

The 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) has a rich history as an Army Aviation Battalion within the Missouri National Guard. The Battalion has flown the UH-1 Huey, OH58 A/C Kiowa, and AH-1F Cobra. In 1999, 1-135th ARB was designated as one of eight National Guard battalions to receive the AH-64A Apache. In 2002, the first AH-64A Apache helicopter arrived on our ramp at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. In 2011, the first AH-64D Longbow Apache arrived at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The Battalion has been training to deploy since designation as an Attack Reconnaissance Battalion.

Since the onset of Overseas Contingency Operations, the 1-135th ARB has actively supported combat operations in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Over 130 Battalion Soldiers have deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

As a member of the Missouri National Guard, the Battalion has responded to multiple state emergencies. Additionally, the Battalion provided State Emergency assistance to the State of Louisiana in the fall of 2005 shortly after hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the state. During this event, the battalion deployed sixty-one Soldiers for forty days to New Orleans, Louisiana. These Soldiers helped distribute food, water, and medical supplies as needed and served as a military police force providing security for the Central Business District, downtown New Orleans, the French Quarter, and the New Orleans jail. Every Soldier who deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina received the Humanitarian Service Medal and Louisiana State Emergency Duty Medal.

In 2006, the Alpha Company of the 1-135th ARB deployed as part of the 1-149th ARB from the Texas National Guard in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Alpha Company mobilized 48 Soldiers in February 2006, conducted pre-deployment training at Fort Hood, Texas, and then deployed to Balad, Iraq, in July 2006. Alpha Company performed valiantly throughout their deployment with their aviators flying over 8,500 combat flight hours supporting operations throughout Iraq. In one particular engagement, near Ramadi, an Alpha Company Soldier, CW2 Allen Crist, and a Texas ARNG Soldier, CW4 Kevin Purtee landed their Apache helicopter while under enemy fire to rescue a critically wounded Soldier who had been waiting more than 40 minutes for a MEDEVAC helicopter. CW2 Crist placed the wounded Soldier in the front seat of his helicopter, and strapped himself to the wing as they flew the soldier to safety. This is an exemplary example of the dedication, courage, and selfless service the Soldiers of Alpha Company displayed throughout their entire deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After their 18 month deployment, Alpha Company returned home to Missouri in August 2007. Individually, Alpha Company soldiers were awarded 5 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 3 Bronze Stars, 1 Purple Heart, 13 Air Medals with V-device, 53 Air Medals and 15 Combat Action Badges. Collectively, the unit received a Meritorious Unit Commendation for their service in OIF 06-08.

The 1-135th ARB strives for excellence in all aspects of operations, including competing at the national level for awards available to all components of the Army. In 2009, the Battalion received the Chief of Staff of the Army Combined Logistics Excellence Award. This award was in recognition of the Battalion's superior supply and logistics program, which is among the best in the entire Army National Guard. In 2010, the Battalion received the National Guard Bureau Aviation Training Assistance Team National Unit of the Year Award for continued superior performance in aviation operations.

The National Guard Bureau has designated 1-135th ARB as the sixth Army National Guard AH-64D Longbow Battalion. The Battalion has completed two successful Annual Training gunnery exercises and one High Altitude Mountainous Environmental Training Exercise in preparation for Unit Fielding Training Program (UFTP) at Fort Hood, Texas. The Battalion is completing the UFTP in preparation to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.