

FM 1-112

ATTACK HELICOPTER OPERATIONS

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HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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PREFACE

This manual is the Army's doctrinal manual for attack helicopter operations. It is designed to assist attack helicopter commanders, their staffs, and subordinate company commanders in the conduct of training and combat operations. It also serves as a guide for corps, division, and brigade commanders and their staffs. This manual discusses the organization, capabilities, and employment of attack helicopter units.

This manual incorporates current Army doctrine based on FM 100-5. It describes the ARI force structure and the associated TTP based on currently fielded systems. It is recognized that the fielding of the Army's planned digital information systems and modern aircraft, such as the AH-64D, will alter the TTP in this manual. During this transition to the future, lessons learned, equipment upgrades, and digital TTP will be captured and incorporated into the next edition of this manual.

This manual sets forth doctrinal principles that guide the conduct of light and heavy attack helicopter operations. It addresses specific TTP to clarify or emphasize these principles. Users must apply this doctrine within the capabilities and limitations of their units and develop SOPs that address specific techniques and procedures.

The proponent of this publication is HQ TRADOC. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to the Commander, United States Army Aviation Center and Fort Rucker, ATTN: ATZQ-TDS-D (FM 1-112), Fort Rucker, AL 36362-5092.

Unless stated otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

This publication has been reviewed for OPSEC considerations.

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This publication implements the following international agreements:

STANAG 2019 (Edition Three) and QSTAG 509	Military Symbols for Land Based Systems--APP-6
STANAG 2041 (Edition Four) and QSTAG 520	Operations Orders, Tables and Graphics for Road Movement
STANAG 2404	Joint Anti-Armor Operations (Draft)
STANAG 2868 (Edition Four)	Land Force Tactical Doctrine-- ATP-35(A)
STANAG 2889 (Edition Three) and QSTAG 742	Marking of Hazardous Areas and Routes Through Them
STANAG 2999 (Edition One)	Use of Helicopters in Land Operations--ATP-49
STANAG 3497 (Edition One)	Aeromedical Training of Aircrew in Aircrew NBC Equipment and Procedures
QSTAG 277 (Edition Three)	Procedures for the Employment of Helicopters in the Antiarmor Role

CHAPTER 1

ATTACK HELICOPTER FUNDAMENTALS

Attack helicopter battalions are assigned to divisional aviation brigades and corps ATKHRs (in corps aviation brigades). They provide the supported commander a highly mobile and lethal armor, personnel, and materiel destruction capability during the day and night. This chapter explains what an ATKHB is, how it is organized for the different types of divisions and the corps ATKHRs, and its organizational capabilities and limitations.

1-1. ROLES OF THE ATKHB

a. General.

(1) The ATKHB is an aerial maneuver unit usually employed as a battalion. It conducts attack, reconnaissance, and security operations that complement other maneuver forces. The ATKHB enables the supported commander to mass combat power rapidly at the decisive time and place to affect a battle's outcome. The commander must integrate the ATKHB into his tactical maneuver plan with other maneuver units. When employed with other combat assets, the ATKHB can strike the enemy where and when it is most vulnerable.

(2) An ATKHB never fights alone. Attacks are coordinated with other maneuver, combat support, CSS, and joint forces to form a combined arms team. This team surprises and overwhelms the enemy at the point of attack. Attacks may be conducted out of physical contact with other friendly forces but synchronized with their scheme of maneuver, or they may be in direct contact with friendly forces.

b. Tenets of Army Operations. Success on future battlefields depends on how well the tenets of Army operations doctrine are applied. These tenets are initiative, depth, agility, synchronization, and versatility. General aviation employment principles as related to these tenets are discussed in depth in FM 1-111, Aviation Brigade Operations, Chapter 1. Application of these tenets as related to the ATKHB are discussed below.

(1) Initiative. Attack helicopters are offensive weapon systems. They provide commanders the means to deliver massed firepower rapidly and accurately, thus disorganizing enemy forces and allowing the friendly force to gain or maintain the initiative. To be successful, the ATKHB must be integrated into the ground commander's scheme of maneuver. This requires that commanders analyze the battlefield and decide early where the ATKHB will be employed.