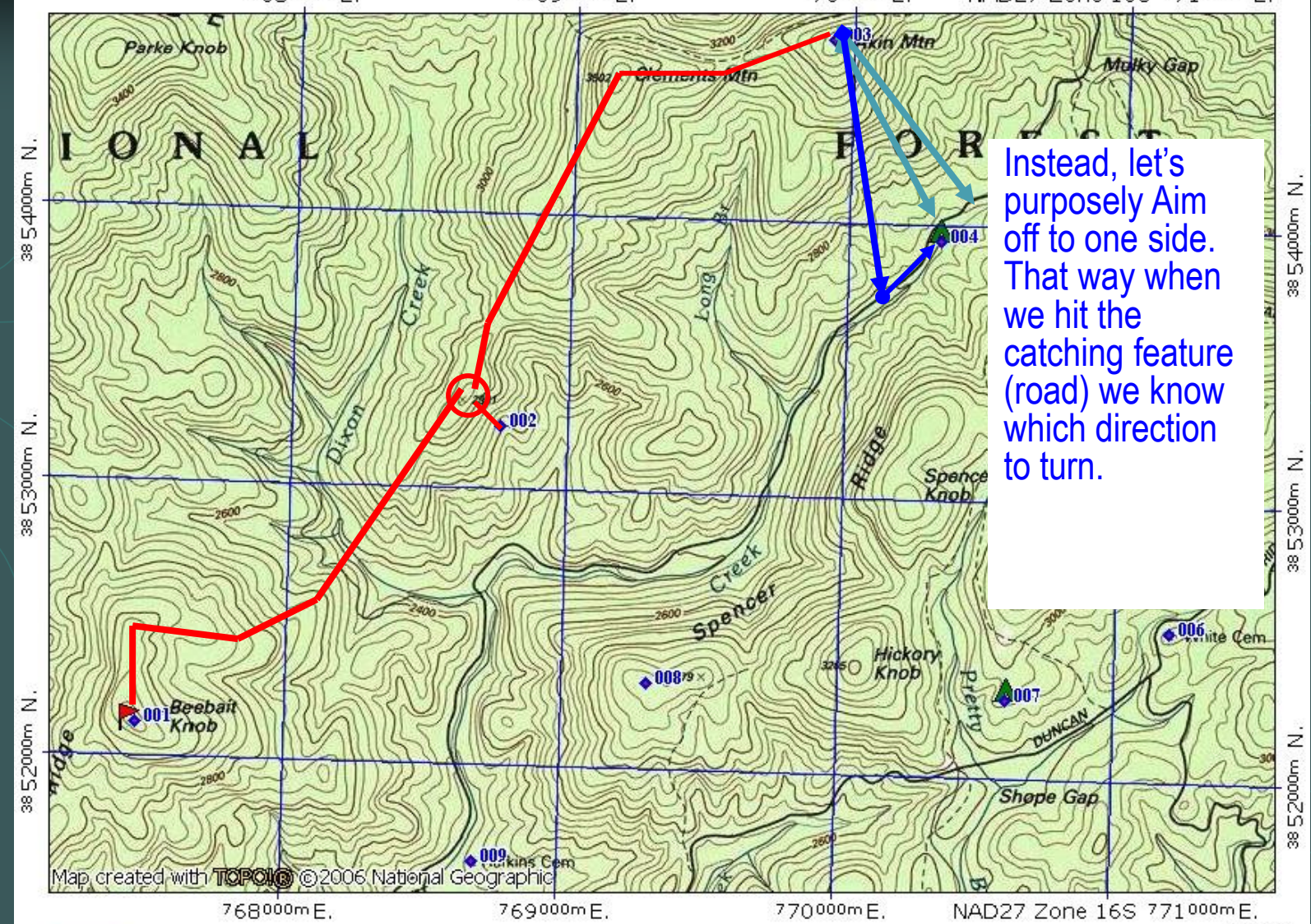
If you don't hit Pt #4 dead on, which way do you turn when you hit the road?

Map created with TOPO! © 2006 National Geographic

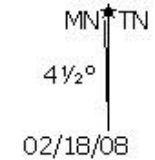
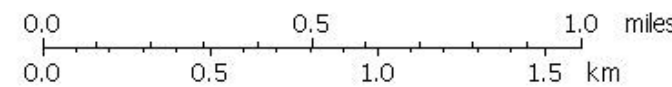


# TOPO! map printed on 02/18/08 from "Harkins Cemetery.tpo"

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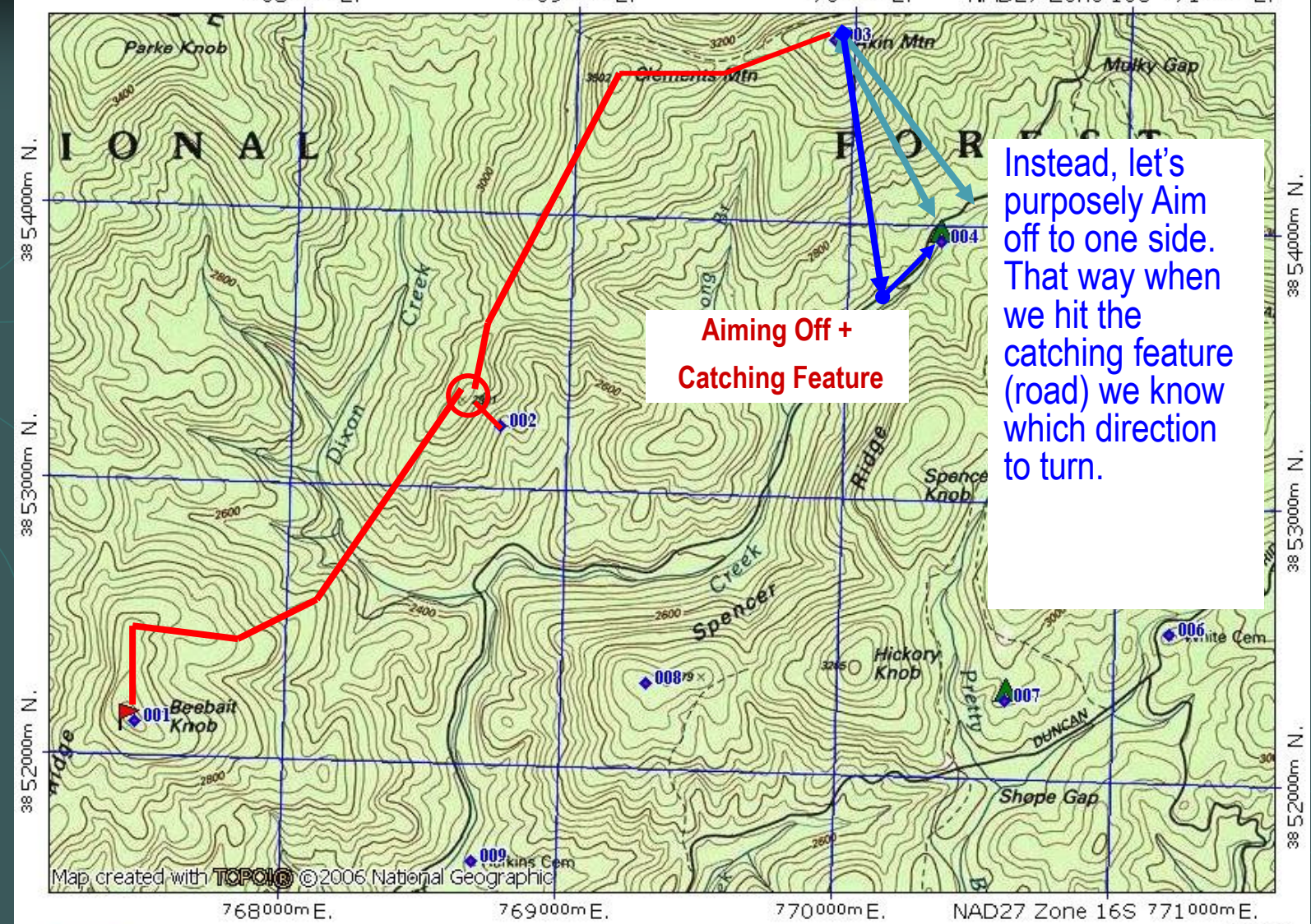


Instead, let's purposely Aim off to one side. That way when we hit the catching feature (road) we know which direction to turn.



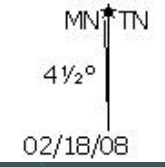
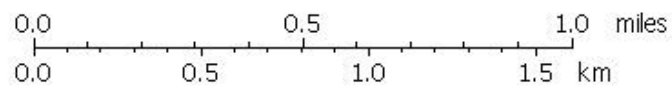
# TOPO! map printed on 02/18/08 from "Harkins Cemetery.tpo"

768000m E, 769000m E, 770000m E, NAD27 Zone 16S 771000m E.



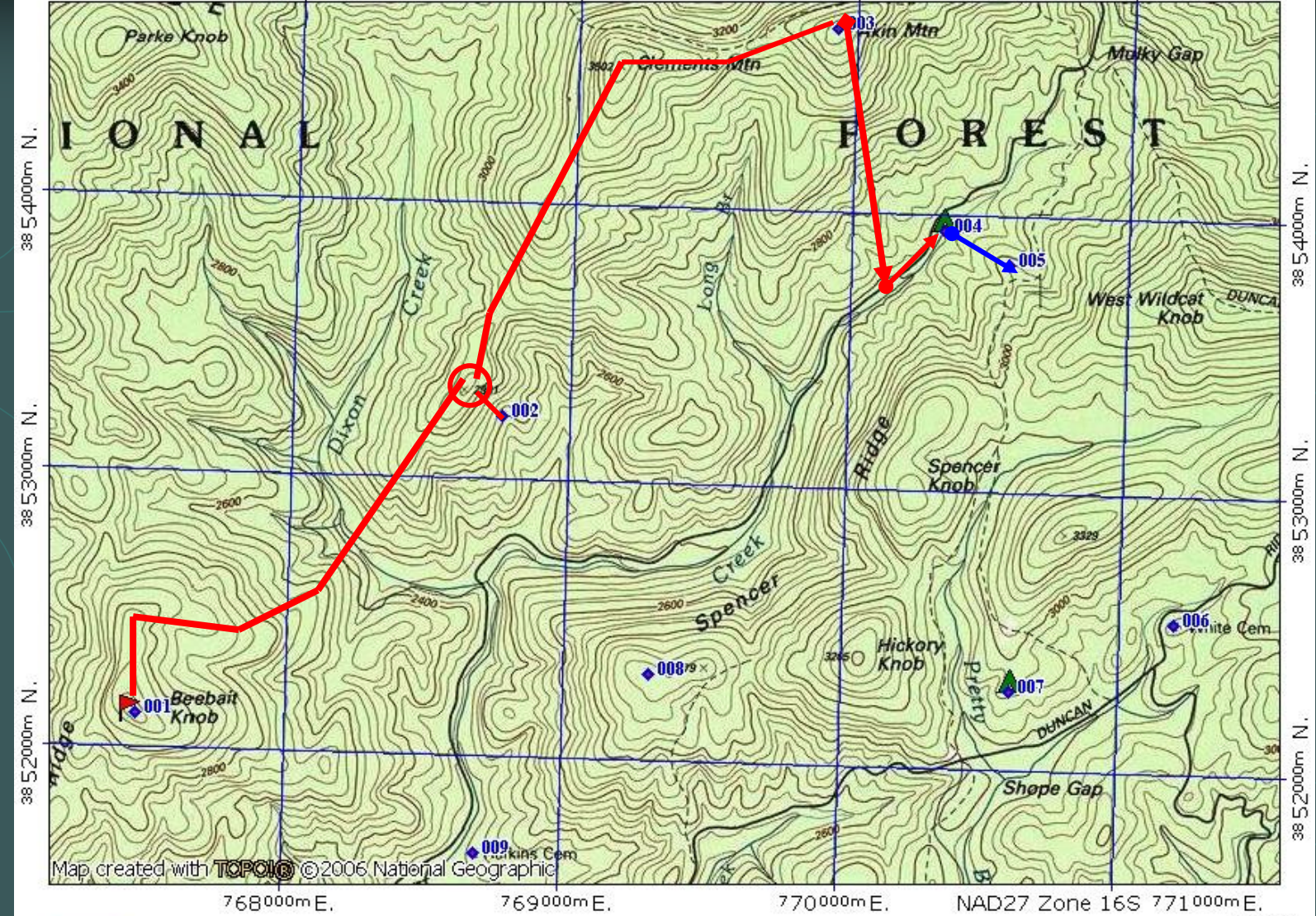
**Aiming Off +  
Catching Feature**

Instead, let's purposely Aim off to one side. That way when we hit the catching feature (road) we know which direction to turn.

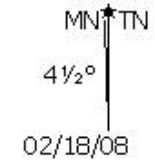
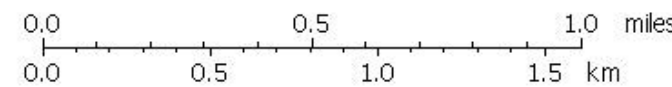


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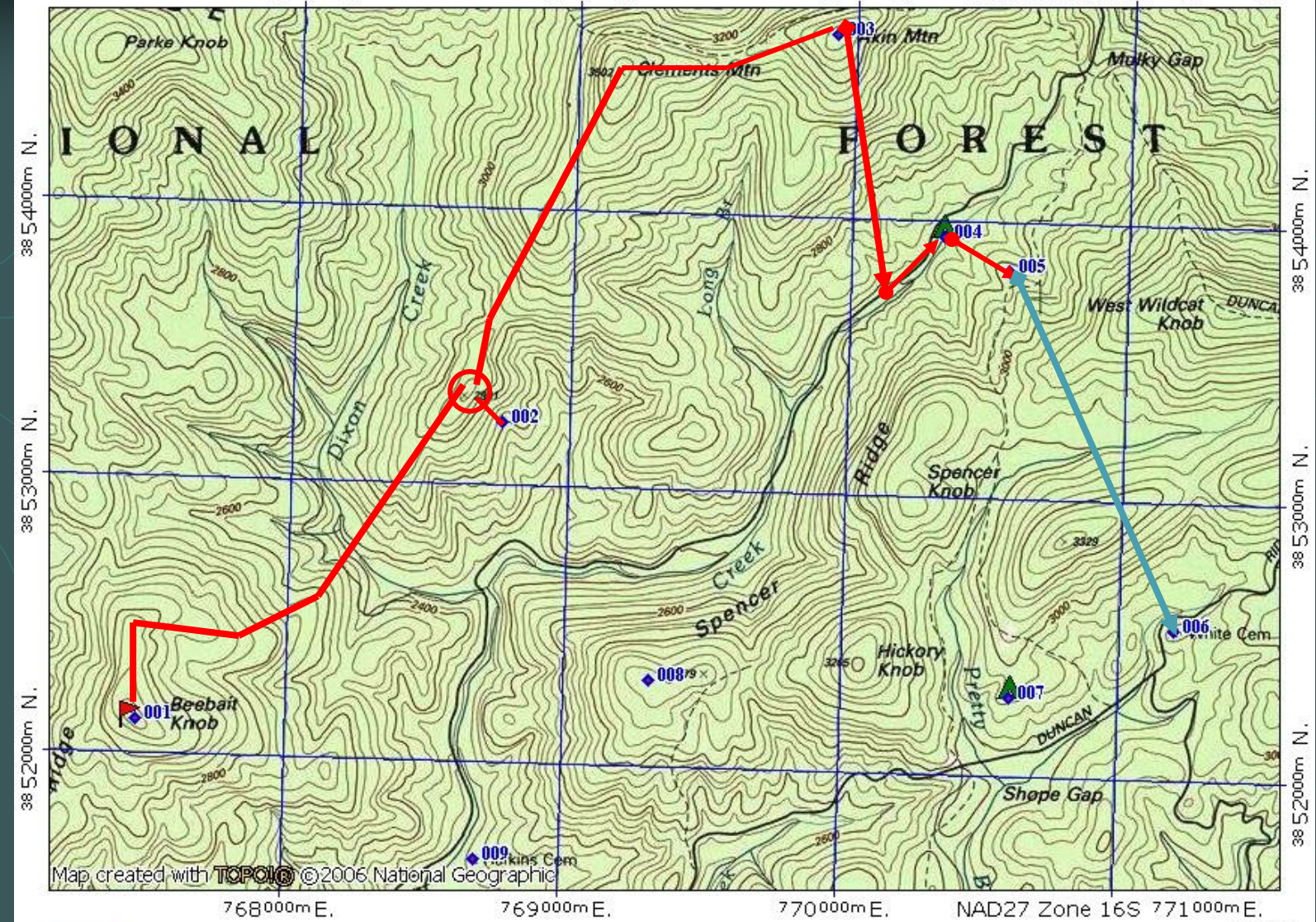


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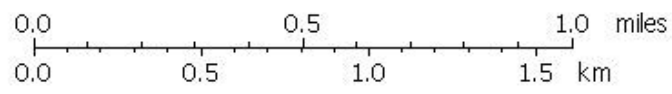


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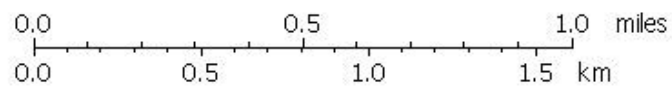
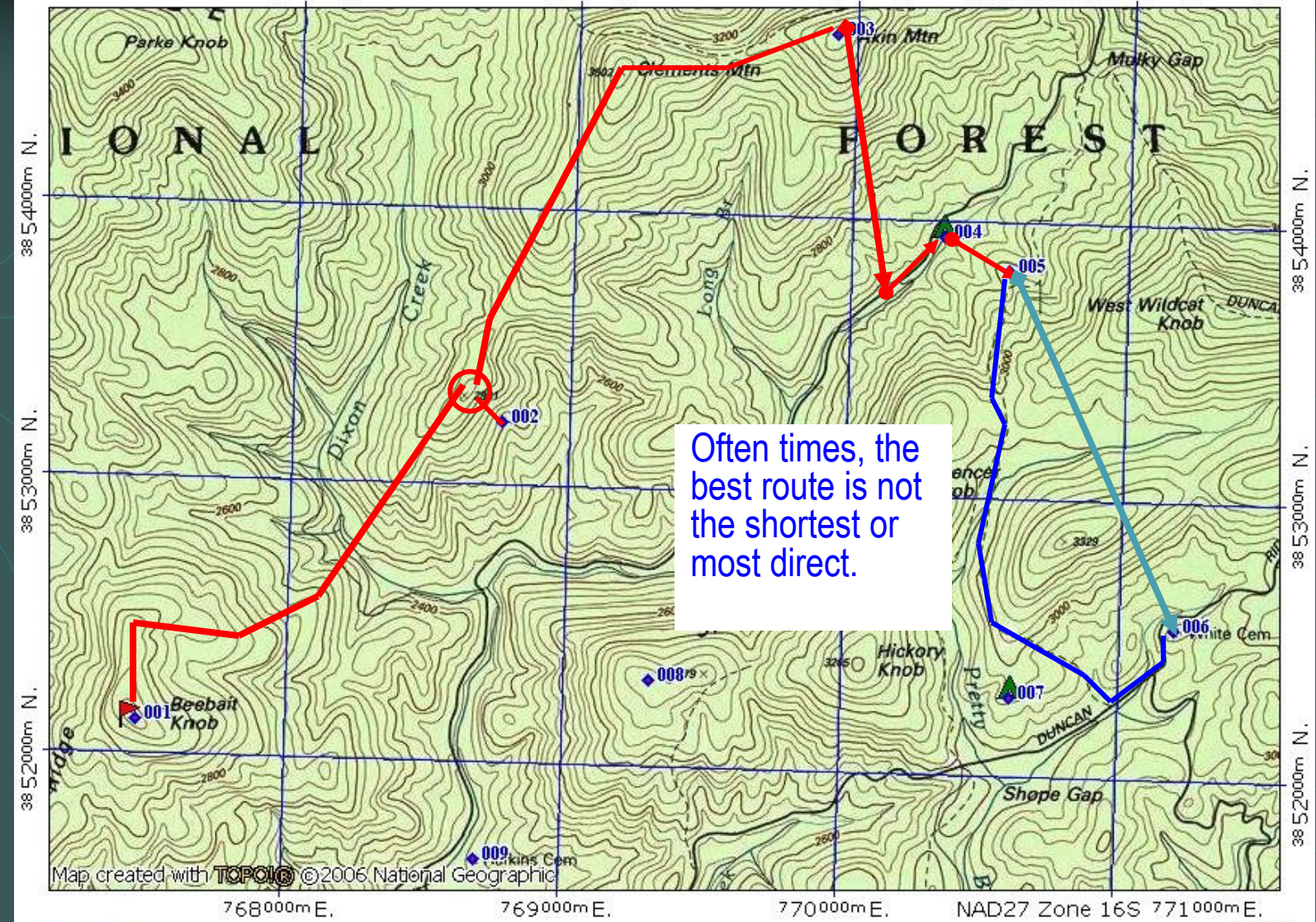


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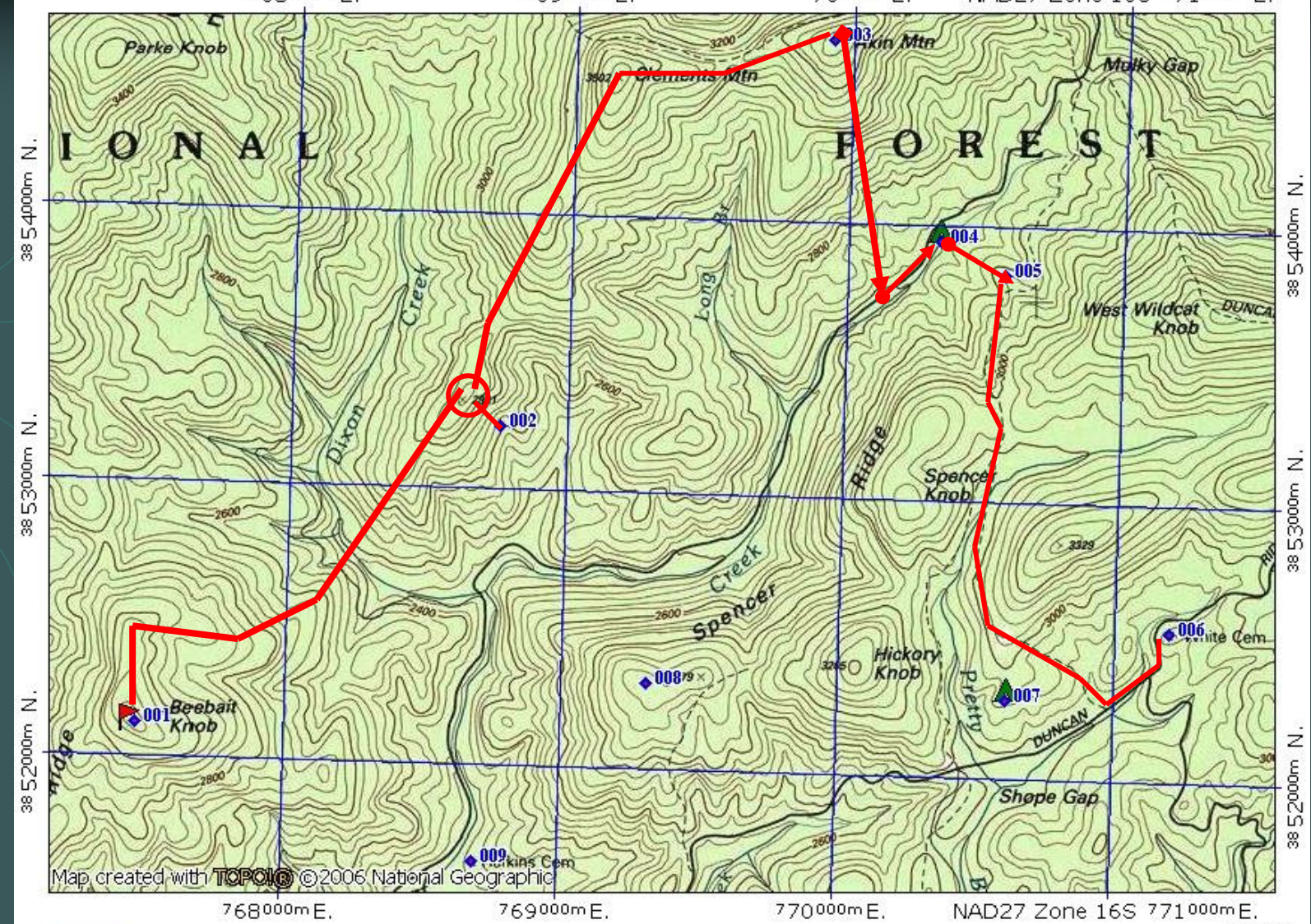
768000m E, 769000m E, 770000m E, NAD27 Zone 16S 771000m E.





# TOPO! map printed on 02/18/08 from "Harkins Cemetary.tpo"

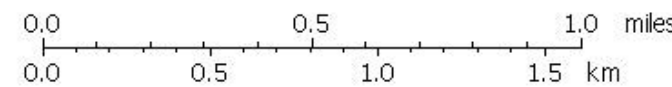
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38 52000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 54000m N.

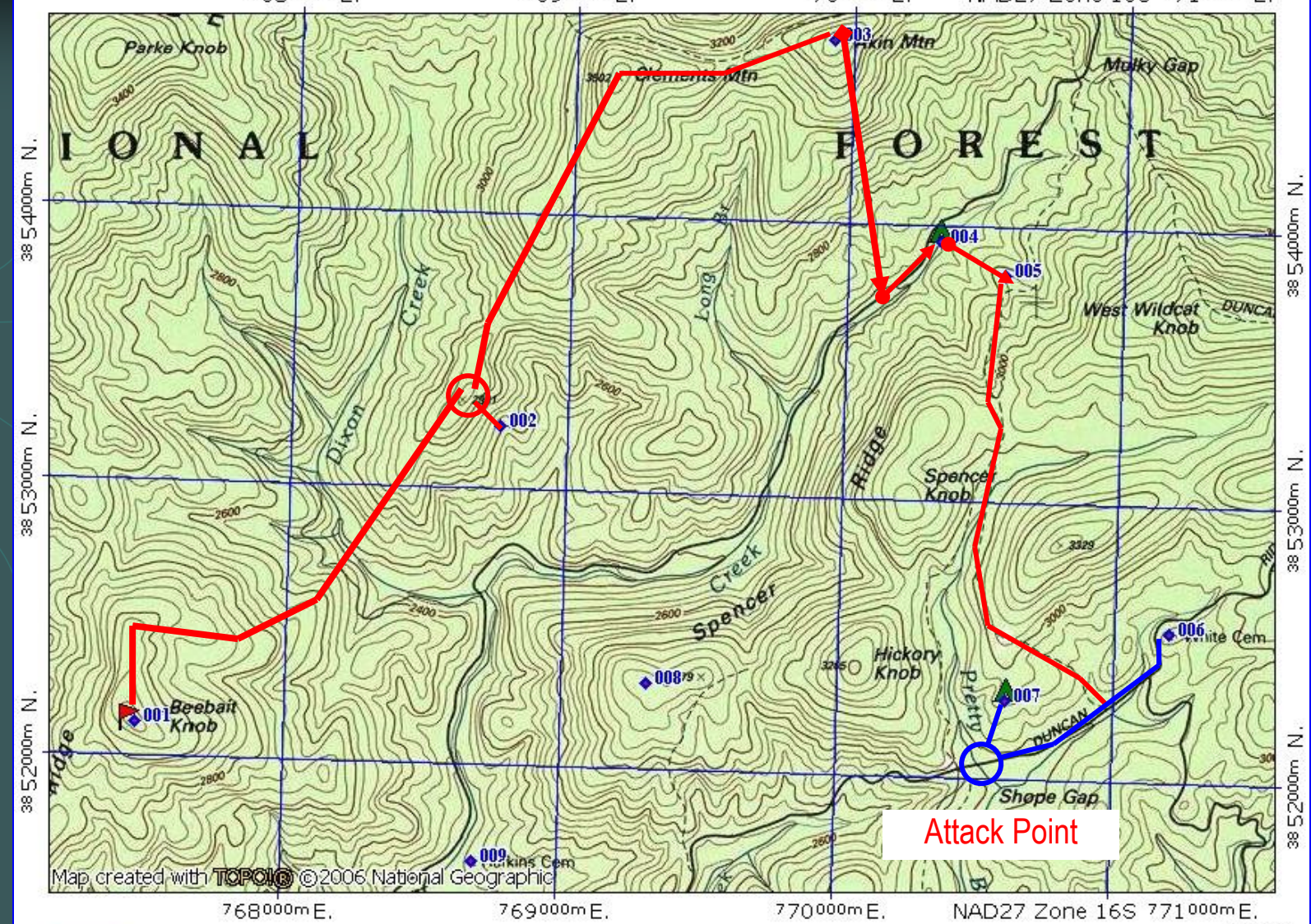
38 52000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 54000m N.

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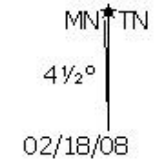
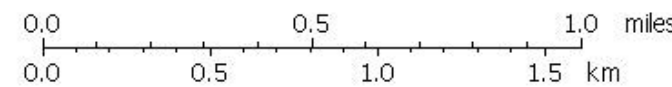
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38 54000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 52000m N.

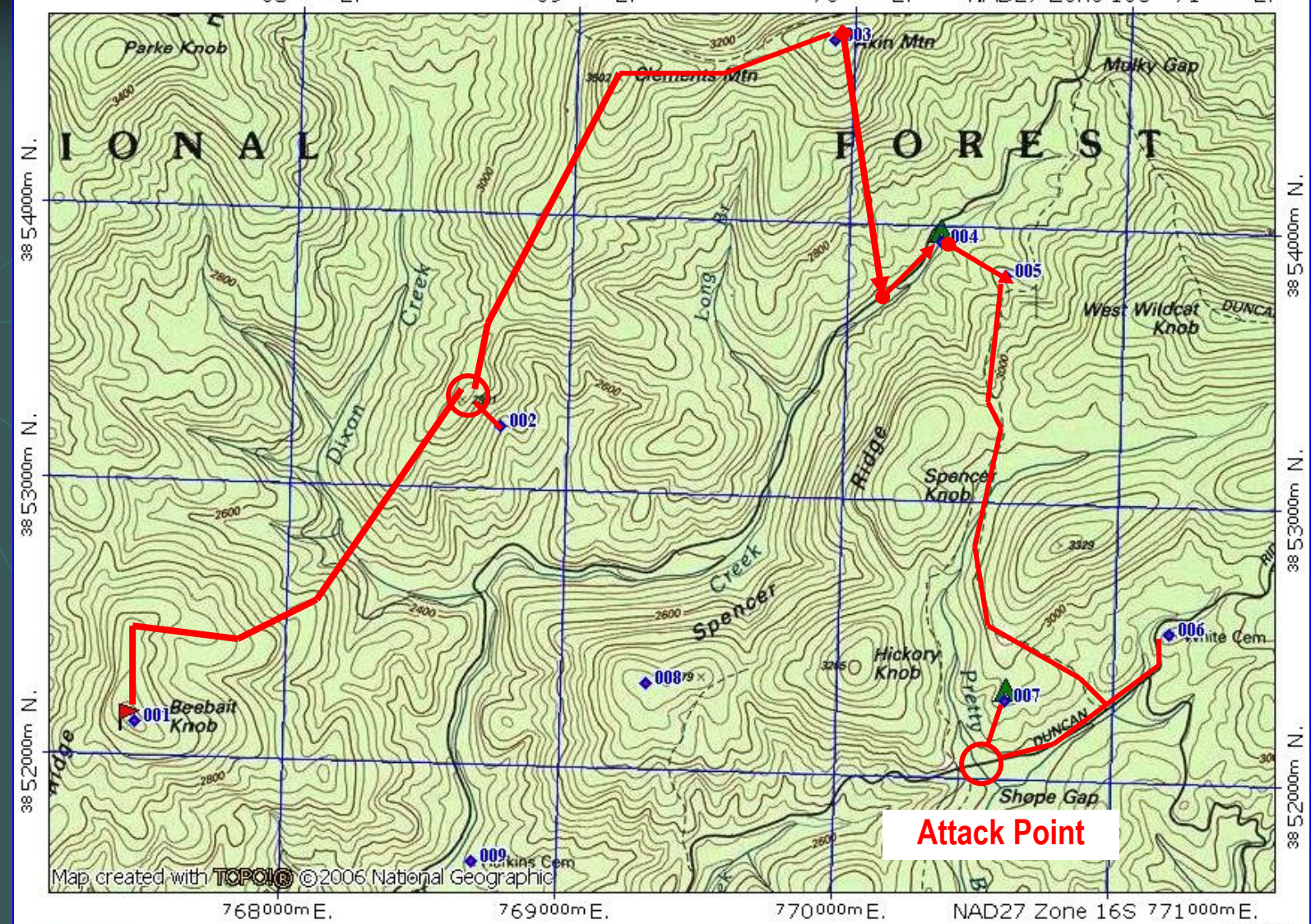
38 54000m N.  
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38 52000m N.

768000m E, 769000m E, 770000m E, NAD27 Zone 16S 771000m E.



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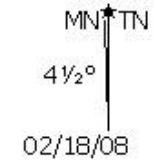
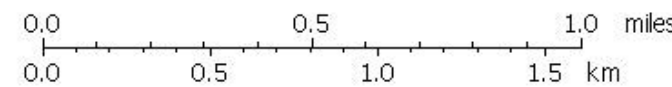
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38 54000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 52000m N.

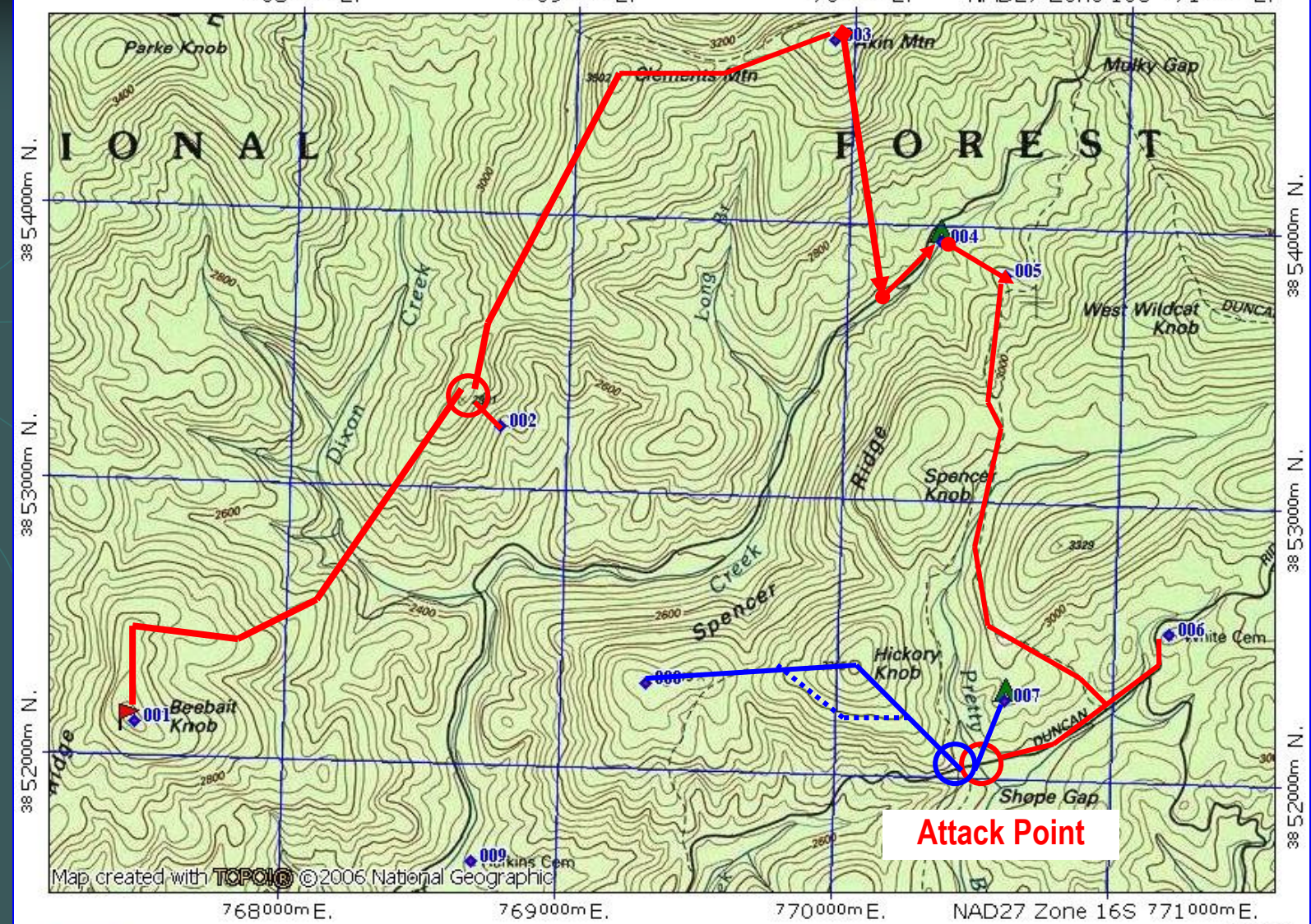
38 54000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 52000m N.

768000m E, 769000m E, 770000m E, NAD27 Zone 16S 771000m E.



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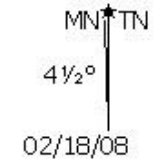
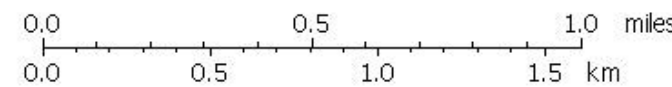


3854000m N.  
3853000m N.  
3852000m N.

3854000m N.  
3853000m N.  
3852000m N.

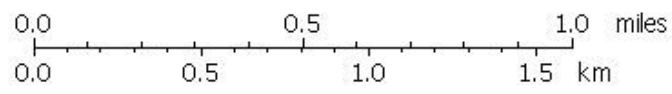
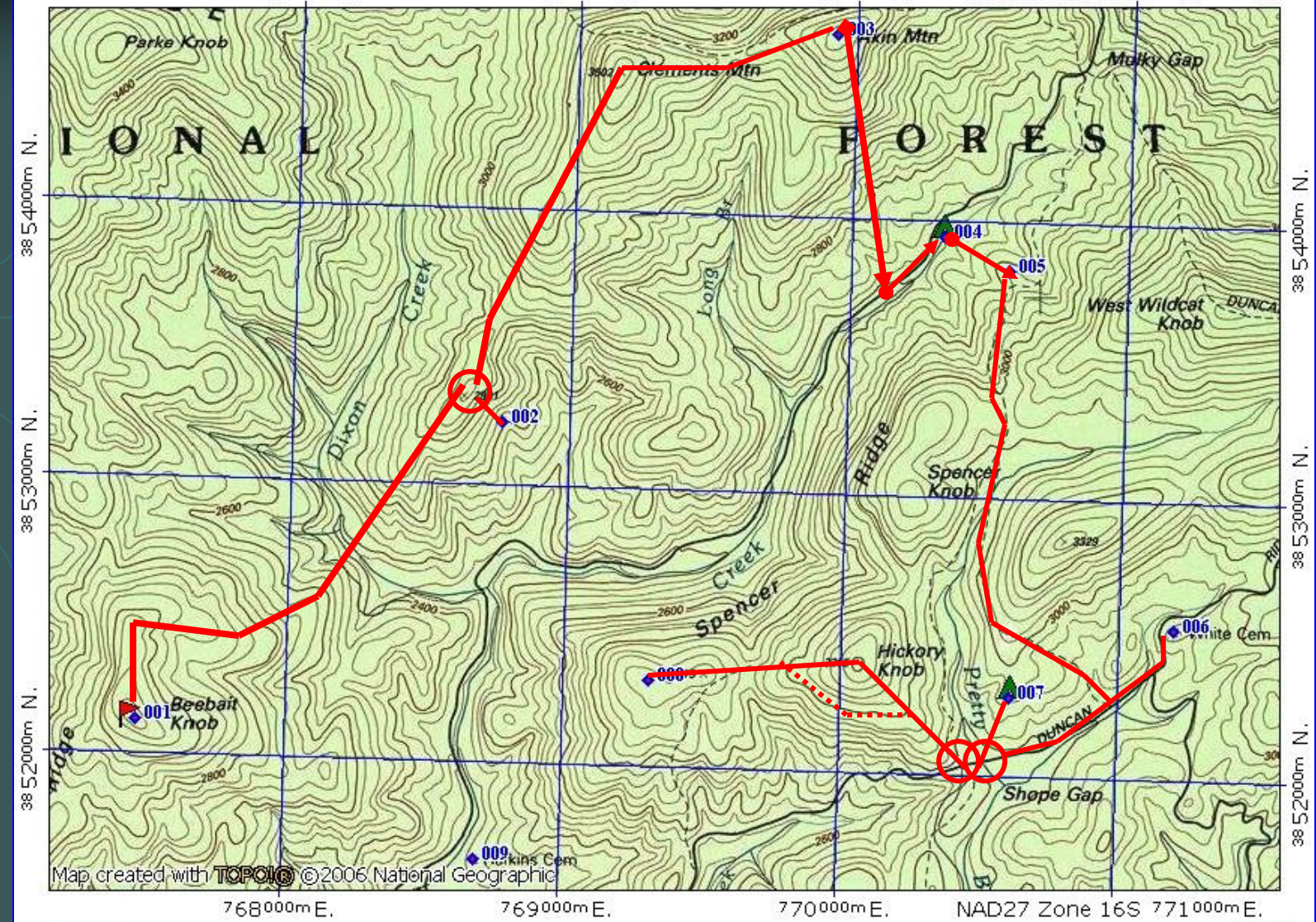
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768000m E, 769000m E, 770000m E, NAD27 Zone 16S 771000m E.



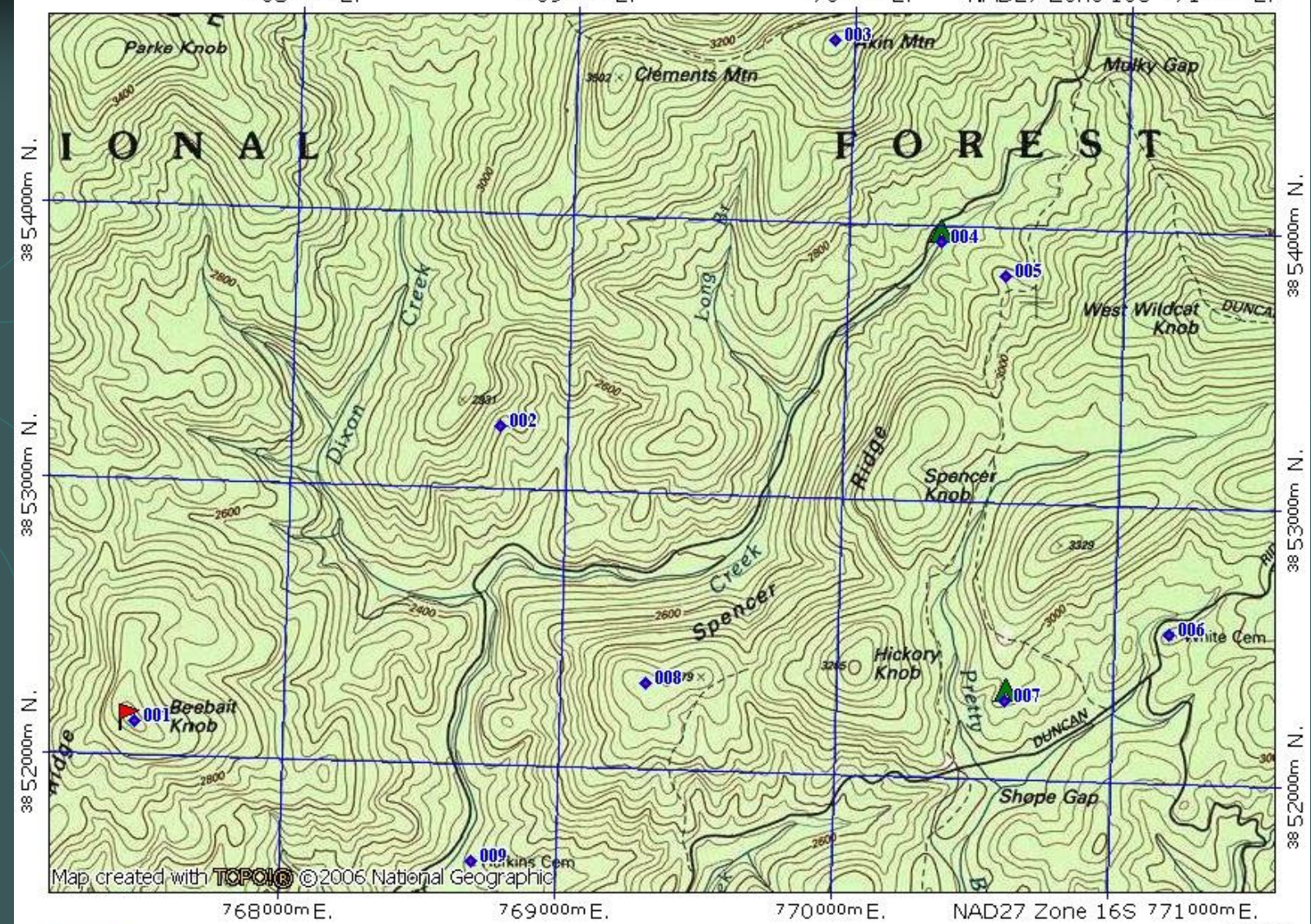
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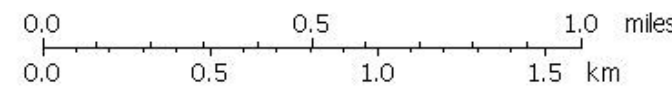
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38 54000m N.  
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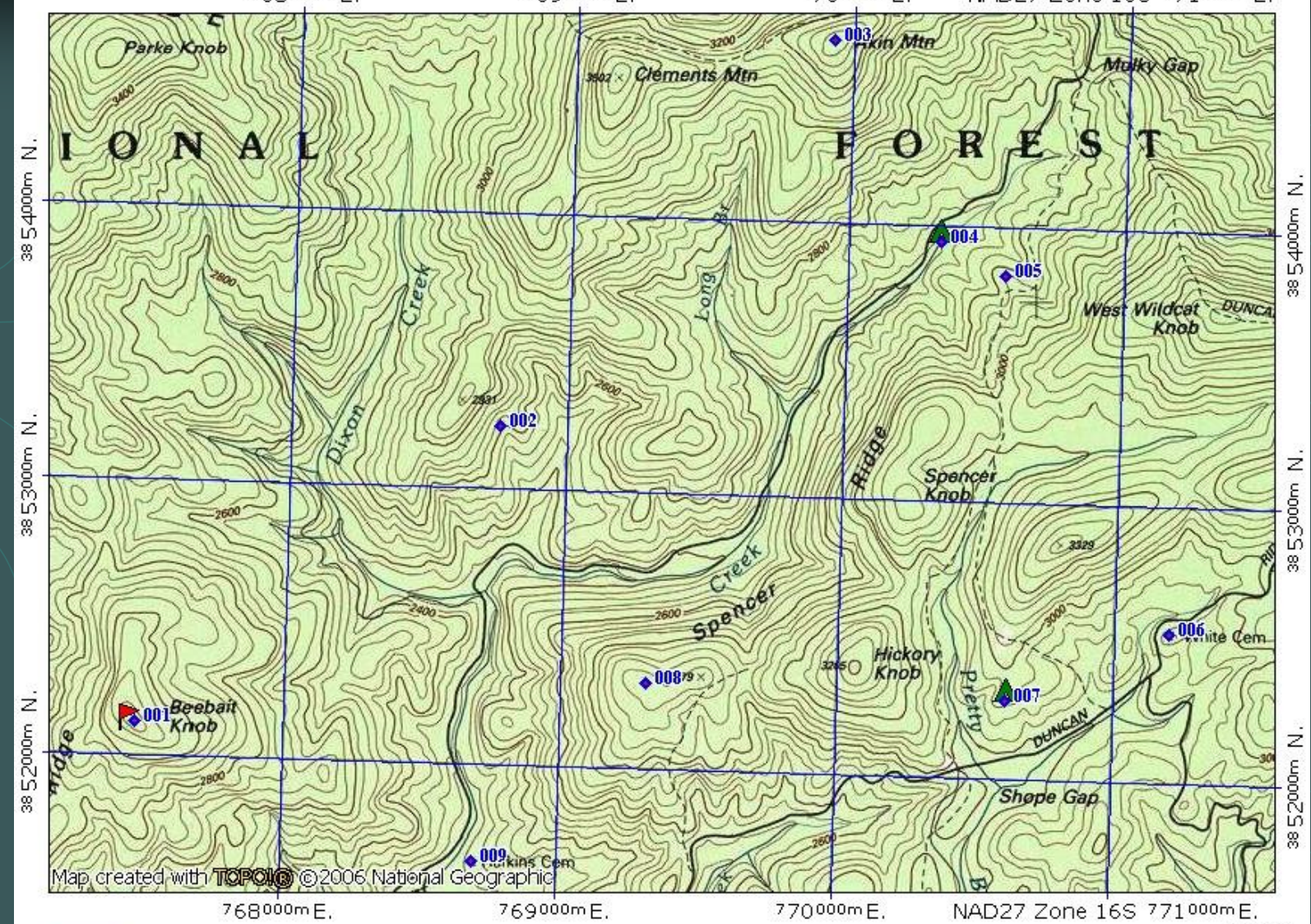
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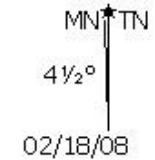
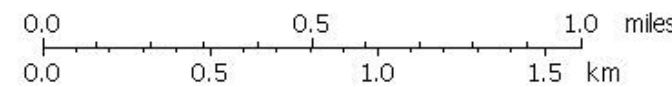
MN TN  
4 1/2°  
02/18/08

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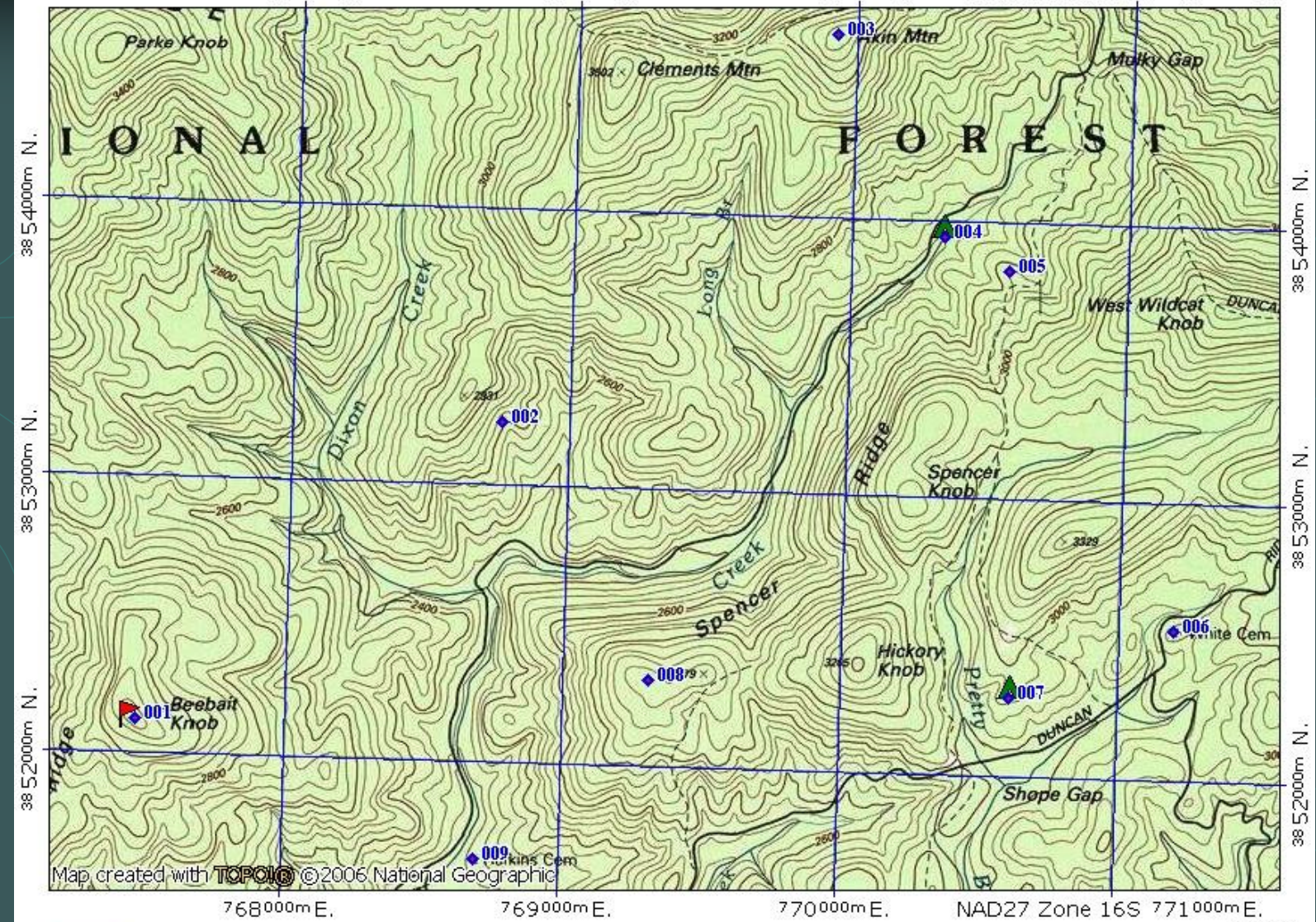


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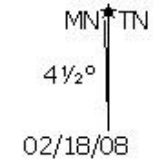
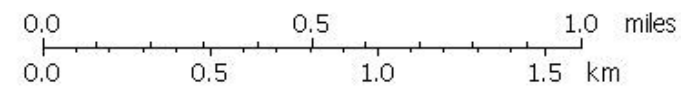
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38 54000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
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38 54000m N.  
38 53000m N.  
38 52000m N.

768000m E. 769000m E. 770000m E. NAD27 Zone 16S 771000m E.





A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines, a yellow path, and a red location marker.

What's Next....

Go out and actually do  
this in the field every month

...month after month

...for hundreds of hours

And then

You will be a great navigator!



**The End**