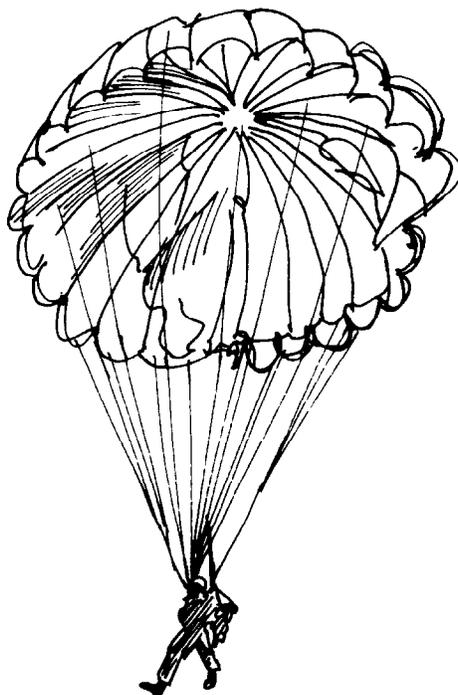


When airborne units make up all or part of reserve forces, the following must be considered:

- Ground alert of sufficient troop transport aircraft to airlift these forces.
- Reinforcing each airborne rifle company with fire support and logistical support.
- Planning for the use of Army and Air Force aircraft as well as Army pathfinders and/or Air Force combat control teams to mark the drop zone and operate communications and guidance equipment.
- Using an airborne forward observer (FO) during the early stages of an airborne operation. In addition to his ability to adjust indirect fire, he can be used as an airborne communication relay.
- The use of suppressive fires on drop zones, particularly where there is an anti-air threat.



The use of airborne forces against guerrilla forces often dictates that the troops drop on extremely small drop zones. In some cases, drop zones may be marked by a pathfinder observer flying in an observation aircraft. The following measures produce effectively deployed tactical units on small drop zones:

- Aircraft loaded so platoons and squads land as tactical units.
- Aircraft formation to provide a close drop pattern so troops can assemble rapidly after the drop.
- Complete delivery of personnel in one pass over the drop zone.