

071-329-1001

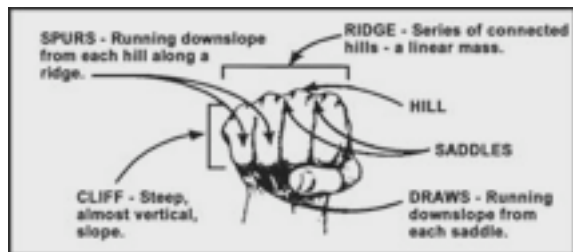
## IDENTIFY TERRAIN FEATURES ON A MAP

**CONDITIONS:** Given a standard 1:50,000-scale military map.

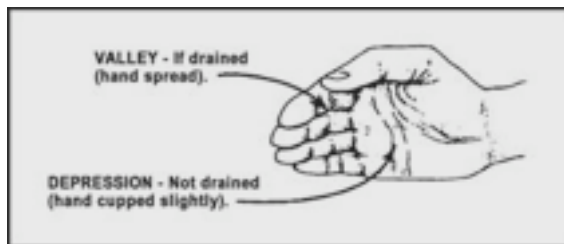
**STANDARDS:** Identify the five major and three minor features on the map.

### PERFORMANCE STEPS

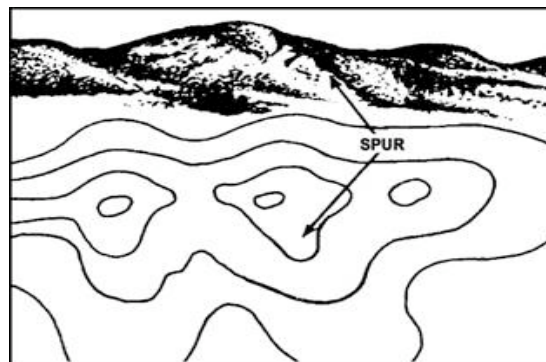
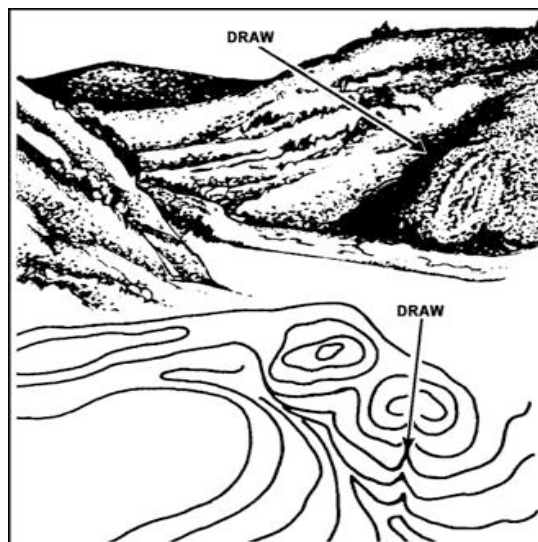
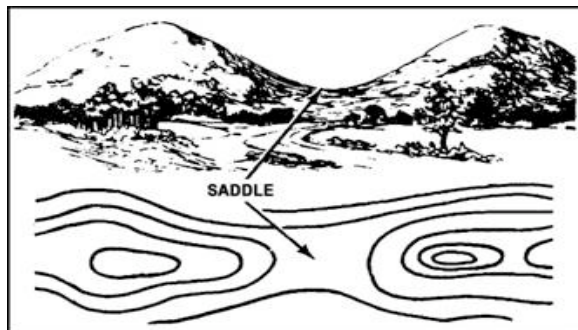
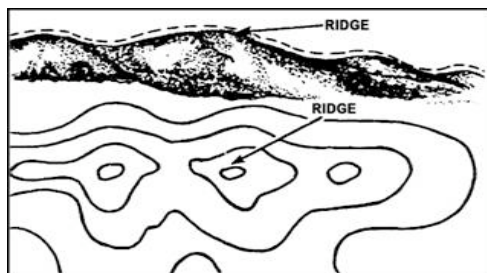
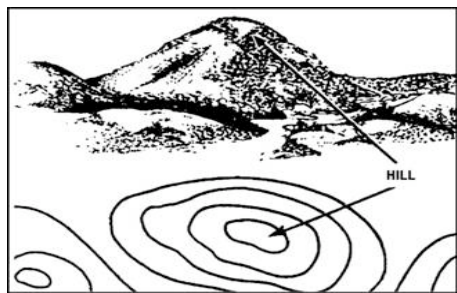
1. Identify terrain features in Table 071-329-1001\_T01 the same way on all maps, regardless of the contour interval. Keep in mind that a hill in the Rocky Mountains will be much bigger than the one in South Florida. You must be able to recognize all the terrain features to locate a point on the ground or to navigate from one point to another ( **Figures 01** through **02** ).



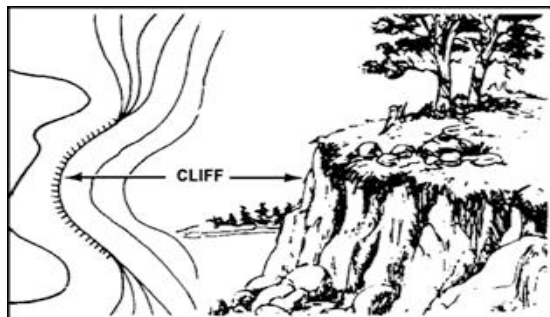
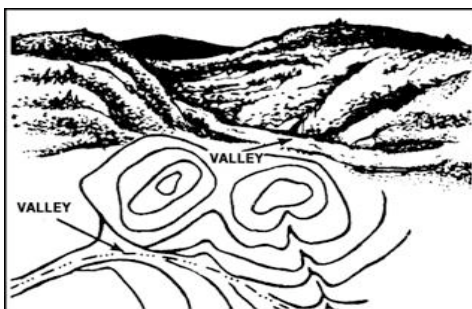
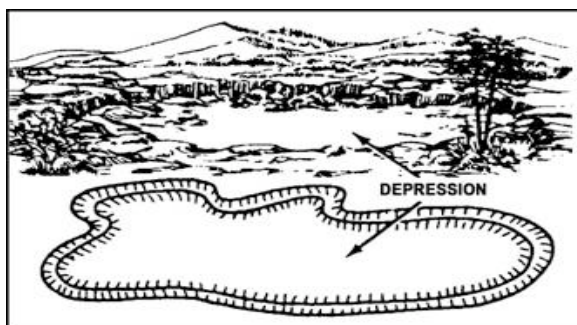
**Figure 01.** Using fist to explain terrain features.



**Figure 02.** Using hand to explain terrain feature.



## IDENTIFY TERRAIN FEATURES ON A MAP



FEATURE	CHARACTERISTICS	MAP SYMBOL
<b>Hill</b> Figure 3 Major	A point or small area of high ground from which the ground slopes down in all directions.	Contour lines forming concentric circles.
<b>Ridge</b> Figure 4 Major	A line of high ground with height variations along its crest.	Contour lines forming a U or V; closed end points away from high ground.
<b>Valley</b> Figure 5 Major	Reasonably level ground bordered on the sides by higher ground. Generally has maneuver room. Contains a stream.	Contour lines form U. Lines tend to parallel stream before crossing. Contour line crossing a stream always points upstream.
<b>Saddle</b> Figure 6 Major	A dip/low point along a ridge crest; either lower ground between two hill tops or a break in the level crest.	A saddle is normally represented as an hourglass.
<b>Depression</b> Figure 7 Major	Low point or hole in the ground with higher ground on sides.	Closed contour lines that have tick marks pointing toward low ground.
<b>Draw</b> Figure 8 Minor	Like a valley, but normally has less developed stream course. No level ground and little or no maneuver room. Ground slopes upward on the sides and toward the head of the draw.	Contour lines are V-shaped with the point of the V toward the head of the draw (high ground).

FEATURE	CHARACTERISTICS	MAP SYMBOL
<b>Spur</b> Figure 9 Minor	Short, continuously sloping line of higher ground jutting out the side of a ridge. Often formed by parallel streams cutting draws down a ridge.	Contour lines depict a spur with the U or V pointing away from high ground.
<b>Cliff</b> Figure 10 Minor	A vertical or near vertical slope.	Contour lines are close together or a ticked or "carrying" contour line (ticks point to lower ground).

**EVALUATION PREPARATION:** **SETUP:** Use a 1:50,000-scale military map. Circle one example of each major terrain feature and one example of each minor terrain feature. Randomly number the circled terrain features 1 through 8. Provide each Soldier with duplicate sets of the map, paper, and two pencils.

**BRIEF SOLDIER:** Tell the Soldier to number the paper 1 through 8. Tell the Soldier to write down the terrain feature that corresponds to each circled area on the map.

### REFERENCES

#### REQUIRED

FM 3-21.71

#### RELATED

#### LINKS

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