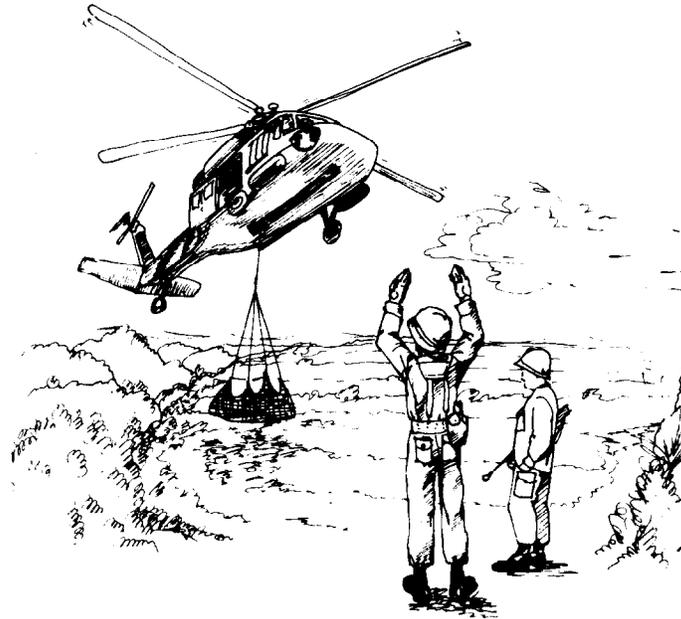


Wire communications vulnerability to guerrilla action will normally dictate that wire be used only for internal communications within secure bases. The physical wire system employed in the conventional role will often be unsuitable because it is vulnerable to guerrilla action. When distances permit, requesting radio-relay and carrier teams from the division signal battalion to provide a usable telephone and teletype system below brigade level should be considered.

All levels should emphasize the use of visual communications. Prearranged visual signals are especially effective for surface-to-surface communications between small units close to each other and for surface-to-air communications. Panels, smoke, and light (infrared and visible) should be employed.



Motor messengers are vulnerable to snipers, mines, and roadblocks and should be employed only in relatively secure areas and with care. Air messenger should be employed to carry the communications loads normally carried by motor messenger. Message drop and pickup methods should be employed when aircraft cannot land. For economy, aircraft on resupply, medical evacuation, or transport missions should also be used to deliver messages.

Requirements for communications with host country regular armed forces, paramilitary forces, and governmental agencies may be satisfied by exchange of communications equipment and liaison personnel.

Use of Army aircraft for many types of missions in IDAD operations increases the need for a responsive and reliable air-ground communications system. Any ground unit operating independently must be able to communicate directly with its Army air support and tactical Air Force support.

Communications sites are prime targets for insurgents. Communications personnel must take all measures necessary to protect and defend their installation; however, most signal teams or units have a limited capability for defense. Commanders must be prepared to commit combat forces for their security.