

L-0005
CHOOSE A GOOD COMMUNICATIONS SITE

CONDITIONS

Given a scenario in which a team is deployed from base to a remote location.

OBJECTIVE

Determine a good location to contact base by radio.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION

Training Information Outline

1. When on a sortie, the ground search and rescue team is required to maintain communications with mission base. In order to contact mission base, the team must find a good geographical location that will provide solid radio communications.
2. The following factors should be considered in choosing a good communications site:
 - a. High ground. The higher you are, the farther your signal can travel because there are fewer objects in the way.
 - b. Line of Sight. You want a clear path through the air between you and the station you are trying to communicate with. Just finding a high spot will not necessarily help if there is higher ground left between you and the receiving station. Artificial structures, especially tall buildings and metal sheds/towers, can block a signal easily.
 - c. Accessibility. If you are choosing a communications site based on a map study, ensure that you can actually get to it. The best communications site in the world cannot help you if you cannot drive/walk to it easily or if it is behind a locked gate.
 - b. Radio Interference. Some artificial objects produce radio interference that can interfere with your radio's ability to receive. Look for and avoid radio interference generators when choosing a communications site. These include:

- 1) High power lines
- 2) Transformers
- 3) Underground cables

Additional Information

Additional information on choosing a good communications site can be found in publications of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Newington, CT. Information on ARRL can be found at their web site: <http://www.arrl.org>.

Evaluation Preparation

Setup: None.

Brief Team Leader: Ask the team leader to name at least three factors in choosing a good communications site, and two sources of radio interference.

Evaluation:

<u>Performance measures</u>	<u>Results</u>	
1. Identifies the three of the four communications site factors	P	F
2. Identifies two radio interference sources	P	F

Student must receive a pass on all performance measures to qualify in this task. If the individual fails any measure, show what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.