NAVIGATION SERIES · NAV-02

NAV-02 Map and Compass Land Navigation

Movement Without Electronic Navigation

Reaching a place you have never stood, across ground you cannot see.

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

NAV-02 teaches movement planning and execution on map and compass alone. It is the other half of NAV-01: that course answers where is it, this one answers how do I get there and how do I know I still am. Covers the lensatic compass, grid-to-magnetic conversion, orienting the map, pace count, dead reckoning, terrain movement, and resection.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A navigator with one method cannot audit that method.

A handheld receiver is an excellent tool and this course is not an argument against it. The argument is narrower: a battery dies, a valley blocks the signal, or a device reports a confident position two hundred meters wrong because nobody checked its datum. Someone with only that method cannot notice. Someone who can shoot an azimuth, count a distance and read the ground has three ways to notice, and catches it inside a hundred meters.

► A compass needle sits just as steadily on a wrong field as a right one. A back azimuth is a perfectly valid azimuth. An unoriented map is a perfectly good map. This course is largely about the checks that catch what the instrument cannot.

COURSE LESSONS

1	The Compass in Your Hand — nomenclature, centerhold, and how far from metal before the needle lies.
2	Three Norths and the G-M Angle — grid to magnetic and back, by drawing not by rhyme.
3	Orienting the Map — the step everyone skips, and the compass reading that proves you did it.
4	Measuring What You Walk — your pace count, what corrupts it, time as cross-check. Ground required.
5	Dead Reckoning — legs, steering marks, boxing obstacles, deliberate offset. Ground required.
6	Moving by Terrain — handrails, catching features, attack points, route by the going.
7	Fixing Your Position — resection, the triangle of error, and reading a grid off the fix.
8	Planning and Running the Move — route card, night movement, degraded cases. Ground, after dark.

WHAT YOU NEED

Prerequisites	NAV-01. Assumes you can read a map margin, interpret contours, and plot an MGRS grid.
Equipment	A lensatic compass — a real one, not a keyring button or a phone app. A paper topographic sheet of your own ground, a protractor or coordinate scale matched to it, a pencil and notebook.
Ground	Somewhere you can legally walk several hundred meters off a road, with some slope and cover. Lessons 04, 05, 06 and 08 are field lessons.
Format	Eight online lessons, roughly three to four hours plus field work over two or three outings. Support the development and availability of these courses by subscribing to my Patreon. Certificate on completion.

DOCTRINAL SOURCES

FM 3-25.26	Map Reading and Land Navigation	Compass handling, declination, pace count, resection
MCWP 3-11.3	Scouting and Patrolling	Compass nomenclature, orienting the map
MCCS 18.01	Compass Handling	Handling technique