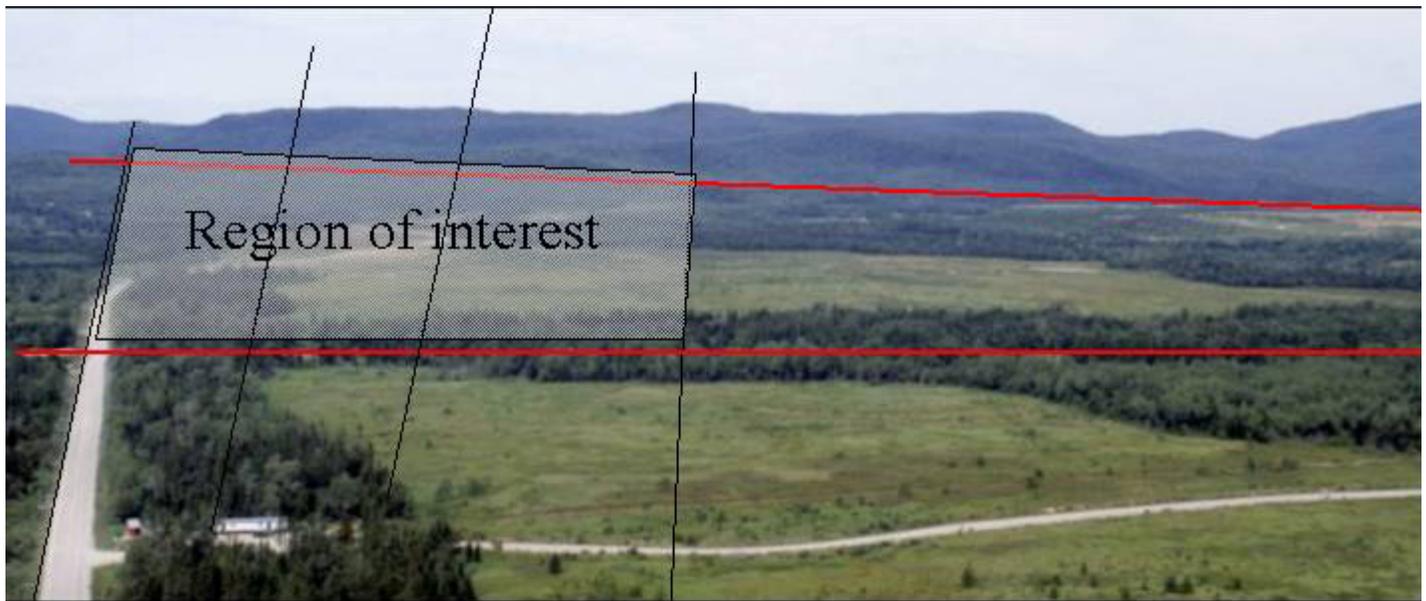


## Chapter 3 – FIELD TRIAL PLANNING

The trial set-up is the same for each background type. Backgrounds should be selected with care and provide more than one likely location for target placement. Backgrounds should be subdivided into sections. The number of sections should be one greater than the number of targets to be tested to allow for an indication of guessing. For example, in Figure 2 three sections are indicated within the background region of interest. This will allow for the placement of two targets. The positions in which the targets are placed within the background sections are fixed during the whole trial. These should be marked with stakes if the targets cannot be kept stationary in their positions during the whole trial period to provide consistent target placement. Background sections should be relatively homogeneous and avoid obvious cues that could cause false alarms or draw attention to the target. In order to eliminate searching by observers, it is recommended that both the background region and the sections within the background should be clearly indicated with markers visible from the extreme range of the observation path and explained to the observers during the briefing. An alternative method is to use a photograph of the test area to indicate the boundaries of the test area (background region) to the observers.



**Figure 2: Example of a Trial Set-up.**

Each sub trial should be carried out against one background during one day to minimize environmental changes (e.g. at peak illumination conditions). In each sub trial the targets are placed in a new combination relative to the background sections. This is done by means of a randomization plan. All targets will be displayed against all possible background sections in the trial. All the targets that are used in the trial should be of the same type. For example, if camouflage nets are used, they should be deployed in the same way at all times. To avoid possible gloss interaction, the windows and other reflective surfaces of the targets should be covered with a dull and dark material, e.g. Hessian.

The length and orientation of the observation path must be determined on site. If field observers are used, they should move along a specified path during the observations and this path should be marked in convenient

## FIELD TRIAL PLANNING

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intervals, e.g. 100 m. In this way the observation posts are defined. GPS could be used during an aerial trial. It must be possible to observe without hindrance the whole background used for the sub trial from each observation post. The criterion for a suitable start of the observation path is that no targets are detectable from the most distant observation post.

It is important that the field trial be implemented without any delays or confusion. To ensure this, it is highly recommended that a pre-trial be conducted prior to the actual trial. All relevant activities of the field trial should be tested during the pre-trial. One sub trial set-up is selected for the pre-trial and a few observers, who do not participate in the trial itself, perform the observations.