Ground Guides and Ground Guiding

AR 385-55, FM 21-305, and FM 21-306 provide guidance on the use of ground guides and ground-guiding procedures. In addition, use the procedures below to manage the risks associated with ground-guiding operations.

- All drivers and other unit personnel will be trained to standard in the correct use of ground guides and ground-guiding operations.
- Ground guides will always be used when backing and in congested areas.
- Ground guides will be used when traveling cross-country during periods of limited visibility. Drivers will keep ground guides in view at all times.
- Ground guides will be used in bivouac and assembly areas.
- Ground guides will never walk backwards and to never get between two vehicles. Two ground guides will be used when vision is restricted.
- Ground guides will be equipped with suitable lights (two flashlights and extra batteries) during periods of limited visibility or darkness.
- Ground guides will use hand signals. Voice signals can be misunderstood or go unheard.
- Ground guides will:
  - Keep proper distance from the vehicle (10 yards).
  - Give signals only to one person (the vehicle driver).
  - Stay out of the path of travel.
  - Stay in the driver’s line of sight.
  - Keep to the side and front (or rear) of the vehicle (driver’s side is best).
  - Clear yourself, then clear the vehicle, and then give the command to move the vehicle.