Bearings

A bearing is a method of indicating direction. It is the angle, measured in a clockwise direction, between North and a line joining two known points

Measuring a Magnetic Bearing

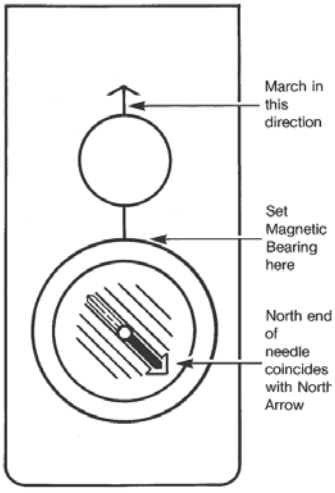
To take a magnetic bearing hold the compass horizontally and point the direction of travel arrow at the objective.

Then, while keeping the compass in this position, turn the graduated circles so that the north arrow corresponds with the north (red) end of the compass needle. The magnetic bearing is then read off at the direction of travel line.

It is always best to take three bearings and work out the average.

Remember to avoid nearby iron and steel objects, such as vehicles, power lines, wire fences and weapons which can influence the compass reading.

Walking on a Magnetic Bearing



Set the graduated circle to read this magnetic bearing at the direction of travel line. Then turn the whole compass until the north end of the needle coincides with the north arrow and, holding the compass in front of you, Look up, sight on a land-mark and walk to it. Repeat this procedure until you reach your destination.

If no landmarks are visible you should send someone off from the group as far as possible, make sure they are on the right heading and then walk to them, repeat this until you reach your destination.

Moving Round Obstacles

Obstacles often lie in the direct route and in order to keep a really accurate direction they should be bypassed by going round them at right angles