

# COMMAND

# & CONTROL

**CAREER  
PATHS**



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Express Publishing

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# 6 The Soldier's Life: Radio Basics

**Radios** are vital military tools. They allow soldiers to **stay in contact** during combat and other operations.

Most radios are made to **hop frequencies**. This prevents the enemy from listening to the full conversation.

The **SINCGARS (man-pack)** and **AN/PRC-148 (handheld)** are common military radios.

The man-pack can be worn as a **backpack**. This portable type of radio handles both voice and data **transmissions**.

The handheld is the most widely used radio. It permits easy **two-way** contact.

Most modern radios use **rechargeable lithium-ion batteries**.



Using a SINCGARS man-pack radio in the field

## Comprehension

### 1 Read, listen and fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.

- 1 Radios hop frequencies in order to .....
- 2 There are two basic types of radios: the ..... and the .....
- 3 The SINCGARS radio can handle not only ..... but also voice transmissions.
- 4 The handheld is most useful for .....
- 5 Today's portable handheld radios are powered by .....

### 2 a) Read again and choose the correct answers.

- 1 What can be inferred about the SINCGARS radio?  
A It cannot hop frequencies automatically.  
B It is mostly used for data transmissions.  
C It has a better battery than the AN/PRC-148.  
D Soldiers wear it like a backpack.

- 2 According to the text, what is true of the AN/PRC-148 handheld radio?  
A It can receive but not send data messages.  
B It is too large to fit into a soldier's pocket.  
C It uses a rechargeable battery.  
D It has a longer range than man-pack radios.


### b) In pairs, talk about how many types of radios there are and how they can be used.

## Vocabulary

### 3 Choose the correct definition for each word.

- 1 *man-pack*  
A a radio worn on the back  
B a message sent through a radio  
C a type of radio transmission
- 2 *two-way*  
A moving in two directions  
B consisting of two parts  
C using voice and data
- 3 *stay in contact*  
A to replace batteries  
B to have communication  
C to turn off a radio

## 4 Study the table below.

RADIO VOICE PROCEDURE 	
WORDS	MEANING
Affirmative	Yes.
Roger	I understand / I received your transmission.
Negative	No.
Wilco	I will comply; I will do what you have asked.
Standby	Wait.
Over	I'm finished speaking and waiting for a reply.
Out	I'm finished speaking and don't expect a reply.
Go ahead	Please send your next transmission.
Say again	Repeat the last transmission.
You're breaking up	I cannot hear you / your voice.

## 5 Complete the conversation with appropriate words or phrases from the word bank.

**negative**      **wilco**      **say again**  
**over**      **out**



- D77: Echo one-three, I didn't hear your last transmission. Please (1) .....
- E13: I repeat, please advise. Is air reconnaissance available for this area? (2) .....
- D77: (3) ..... We do not have air recon at this time. Please wait for further instructions.
- E13: (4) ..... I will await your next transmission. (5) .....

## 6 Complete the word or short phrase that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

- I understood your last transmission. I am moving toward the objective now.  
\_ \_ g \_ \_
- Yes. All units have reported back to base.  
\_ f \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_
- You're going to have to repeat the last transmission, soldier. I couldn't understand you.  
\_ o \_ ' \_ \_ \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ p

- This is Delta Actual. Please proceed with your transmission.  
\_ o a \_ \_ \_ \_
- I'm verifying that information for you now. Please wait until my next transmission.  
S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ y

## Listening

-  Listen to a radio conversation between a soldier in the field and his commander. Write down any key vocabulary (in bold in the reading passage) that you hear.
-  Listen again to the conversation. Then answer the questions.

- Why does the man contact the woman on the radio?  
.....  
.....

- What does the woman order the unit to do?  
.....  
.....

- Why does the man ask the woman to "say again?"  
.....  
.....

## Speaking

- In pairs, act out short radio exchanges using the procedure words in Ex. 4.

