

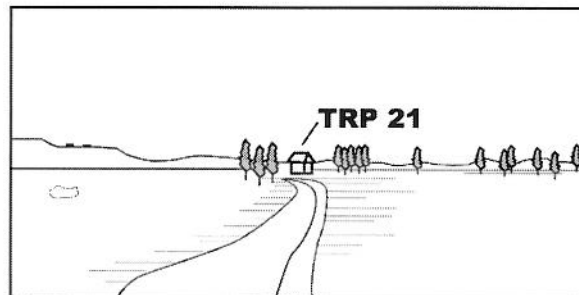
# Simple Target Designation

**Leaders point out key locations** to orient their units and establish control measures – a TRP, the left and right limits of a sector, a PDF or FPL, the limits of an EA, the location of an OP, or a destination for movement. These ‘targets’ are terrain features, not enemy positions. Sometimes called a ‘talk-on’ – since the leader *talks* the shooter *on* to the target.

**Leaders direct fire by pointing out actual or suspected enemy positions.** Designating targets *precedes* fire commands. For enemy targets, a mark is quicker and better than a talk-on. But often a laser pointer, tracer round, or smoke round cannot be used. Even if a mark is fired, a talk-on may still be needed for adjustments.

## Simple Target Designation

Used when the leader and the shooter are co-located, looking at the same ground, pointing at objects, and talking directly to each other.



**Simple Target Designation Example**  
(L) is Leader, (S) is Shooter

## General Talk-On Procedure

1. Choose a large landmark that you both can see. Estimate the range. This is your first *anchor* point.
2. Direct the shooter’s vision from one *anchor* to another, moving from large to small, until you reach the *target*.
3. Have the shooter *confirm* the target.
4. If the shooter gets confused, STOP. Go back to the last good anchor and continue from there.

L: “From the *farmhouse* [anchor] at nine-hundred meters [range], come *left* [direction] *three fingers* [distance] along the ridge to *two small buildings* [anchor]. Seen?”

S: “*Seen.*” [Confirmation.]

L: “Come *down* [direction] *one finger* [distance] to a *bare patch* of wet ground [anchor]. Seen?”

S: “*Seen.*” [Confirmation.]

L: “That is the left limit of your sector. The farmhouse is TRP two-one, your right limit. Brief-back.”

S: “*The bare patch is our left limit at one-three-five degrees magnetic, and TRP two-one is our right limit at one-five-five degrees magnetic.*” [Brief-back confirmation with azimuths.]

**Alternate Simple Techniques** to use when the leader and shooter are co-located:

*Anchors* can be control measures, especially TRPs or building numbers.

*Direction* can be indicated using the *clock method* – superimposing a vertical clock face on a distinctive elevated landmark on the horizon.

*Distance* can be estimated in *meters*.

*Confirmation.* The shooter can confirm *each anchor* with a *brief-back*, describing what he sees in different words.

## Simple Anchors

- Use visible landmarks.

## Simple Directions

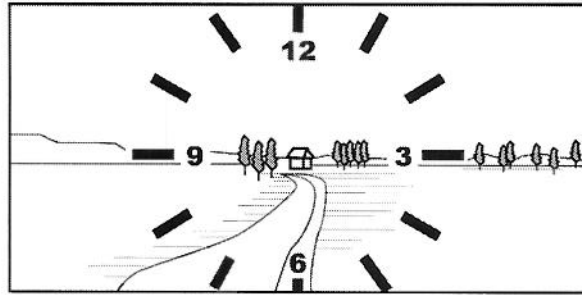
- Use *right*, *left*, *up*, and *down*.

## Simple Distances

- Use fingers. With hand extended at arm's length, measure the number of fingers, fist, or hand's width.

## Simple Confirmation

- Confirm each *anchor* by asking, "Seen?" The shooter responds, "Seen" or "Not Seen."
- Confirm the *target* with a brief-back and an azimuth.



**Alternate Simple Target Designation Example**

L: "TRP two-one is the farm house [anchor]. Seen?"

S: "Seen. The square stone building with the red roof."  
[Brief-back confirmation of anchor.]

L: "Go about *three-hundred-fifty meters* [distance] at *three o'clock* [clock direction] to a *pair of pine trees* [anchor]. Seen?"

S: "Seen. Two pine trees blocking the cut in the hills beyond."  
[Brief-back confirmation of anchor.]

L: "The base of those trees is your machinegun FPL. Brief-back."

S: "The dip in the hill blocked by the double trees is machinegun FPL at *one-nine-zero degrees magnetic*." [Brief-back confirmation with azimuth.]

# Advanced Target Designation

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Leaders establish control measures or direct fire against enemy targets by radio. Distant support weapons – TOWs, heavy machineguns, mortars, tanks, amphibious vehicles, LAVs, and rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft – need an accurate, well-communicated talk-on to find and confirm their targets.

## Advanced Target Designation

Used when the leader and shooter are NOT side-by-side, and a talk-on is done by radio.

Do NOT use *right*, *left*, *up* or *down*, or the *clock method* for direction.

Do NOT estimate the range for distant weapons. Do NOT use fingers for distance.

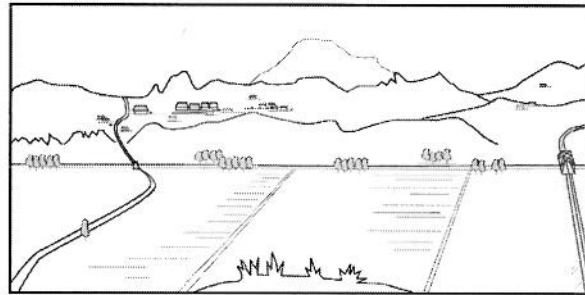
Do NOT use control measures for anchors – TRPs or building numbers – that are not understood by supporting weapons.

## General Talk-On Procedure

1. Choose a large landmark that you both can see. This is your first *anchor* point.
2. Direct the shooter's vision from one *anchor* to another, moving from large to small, until you reach the *target*.
3. Have the shooter *confirm* the target.
4. If the shooter gets confused, STOP. Go back and re-establish the last good anchor and continue from there.

## Advanced Anchors

- Use a map for a larger perspective. Select distinctive landmarks that appear on both the map and the ground.
- Your position – marked with smoke, laser, or signal mirror – can be your initial anchor.
- A mark – laser, tracer, burst, or smoke – can be your initial anchor.



## Advanced Target Designation Example

(L) is Leader, (S) is Shooter

L: "The river runs East – West. Highway Four crosses the river on a steel girder *bridge* [anchor]. Say Contact."

S: "Contact." [JCAS confirmation of anchor.]

L: "From the steel *bridge* [anchor], follow the river *West* [direction] about *two-thousand meters* [distance] to a secondary stone *bridge* [anchor]."

S: "I *contact* the stone bridge." [JCAS confirmation of anchor.]

L: "From the stone *bridge* [anchor], follow the dirt road *North-North-West* [direction] about *three-hundred meters* [distance] to the village town hall, a large sand-colored *building* [anchor]."

S: "I *contact* the building." [JCAS confirmation of anchor.]

L: "Your target is a vehicle parked at the East end of that building in the courtyard."

S: "I *tally* a black truck in the yard." [JCAS confirmation of target.]

**Alternate Advanced Techniques** to use for radio talk-ons between distant units.

*Direction* can be indicated using an azimuth.

*Distance* can be indicated by establishing a unique unit of measure such as the distance between two objects or the height or length of a distinctive landmark.

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- When moving from anchor to anchor, describe terrain that is easily seen at a distance – color changes in terrain, large bodies of water, and distinctive man-made landmarks. Try to envision the terrain as the shooter sees it.

**Advanced Direction**

- Use *North, South, East, and West*.

**Advanced Distance**

- Use meters. Convert mils – from binoculars, optics, or finger estimation – to meters.

**Advanced Confirmation**

- Use JCAS terminology to confirm exactly each type of landmark. Standard targeting terms should be used by both ground and air units.
  - (1) If the shooter sees an anchor, he says “Contact.” If not, he says, “No Joy.”
  - (2) If the shooter sees the target, he says, “Tally.” If not, he says, “No Joy.”
  - (3) If the shooter sees the leader’s friendly position, he says, “Visual.” If not, he says “Blind.”
- Confirm anchors by asking “Say Contact.”
- Confirm target with a brief-back.

*Confirmation.* Ask the shooter, “What do you see?” or request specific information about the anchor or target to confirm: “How many do you see?” This is sometimes called a ‘reverse talk-on.’

L: “How many vehicles do you see?”

S: “On the South side of the church is a line of trees along the road. I count six vehicles lined up alongside the trees.”

**Alternate Advanced Target Designation Example**

L: “Can you see my position?”

S: “I have a *visual*.” [JCAS confirmation of friendly position.]

L: “South of my pos is a narrow *lake* [anchor]. What do you see?”

S: “I *contact* a long North-South lake with a dam at the Southern tip.” [JCAS confirmation of anchor.]

L: “Use the length of the lake as one unit-of-measure. From the dam, go *two units-of-measure* [distance] *West-North-West* at *one-nine-five degrees magnetic* [direction] to a series of long, low factory *buildings* [anchor].”

S: “Wait one. I *contact* four long grey buildings.” [JCAS confirmation of anchor.]

L: “Counting from the South, locate the third *building* [anchor]. How many roof-top air conditioning units do you see?”

S: “Standby. I count three systems on the roof.” [Confirmation.]

L: “The middle unit is your target – RPG gunners and a machinegun on the roof.”

S: “*Tally*. Targets on roof of third building behind middle air conditioning unit.”

<b>JCAS Terminology</b>		
JP 3-09.3 of 3 September 2003		
<b>Do You See:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Anchor (or Mark)?	CONTACT	NO JOY
Target?	TALLY	NO JOY
My Position?	VISUAL	BLIND