

2.2 Best Practices for

Control Measures

1. ASSIGN **fewer** control measures.

Too many control measures slows down the order. Control measures are copied incorrectly, must be restated during the order, and are difficult to remember. Control measures clutter our minds and our maps. Fewer control measures leads to less confusion and less mistakes.

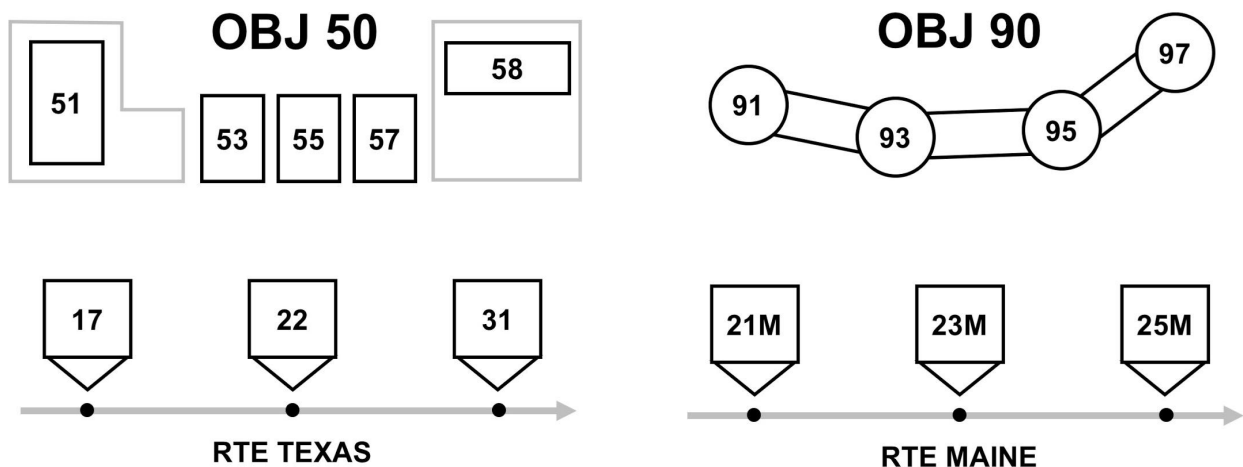
Control measures must be *shared*. They exist to increase *shared* understanding—between units, across boundaries, with aircraft, and even between different services. **Fewer** is better.

2. ASSIGN **fewer movement** control measures. Phase lines and checkpoints slow momentum and inhibit initiative. Intermediate objectives cause units to pause, regroup, report, and restart.
3. AVOID assigning **redundant** names. If it's already on the map, do NOT rename it. If Objective 20 is TUGOK Village, just say: “TUGOK Village.” If Objective 50 is Hill 118, just say: “Hill 118.”
4. AVOID changing **existing** control measures. When your unit relieves another, KEEP the previous unit's control measures. Violate your own SOP and use *their* system. Their control measures are *already shared* across the AO—with fires, MEDEVAC, QRF, and other enablers.
5. ASSIGN **memorable** control measures. USE **logical** naming conventions. What will you remember in the dark, on the radio? Do NOT name or number control measures *randomly*.

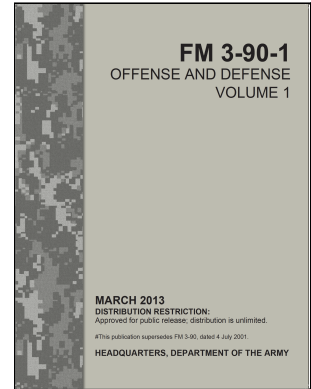
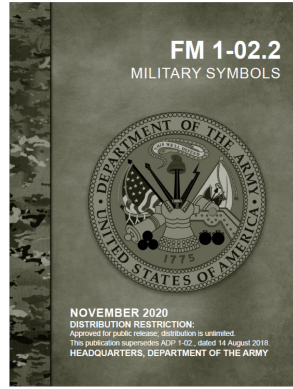
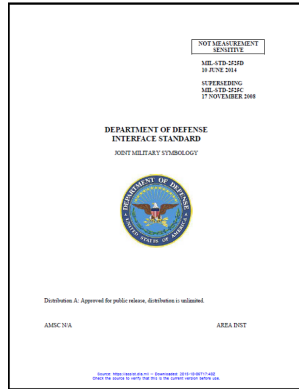
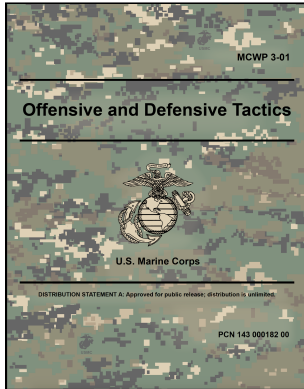
When routes are states—RTE MAINE—the northernmost route is the northernmost state.
When LZs are birds—LZ WREN—name them alphabetically from west to east.

When objectives, TRPs, or NAIs are two-digit multiples of ten, sub-objectives should be numbered in the same decade. For a cluster of buildings—OBJ 50—each building is designated 51, 53, 55, 57. For a defensive complex—OBJ 90—each position is designated 93, 95, 97.

Checkpoints on a route can be in order, in the same decade, or letter coded.



6. KNOW **control measures**, the language of your profession. KNOW the symbols.



- MCWP 3-01 **Offensive and Defensive Tactics**, 20 Sep 2019. Chapter 2 is control measures.
- MIL-STD-2525D **Joint Military Symbology**, 10 Jun 2014. Appendix H is control measures.
- FM 1-02.2 **Military Symbols**, 10 Nov 2020. Chapter 5 is control measures.
- FM 3-90-1 **Offense and Defense**, 13 Apr 2015. Appendix A is control measures.

7. **Battalion SOP** should define control measure naming conventions.

EA are cats:	EA PUMA
PL are colors:	PL GOLD
AA are names:	AA ANNE
Routes are states:	RTE UTAH
BP are two-digit numbers:	BP 55

Example Battalion SOP. Control measure naming convention.

The battalion Fire Support Coordinator assigns fire support coordination measures (FSCM) for all subordinate companies and attached units. The battalion AirO coordinates airspace coordinating measures (ACM) with the Air Combat Element: LZ, PZ, and RW BP.

In a large AO with multiple battalions, HHQ must enforce a naming convention and assign major control measures such as checkpoints and routes between battalion AOs.

AVOID **multiple** control measures for the same location—one traffic circle with multiple names. AVOID **duplicate** names for different locations: *“Is it the raid force LZ 1 or the QRF LZ 1?”*

8. **Company, platoon, and squad** orders should assign as **few** control measures as needed.

ASSIGN buildings **descriptive** names that your Marines will remember:

*“Left lateral limit is **The Tobacco Factory**. Right lateral limit is **The Red Roof Inn**.”*

ASSIGN natural terrain features **descriptive** names that your Marines will remember:

*“Suppress **Christmas Tree Hill**. Overwatch **The Double Peak**. Cover **The Rocky Field**.”*

ASSIGN target reference point blocks to subordinate units to eliminate confusion.

Do NOT let every echelon name objectives randomly:

“Bypass Platoon Objective 30 toward squad Objective 1 to open fire on Company Objective A.”

Common errors

Not creating an SOP for naming conventions. Companies, platoons, and squads do NOT use their own naming conventions. Standard names enable common understanding.

Naming buildings or terrain features that look different from different directions.

AVOID directional names	<i>"The north bridge"</i>	vs.	<i>"The south bridge"</i>
AVOID order	<i>"The third building"</i>	vs.	<i>"The first building"</i>
AVOID invisible names	<i>"The dip in the road"</i>	or	<i>"The bend in the stream"</i>
AVOID map names	<i>"The clover leaf"</i>		That do NOT match appearances

Perspectives

"The smaller the unit, the more frequently were orders issued orally.... As the war continued, the practice of issuing oral commands was adopted even by medium and large units."

— General Gerhard Raus, 1942