GREAT BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Module 6: Line of Sight

with Russ Gifford

GBACW Line of Sight

Goals for this Module

With this module, we'll cover 'line of sight' (LOS). You will become familiar with:

- What blocks line of sight
- How hills work in GBACW
- How to use the LOS chart

GBACW Line of Sight

Line of Sight

To shoot at anything in GBACW, you have to be able to see the target!

“Line of sight” (LOS) means the direct line that connects the center of the hex of the sighting unit to the center of the hex of the target. Anything that line touches must be evaluated as a potential block!

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Line of Sight Blocks

- Adjacent units may always see one another.
- Trees, hills and other troop units that are between two units *on the same level* will block LOS.

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Line of Sight

The Terrain Effects Chart lists terrain that blocks LOS.

[9.56] TERRAIN EFFECTS ON COMBAT CHART

Terrain Type	Cavalry Charge into or through	Blocks Line of Sight	Shift Fire Strength Column
Clear	yes	no	–
Woods	no	yes	1 left
Cornfield (see 21.4)	yes	yes	–
Stream	yes	no	–
Run	no	no	–
Crest	yes	yes[2]	1 left
Steep Crest	no	yes[2]	1 left

Terrain not listed above has no effect on combat.
- = Terrain type has no effect.

not once for each unit in
which enter the hex by cr

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Line of Sight Rules

Terrain or troops *on the same level* as the sighting unit and the target will block LOS.

But – if at least one of these three is on a different level there may be a clear line of sight!

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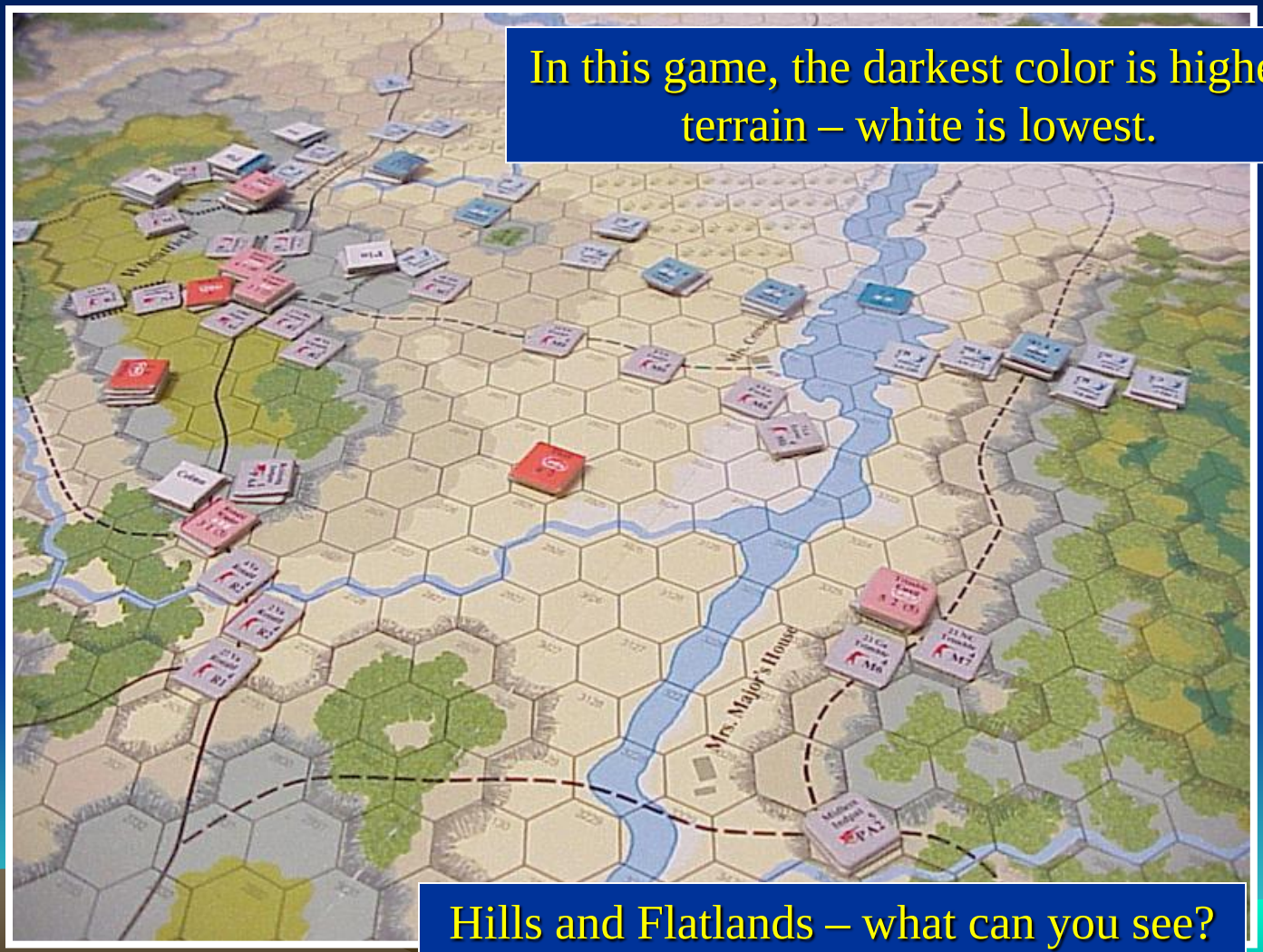

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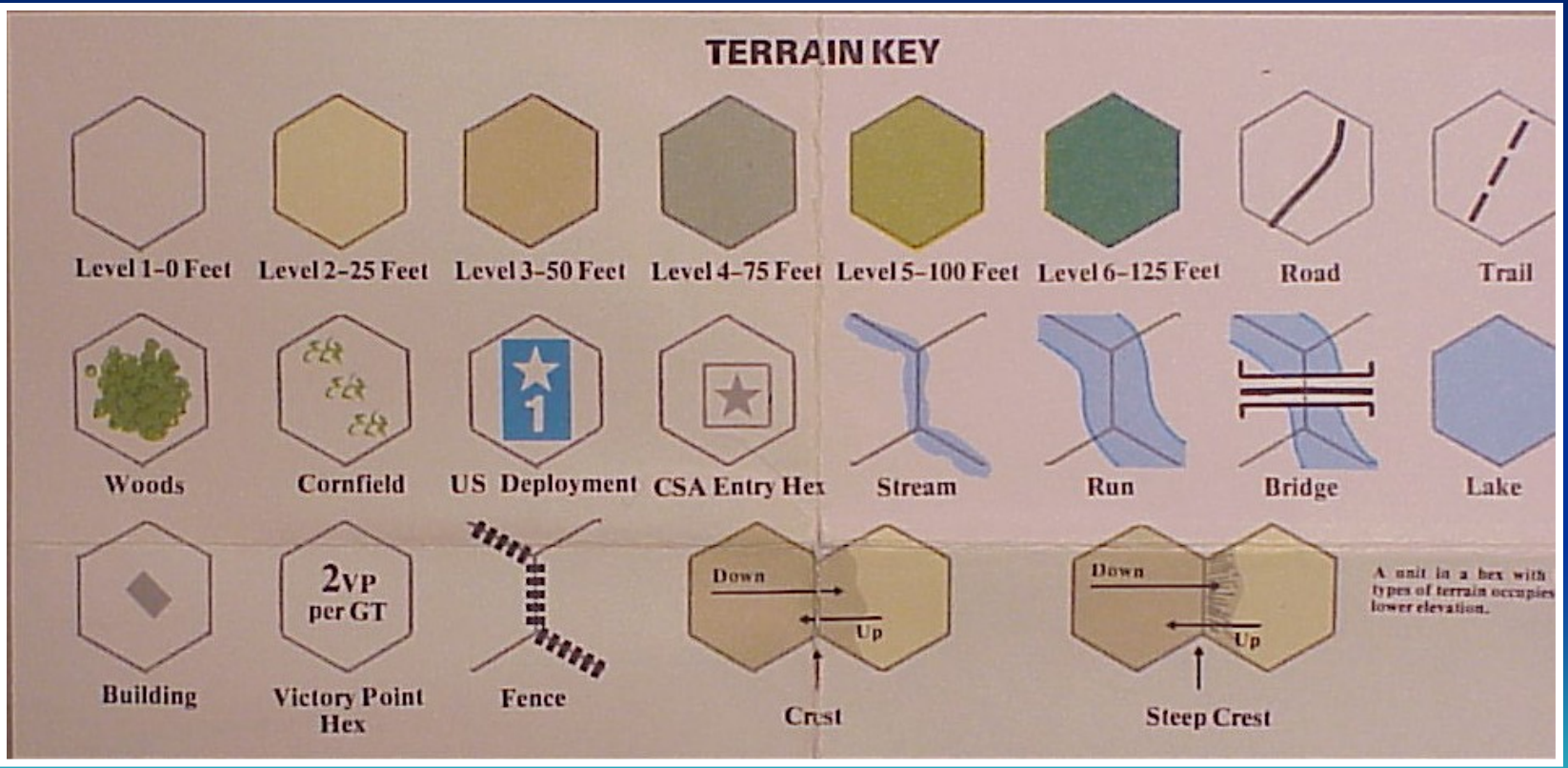
The Terrain Key chart shows us the height information.



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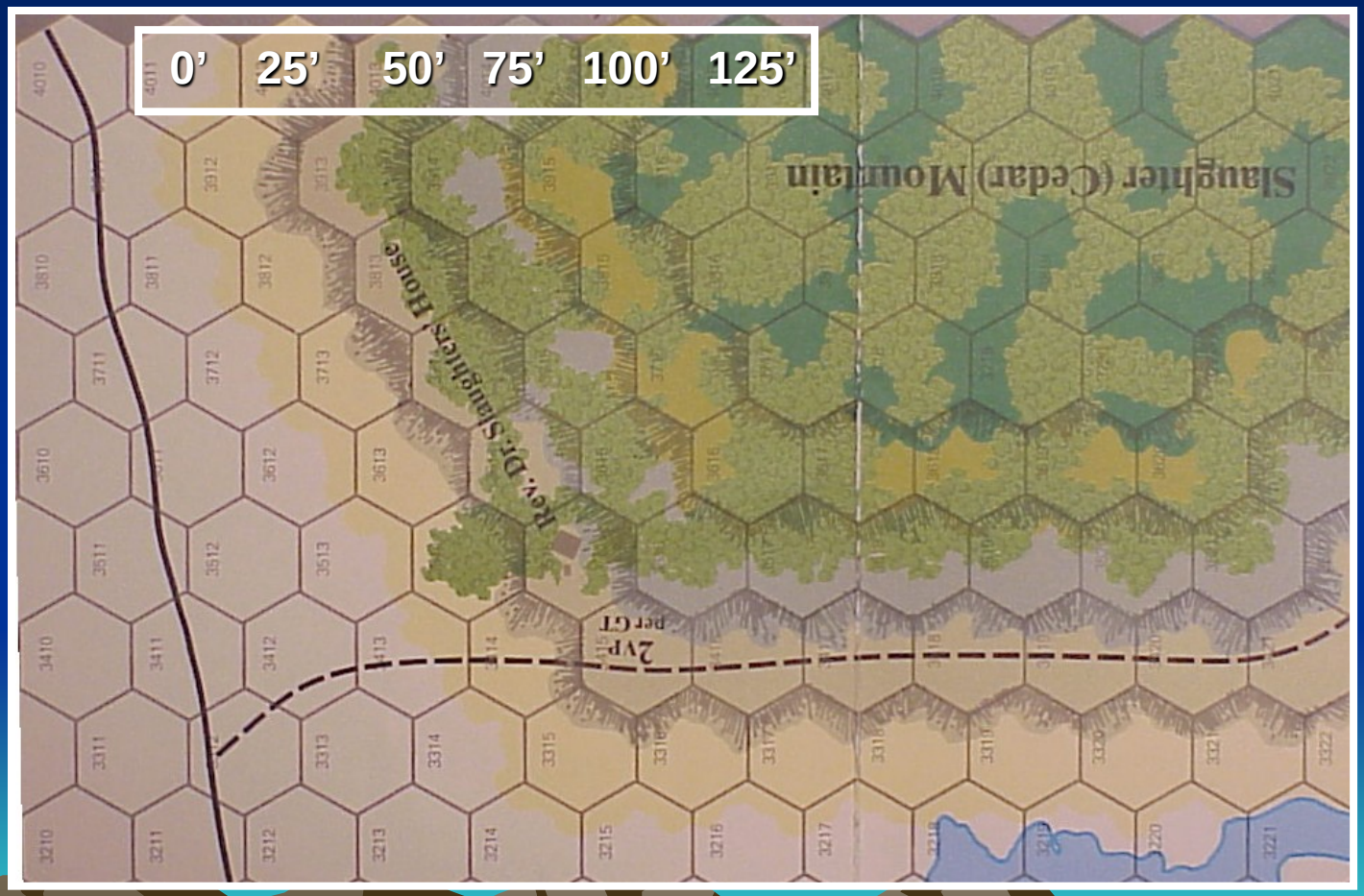
The numbers below show the heights.



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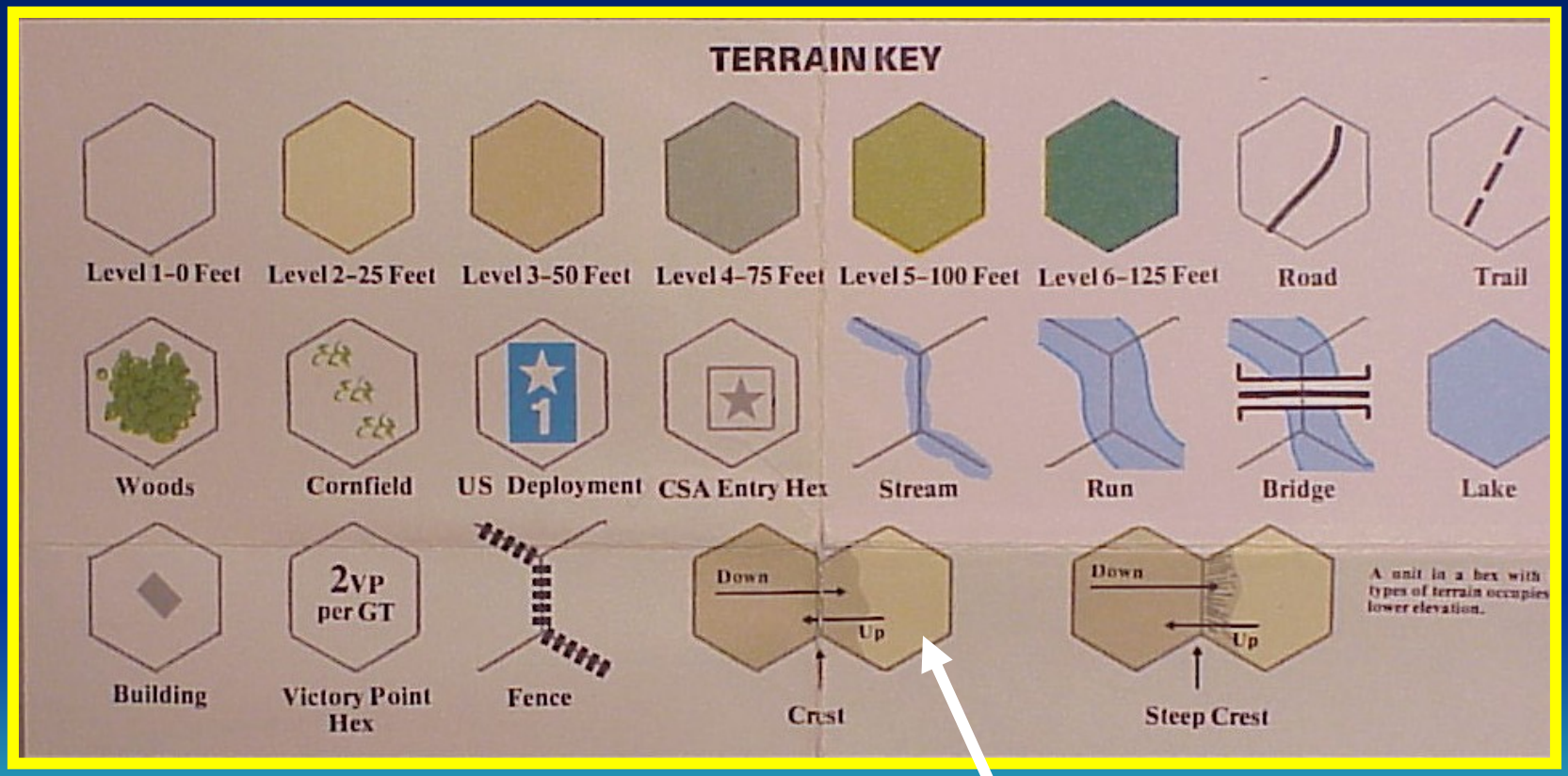

Also remember that any hex with two levels is always at the LOWER level!

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Line of Sight

Notice the ‘crest’ line – where two levels meet.

This Infantry unit is on the LOWER of the two levels.

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Line of Sight

This is a gradual crest.

These lines mark a steep crest.

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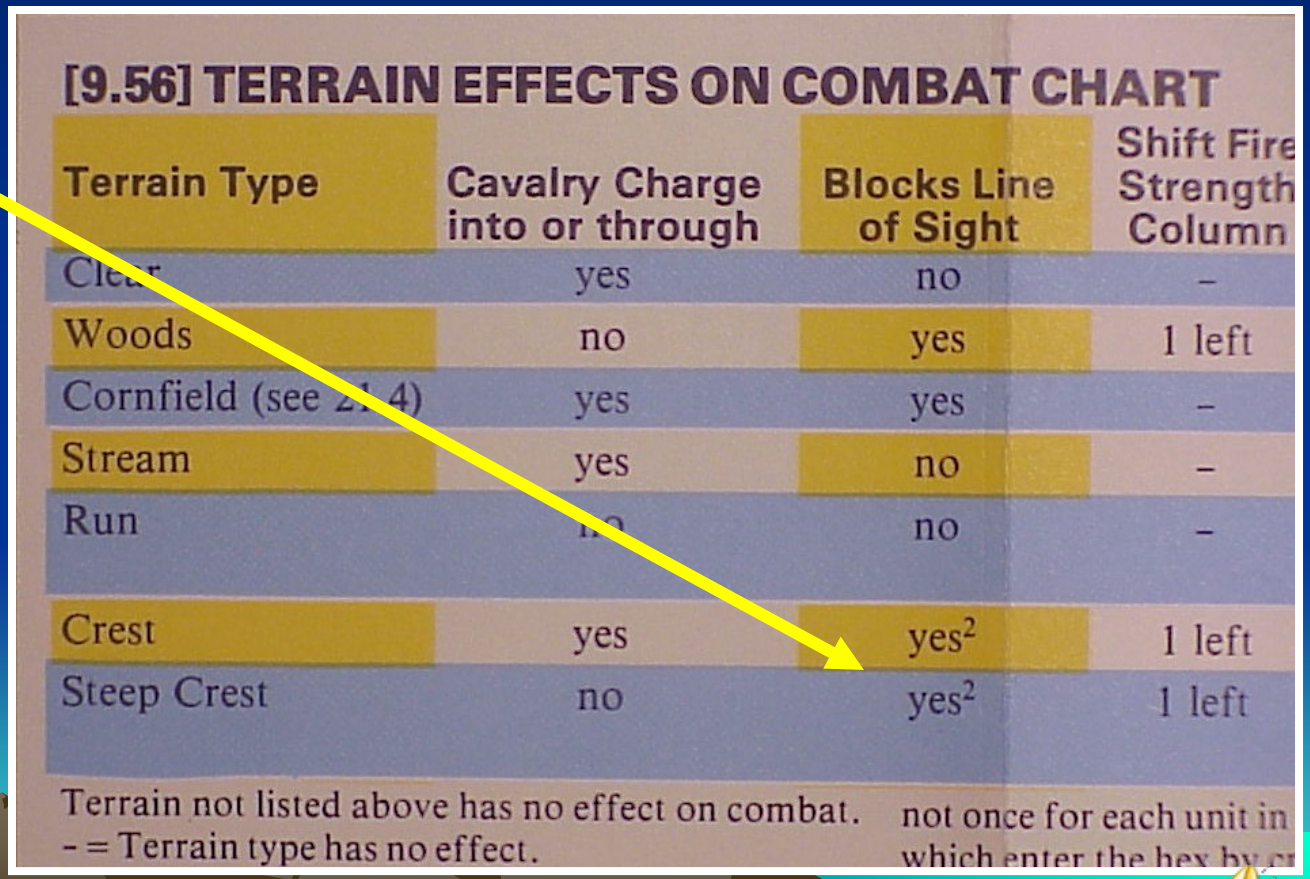
Line of Sight

Note : crests block LOS only if neither unit is higher than the crest and neither occupies the crest hex.



[9.56] TERRAIN EFFECTS ON COMBAT CHART

Terrain Type	Cavalry Charge into or through	Blocks Line of Sight	Shift Fire Strength Column
Clear	yes	no	–
Woods	no	yes	1 left
Cornfield (see 2.1.4)	yes	yes	–
Stream	yes	no	–
Run	[illegible]	no	–
Crest	yes	yes[2]	1 left
Steep Crest	no	yes[2]	1 left

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Line of Sight

The Infantry in hex 2727 cannot see the unit in 2526.

It is at the same height as hex 2626, and the 28th NY is at a lower height!

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Line of Sight

But an Infantry in hex 2625 can see the unit in 2728.

Why?

The LOS follows the hex spine, and 2726 is same level as the 28 NY. LOS is clear!

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Line of Sight Quiz

Using the Terrain Key, what is the height of this unit?

What height is the hill in 2225?

What height is this area?

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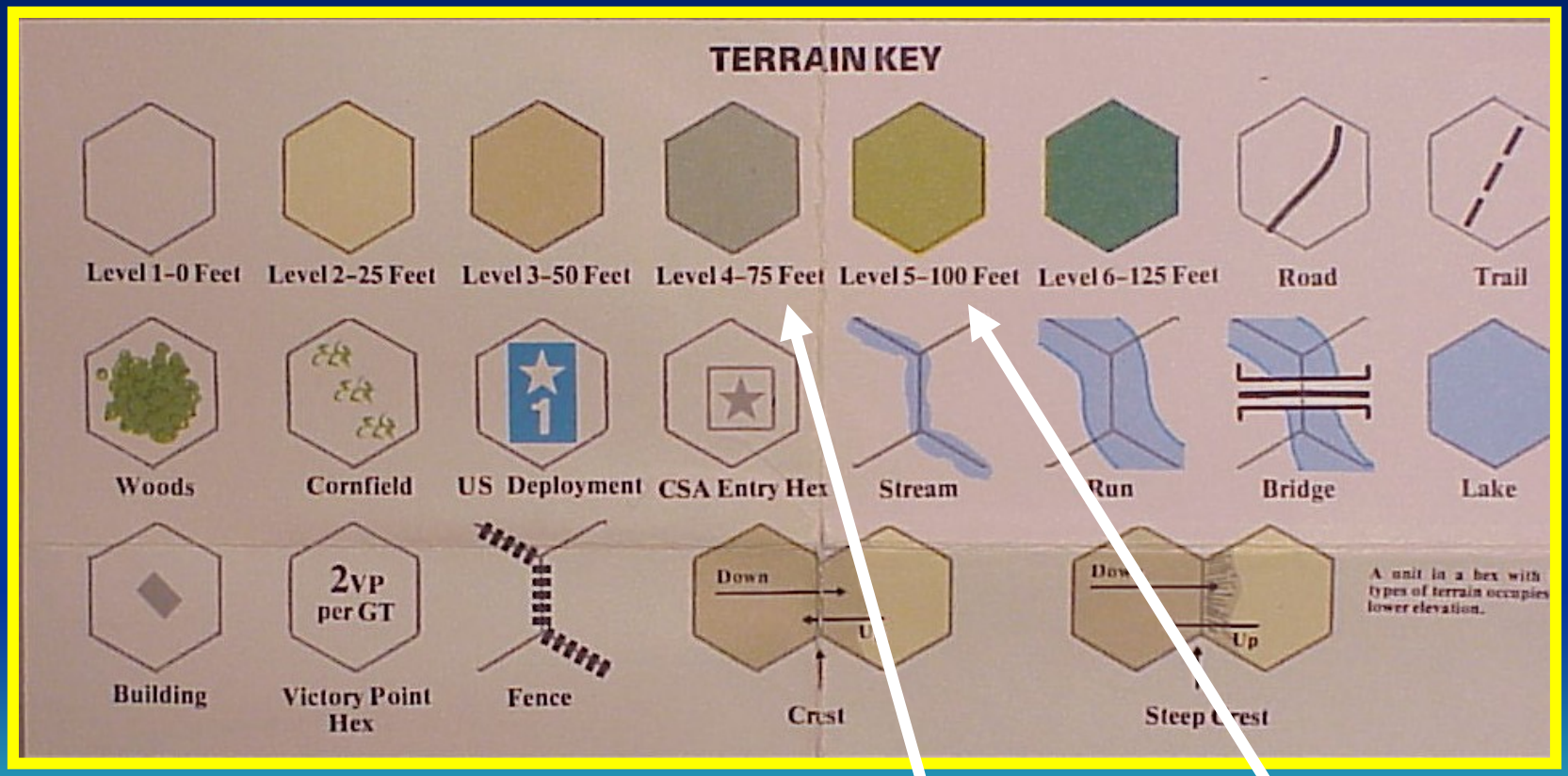

Matching colors, the unit's hex is 75'. The higher is 100'

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What height is this area?

50’

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Line of Sight Special Notes

A unit in 2225 could see down the slope to a unit in 2227. The height of the hill lets the sighting unit see ‘over’ the 1 Tenn!

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Special Note: There are also additional terrain that does NOT block LOS, but hinders it:

- Orchards
- Light woods
- Brush

Watch the Exclusive Rules section to see how these apply!

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Line of Sight

LOS is easier than it seems!

And there is good news – in this packet is an Excel worksheet that figures LOS for you!

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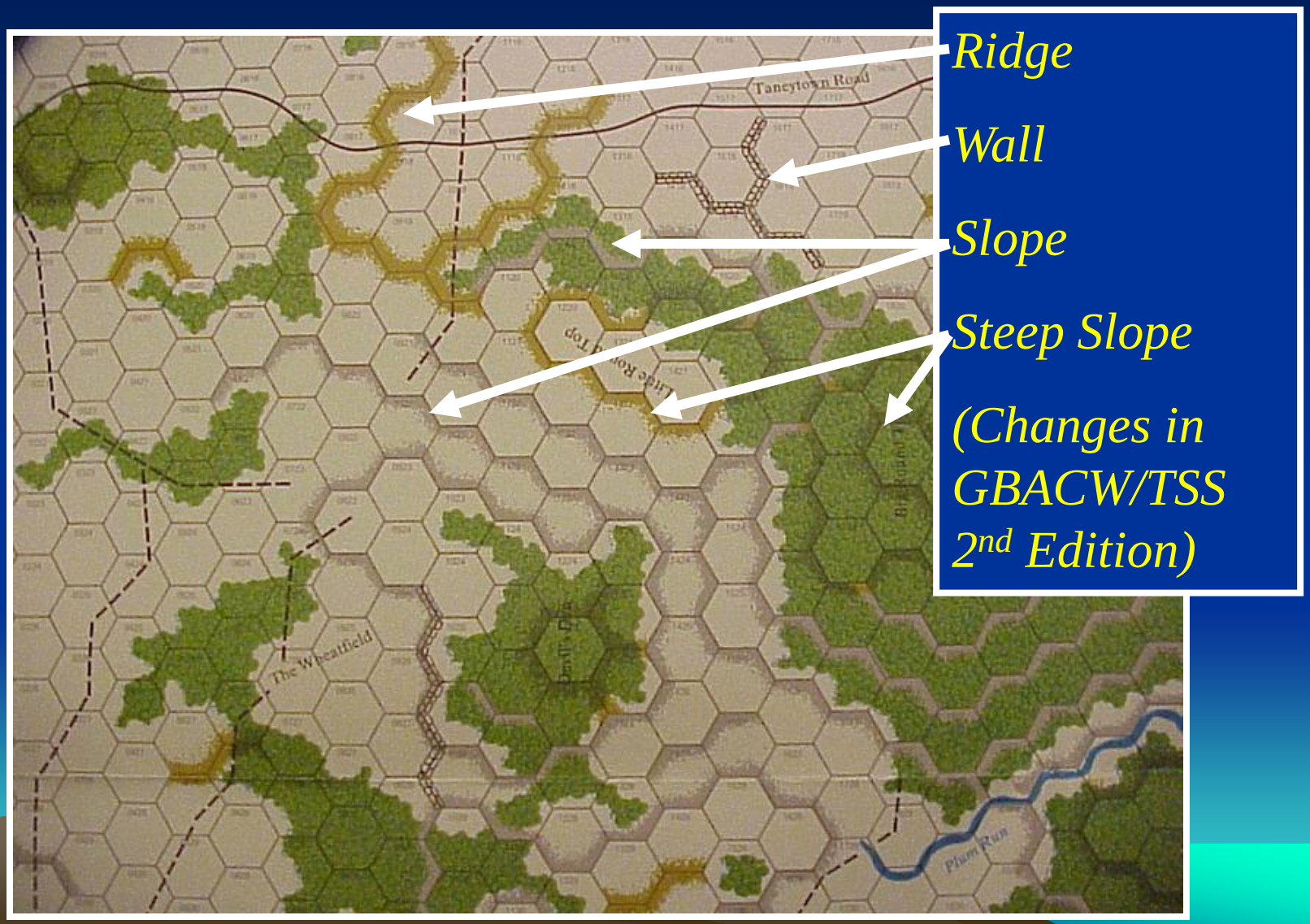

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For Further Information

For further information:

Read Section 9.7 (all)

and use the chart on the back

of the Standard Rules for the

GREAT BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

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Coming Next Module

Trust us – LOS is easier than it seems!

In the next module, we'll get you fired up as we take target practice - small arms and cannons in GBACW!

See you at

Module 7 – Fire Combat!