

FM 3-04.111

Aviation Brigades

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Headquarters, Department of the Army

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Aviation Brigades

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Preface

Doctrine provides a military organization with unity of effort and a common philosophy, language, and purpose. This document is the Army's keystone doctrine for fighting and sustaining aviation brigades.

This field manual (FM) is intended for all aviation commanders, staffs, and any United States (U.S.) military personnel expecting to conduct operations with Army aviation units. The operational concepts described in this manual reinforce fundamental principles found in Army doctrine. It provides overarching doctrinal guidance for employing aviation brigades in full spectrum operations and a foundation for developing tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) in other/follow-on Army manuals.

FM 3-04.111 expands employment doctrine for aviation units and describes considerations for forming aviation battalion task forces (ABTFs).

- Chapter 1 focuses on aviation brigade organizations and missions and provides aviation brigade fundamentals for reader consideration.
- Chapter 2 provides doctrine for organizing operations' command and control (C2) systems. It provides the organization for command post (CP) structure and general guides for roles and functions of CPs and their cells. Chapter 2 also describes duties of brigade leaders and staff.
- Chapter 3 discusses employment of the aviation brigade, planning considerations, and air-ground integration.
- Chapter 4 focuses on the formation and employment of ABTFs. It provides considerations for task organization based on mission and theater, and discussion of aviation task force employment principles.
- Chapter 5 discusses aviation brigade maintenance and logistics providing insight regarding the need to optimize mission accomplishment while balancing sustainability, mobility, and survivability. This chapter also focuses on the aviation support battalion's (ASB's) mission and function.

The appendices provide guidance, procedures and recommendations concerning specific subjects and amplify concepts referred to in the chapters. Appendix A discusses the Army Force Generation Model. Appendix E provides basic aircraft characteristics.

This FM applies to aviation forces through all operational themes—peacetime military engagements to major combat operations—and full spectrum operations—offensive, defensive, stability, and civil support.

This manual applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the United States Army Reserve unless otherwise stated. Procedures described herein are intended as a guide and are not to be considered inflexible. Each situation in combat must be resolved by an intelligent interpretation and application of the doctrine set forth herein.

Finally, FM 3-04.111 furnishes a foundation for subordinate doctrine, force design, materiel acquisition, professional education, and individual and unit training.

The proponent of this publication is United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Send comments and recommendations on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to publications and Blank Forms) or automated link (<http://www.usapa.army.mil/da2028/daform2028.asp>) to Commander, United States Army Aviation Warfighting Center (USAAWC), ATTN: ATZQ-TD-D, Fort Rucker, Alabama 36362-5263. Comments may be e-mailed to the Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) at av.doctrine@us.army.mil. Other doctrinal information can be found on the Internet at Army Knowledge Online (AKO) <https://us.army.mil/suite/page/389908>

This publication has been reviewed for operations security (OPSEC) considerations.

Chapter 1

Missions and Organization

Aviation brigades are organized and equipped to support Army combined arms operations as well as joint, interagency, and multinational (JIM) operations. This chapter describes the mission and organization of each type of aviation brigade, and the fundamentals common to all aviation brigades. The description for each type of aviation brigade is based on the official table of organization and equipment (TOE). Operationally, all units are resourced according to the modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE). Actual organizations may vary from TOEs described in this field manual.

SECTION I – OVERVIEW

1-1. The aviation brigade is organized to synchronize operations of multiple aviation battalions simultaneously. Because the brigade is modular and tailorable, it can task organize as required for reconnaissance, security, close combat attack (CCA), interdiction attack, air assault, and air movement operations in support of ground forces.

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1-2. Aviation brigades must rely on realistic training and established standing operating procedures (SOPs) to facilitate task organization and the addition or subtraction of subordinate units.

1-3. Throughout this manual, the term company includes troop and battalion includes squadron. Where appropriate the terms troop and squadron may be used when specifically discussing attack reconnaissance squadrons (ARSs), air cavalry squadrons (ACSs), or their respective subordinate units.

THE SPECTRUM OF CONFLICT

1-4. The spectrum of conflict, described in FM 3-0, ranges from stable peace to general war. See figure 1-1, page 1-2. Overlapping operational themes that occur along the spectrum are—

- Peacetime military engagement.
- Limited intervention.
- Peace operations.
- Irregular warfare.
- Major combat operations (MCO).

1-5. Aviation brigades execute various missions along this spectrum according to the operational theme characterized by the situation at the time. Generally, more than one operational theme is active at a given time, causing differences in the way the missions are executed, according to appropriate rules of engagement (ROE) and rules of interaction (ROI).

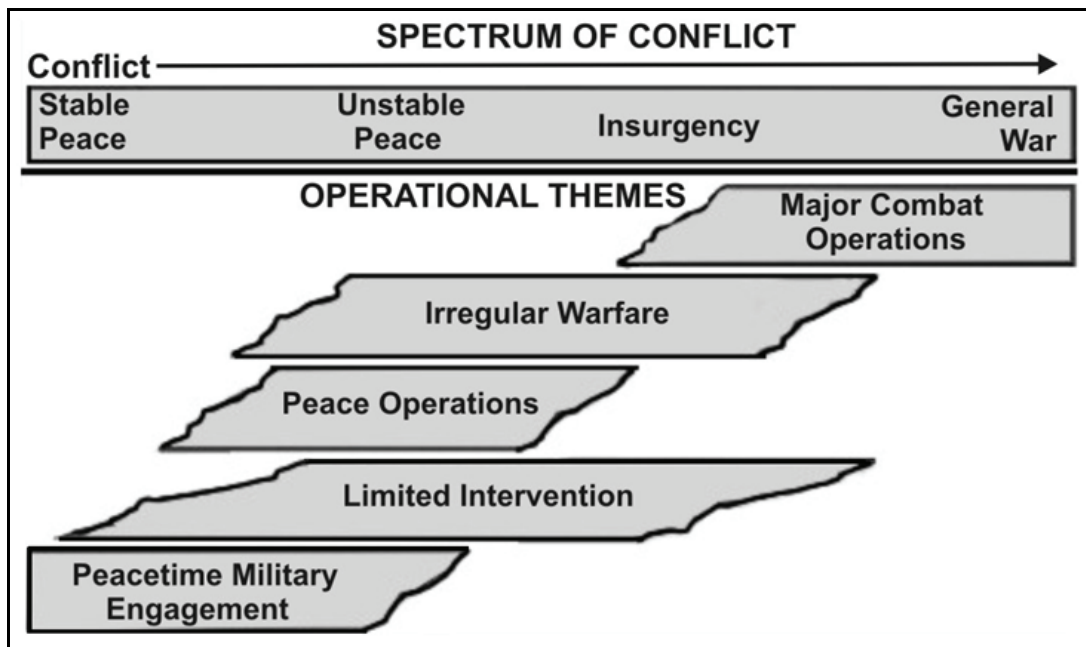


Figure 1-1. The spectrum of conflict and operational themes

1-6. Operational themes may change over time for various reasons including planned phases; changes caused by friendly, enemy, or neutral activity; revised political guidance; and unexpected opportunities. Operational themes should not be confused with tactical tasks or activities. As a rule, operational themes are too general for assigning missions. Rather, they describe the general characteristics of the major operation, not the details of execution.

COMPONENTS OF FULL SPECTRUM OPERATIONS

1-7. There are four components of full spectrum operations—offensive, defensive, stability, and civil support.

1-8. **Offensive operations** defeat and destroy enemy forces, and seize terrain, resources, and population centers. They impose the commander's will on the enemy and achieve decisive victory.

1-9. **Defensive Operations** defeat an enemy attack, buy time, economize forces, or develop conditions favorable for offensive or stability operations

1-10. **Stability Operations** restore, establish, preserve, or exploit security and control over areas, populations, and resources. Stability operations are executed outside the U.S.

1-11. **Civil Support Operations** are conducted to address the consequences of natural or manmade disasters, accidents, and incidents within the U.S. and its territories.

Combat Power

1-12. Combat power is the actual application of force; the conversion of fighting potential into effective action. Combat power is derived from the six warfighting functions (WFFs) tied together by leadership. Aviation brigades combine WFFs to generate combat power. Table 1-1, page 1-3, provides examples of tasks aviation brigades conduct to support each WFF.

Table 1-1. Aviation brigade's role in Army warfighting functions

Army Warfighting Function	Aviation Brigade's Role
Movement & Maneuver	Support ground maneuver elements in contact through CCA. Conduct air assault in support of search and attack operations. Conduct movement to contact to locate and destroy enemy forces.
Intelligence	Conduct area reconnaissance to identify adequate routes and locate bypasses. Perform surveillance to confirm or deny enemy activity.
Fires	Utilize attack reconnaissance helicopters to conduct battle damage assessment (BDA) of fires. Designate for laser-guided artillery or other service munitions during joint air attack team (JAAT) operations.
Sustainment	Perform aircraft recovery to include insertion of downed aircraft recovery teams (DARTs) and ground maintenance contact teams. Support forward arming and refueling point (FARP) emplacement and resupply operations. Perform casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) and aeromedical evacuation (MEDEVAC).
C2	Provide battle command on the move (BCOTM). Provide retransmission capability to air and ground commander. Provide air traffic services (ATS).
Protection	Provide convoy security. Conduct area security through counter mortar and rocket operations.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1-13. The aviation brigade participates in all three operations that are expressed in the commander's concept (refer to FM 3-0). These operations include—

- **Decisive operations** that directly accomplish the mission assigned by higher headquarters and conclusively determine the outcome of major operations, battles or engagements.
- **Shaping operations** that create and preserve conditions for a successful decisive operation.
- **Sustaining operations** that enable the above two operations by generating and maintaining combat power.

SECTION II – MISSIONS

1-14. The role of the aviation brigade is to conduct and/or support ground maneuver through aviation operations. The brigade must prepare to fight as a whole, support brigade combat teams (BCTs) using pure or task-organized units, and conduct multiple independent missions requiring pure or task-organized units. Each aviation brigade is tailored for specific missions; however, each accepts other organizations and performs missions not necessarily defined in the TOE mission statement. Aviation brigade missions include—

- Reconnaissance.
- Security.
- Movement to contact.
- Attack.
- Air assault.
- Air movement.
- C2 support.