

FM 1-564

SHIPBOARD OPERATIONS

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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PREFACE

This manual describes the tactics, techniques, and procedures for use by Army aviation units during operations from Navy and Coast Guard ships. It is written to reflect peacetime operations that may transition into warfighting execution and assumes that the deployment of Army helicopters is the result of careful presail planning.

This manual is intended for commanders, staffs, aircrews, and instructors. It will be used to coordinate, plan, execute, and teach shipboard operations. Along with Navy publications, it provides information for developing a standardized, progressive program to train crews to proficiency on shipboard operations. Appendixes A through F provide supplemental information on aircraft handling signals; aircraft arming and safing signals; weapons loading, strikedown, downloading, and recovery guide; operations from single- and dual-spot ships; standing operating procedures for overwater operations; and flight deck clothing and duties. [Appendix G](#) provides information on helicopter/ship interface; the most current memorandum of understanding between the Army, Air Force, and Navy for deck landing operations is found in [Appendix H](#). This publication also reflects Navy terminology, regulations, procedures, and traditions that are necessary for safe operation aboard ships. Unless stated otherwise in the text, the term "battalion" refers to both aviation battalions and squadrons.

The proponent of this publication is HQ TRADOC. Aviation units are encouraged to recommend ideas to improve the tactics, techniques, and procedures in this manual. Send comments and recommendations on [DA Form 2028](#) (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to the Commander, US Army Aviation Center, ATTN: ATZQ-TDS-DM, Fort Rucker, AL 36362.

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

This manual has been reviewed for operations security considerations.

CHAPTER 1

PREDEPLOYMENT PLANNING

In nearly every major conflict and operation since World War II, Army aviation has been assigned missions in the maritime environment, either basing off naval vessels for land attack or operating from ships for sustained overwater missions. In recent years, the nature and complexity of those missions have changed dramatically, dictating that aviation units complete specialized preparatory and sustainment training. Recent worldwide deployments have shown that Army aviation has a versatile combination of equipment sophistication, deployability, and personnel to accomplish specific strategic missions that require operations in the maritime environment.

Section I. Mission Analysis

1-1. PREPARATION

- a.** Army aviation units are presently participating in many joint operations that require proficiency in shipboard operations to perform--
- Medical evacuation from shore to ship.
 - Logistics transfer and resupply.
 - Armed and unarmed reconnaissance and sealane surveillance.
 - Maritime security operations, small boat interdiction, ship takedown and area denial.
 - Attack helicopter operations.
- b.** [FM 100-5](#) stresses the need for training and preparing for shipboard operations. Chapter 4 states that a force projection army requires extraordinary flexibility in thinking about operations because of the variety of combinations of joint forces available and the range of possible circumstances for their employment. It also states that Army doctrine stresses unified air, land, sea, and special operations--all supported by space operations--throughout the theater of war. This publication helps planners prepare for air-sea missions, specifically those missions that require landing on and operating from US Navy and Coast Guard air-capable ships.
- c.** The document that governs Army shipboard operations is the "Army/Air Force Deck Landing Operations Memorandum of Understanding" signed by the Army, Air Force, and Navy in July 1988. Information from this MOU will be supplemented as necessary to provide more comprehensive guidance in planning and conducting Army aviation shipboard flight operations.

1-2. MISSION DEFINITION

Shipboard or overwater specified tasks are found in nearly all regional contingency plans, JTF plans, and counternarcotics operations. Shipboard missions require deck landings and support operations performed