What You Need to Know
for the Exam on Topographic Maps

1. Understand the Latitude and Longitude coordinate system and locate points using Latitude and Longitude.

2. Understand and locate points using U.S. Public Land Survey Subdivisions.
   - Give the coordinates for a location to the nearest ¼ of a ¼ of a ¼ Section.
   - Give the coordinates for a location using feet north or south and east or west from a Section corner.

3. Convert units (i.e., inches to feet, feet to miles, meters to kilometers, etc.).

4. Read and understand all information presented on topographic map margins.

5. Calculate scale conversions (i.e., representative fraction to verbal scale and vice versa).

6. Understand topographic contours and be able to create your own contour maps.

7. Understand map symbols (i.e., Bench Marks, spot elevations)

8. Measure distances on topographic maps and take bearing measurements between locations.

9. Calculate slope gradients in feet / mile.


11. Calculate vertical exaggeration of topographic profiles.

12. Understand the difference between height and relief.