

1-149th ARB Overview

SLIDE 1

Good morning, I am MAJ Scott Nicholas, Commander of 1-149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 36th Infantry Division, TXARNG. Over the next 15 minutes I will present to you a quick snapshot on how our Battalion plans, resources, networks and executes collective training culminating in our capstone event, aerial gunnery.

In my humble 17.5 years of service, 13 of which have been with the TXARNG. I have had numerous command and staff positions in a mechanized infantry battalion, an attack reconnaissance battalion and most recently in a combat aviation brigade. My discussion will focus on training the individual through battalion collective and the “how” the 1-149th ARB accomplishes this task as well as maintain and sustain piece.

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1-149th ARB has a multitude of experience within the formation that will be highlighted throughout this brief. 24% of the Aviators in the 1-149th ARB are prior active duty which includes a myriad of different MOS' (not just Apache Aviators). Approximately 50% of 1-149th ARB have the answered the Nation's call and of those approximately 25% have multiple deployments.

As of today 1-149th ARB's retention rate is 107%. We currently have zero conditional releases (1-149th ARB Soldiers requesting to join the Active Duty).

1-149th ARB continues to enjoy relationships with MS, MO, PA and ID.

The corporate knowledge of the NGARBs is with the enlisted AH64 maintainers.

All of the pictures that you see in this presentation are of this Battalion over the past few years. The bottom line is that 1-149th ARB conducts collective level training at the company and above level.

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1-149th ARB conducts Unified Land Operations- to seize, retain and exploit the initiative to gain a position of relative advantage in sustained land operations in order to set conditions for favorable conflict resolution. The hub of this concept is decisive action- the simultaneous application of attack, reconnaissance and stability dependent on the phase of the operation (shown to your left).

As an Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, our mission essential task list anchors on attack helicopter operations generally characterized by the top two war fighting functions (to your right), but in the process of conducting battalion-level collective training we are able to exercise functions comprised from all the war fighting functions, not particularly in our specified METL.

In the top center you see the component inputs of a METL and in the reserve component, one might consider TIME as one of our limiting factors, but this can be overcome by creative usage of the operations cycle. We continually assess while we plan, prepare and execute battalion level operations but this happens within the distributed IDT/ AT construct. It is not uncommon for our operations to be planned while Soldiers are in an inactive status, briefed and rehearsed during an IDT and then executed during a subsequent IDT.

The yearly training plan model that we subscribe to is:

1st QTR- individual training

2nd QTR- Company/ TM

3rd QTR- BN Collective

4th QTR- BN Collective ISO individual

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This slide simply depicts our plan on how we execute our specified METL during our annual training. Typically, annual training will focus on mission command, attack helicopter operations and sustainment. Every aspect of our METL is trained during annual training to some degree and is nested within the priorities of the 36th CAB and 36th ID.

The two METs left off of this slide are Deploy/ Redeploy and Defense Support of Civil Authorities. Deploy/ Redeploy is the most exercised MET and DSCA is an O/O.

Of note, 1-149th ARB has 8 BN METs that are derived from the Combined Arms Training Strategy..

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This slide actually shows collective training tasks from the six aforementioned war fighting functions. Conducting no less than one battalion/ company level training exercise semi-annually allows us to re-evaluate our capabilities and limitations in reference to providing 9-Line CAS, 5-Line CCA and AWT operations. This constant state of training will allow 1-149th ARB to assess and track progress of specified METL tasks that are dependent on the focus of what is to be trained.

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The purpose of this slide and the following two slides is to depict the multiple collective level training events that 1-149th ARB has conducted over the past few years (2008) at the company and battalion level. The additional collective training with external units (joint) are specifically:

- JUN 2001 US Navy Joint-SHIP Operations
- NOV 2008 US Special Operations Command – Operation Jaded Thunder
- JUL/AUG 2011 JAAT with 1-285th at Nellis AFB, in support of USAF Weapons School (TACP CCA X)
- FEB 2011 US Army, 75th Fires Brigade – Operation Diamond Freeze
- MAY 2012 (Dry CCA) Training with 147th ASOS, TXANG Wallisville Tactical Training Area
- NOV 2012 Tables IX and X live fire with 147th ASOS, TXANG at Fort Hood, TX
- NOV 2012 Special Tactics Training Squadron (Hurlburt Field) - Combat Controller Training (JTAC Air to Ground) - Camp Shelby Joint Training Center Range 202 East
- APR 2012 155th ABCT - Operation Death Adder (Air to Ground) - Camp Shelby Joint Training Center
- DEC 2012 155th ABCT - Operation Hammer Time (Air to Ground) - Camp Shelby Joint Training Center
- JUN 2011-2013 Texas Red Flag (Dry CCA)
- DEC 2013 Southern Strike (Combined Joint Operation Exercise) - CRTC/Stennis Space Center /Camp Shelby Joint Training Center
- OCT 2014 Southern Strike(Combined Joint Operation Exercise) - CRTC/Stennis Space Center /Camp Shelby Joint Training Center
- AUG 2014 155th ABCT CALFEX - Camp Shelby Joint Training Center
- OCT 2014 SEAL Team 7 / JTAC (Air to Ground)-Razorback Range, Fort Smith, Arkansas
- OCT 2014 1st Special Operations Wing - Combat Controller Training-Air to Ground - Camp Shelby Joint Training Center Range 202 East
- FEB 2015 Operation Aggieland (Dry CCA) Air to Ground integration training with C, 5/19 SFG vicinity College Station, TX

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- MAR 2015 Downed Aircraft Recover STX in conjunction with US Coast Guard

The overwater training support provided logistical and operations support for deploying Active Component units. The specific units supported have included the 4-501st ARB, Fort Bliss – July 2012, 2-227th ARB, Fort Hood - May 2013 and 1-227th ARB, Fort Hood – Scheduled for August 2015

- Combat Training Centers
 - CMTC – Combat Mission Training Center Validation (2003)
 - NTC – National Training Center Support (2004)
 - JRTC – Joint Readiness Training Center Support (2004)
- Previous Annual Training Activities
 - Transcontinental Aerial Gunnery – Boise, ID (2005, 2008, 2009, 2010)
 - Fort Hood Annual Training (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

In addition to specified METL training 1-149th ARB has shown its diversity by providing DSCA response for several natural disasters since 2005. They include: Shuttle Columbia recovery, Hurricanes Katrina/Rita – September 2005, Hurricane Ike – September 2008 and most recently the Texas wide floods – May 2015. A major point to the DSCA is that the majority of Soldiers that were participating in these events were on dwell from previous deployments.

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This slide is meant to highlight the 1-149th ARBs unique training plan that nests the unit and the AASF on quickly receiving and integrating individuals from their basic instruction platform and turning them into operational pilots. The 14 day POI is the first step in the crawl-walk-run methodology in going from individual readiness/ training up to the battalion collective level. The National Guard, 36th CAB and 1-149th ARB utilize similar constructs in training and developing pilots. 1-149th ARB AH-64D aviators are authorized:

- 72 Additional Flight Training Periods (Individual and Team)
- 24 days for Drill Assemblies (Individual and Collective Training)
- 15 days for Annual Training (Individual and Collective Training)

Bottom Line: AH-64D aviators can conduct some type of training 111 days per year, not counting additional training opportunities (ADOS, RMAs, etc.)

The HAASF supports this effort by providing fulltime standardization/instructor pilot and maintenance support. As of 6 July 2015 the HAASF is required by NGB to have 109 full time support personnel and is currently operating with 68 full time support personnel. The facility support personnel is a mixture of instructor pilots (five full-time), instrument evaluators (four of five full-time instructor pilots), a safety officer (one of five full-time instructor pilots), flight operations officer (one full-time), flight operations personnel (three full-time) to cover two shifts (~75 hours per week) and maintenance, logistics and refuelers (53 full-time).

Facility Schedule

- Open 52 weeks per year (limited operations during Annual Training and year-end holidays)
- Open 5-days per week to support daytime training & maintenance
- Open 4-nights per week (17:30 – 23:00) to support night system training & maintenance
- Supports four flight periods per day (typically 2-4 single or multi-ship sorties per flight period)
- Accessible 1-3 weekends per year for Additional Flight Training Periods (Super AFTP Weekends)
- Accessible 22-days per year (Drill Weekends) to unit personnel (07:00-23:00)

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The above mentioned data correlates to the AASF, on average, supports the BN ~24 days per month for both day and night operations.

The 1-149th ARB has a fulltime LCT that augments a reduced flying hour program and assists individual pilots in maintaining proficiency in emergency procedure training, instruments, aerial gunnery as well as Longbow systems operations. The Longbow Crew Trainer (LCT) at the HAASF is open 5-days per week (40-hours/week), has a flexible schedule that supports the ARBs weekend usage (MUTA/ Super AFTP), has an LCT operator (one full-time) and contains LCT Support Staff (two full-time).

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This slide is meant to highlight the 1-149th ARBs, DET 3, B Co. 449th ASB and the HAASFs blended technique of maintaining and sustaining our fleet of AH-64Ds. As mentioned previously, the HAASF supports this effort by providing fulltime maintenance test pilots (three full time) maintenance, logisticians (tech supply) and refuelers (53 full-time).

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The dwell time between SFOR 13/14 and OIF 06-08 (~19 months) is an example of the availability that 1-149th ARB provides.

From 2007 to 2013 1-149th ARB transitioned from A to D model. The limitations at that time were no further A model Apache deployments.

This slide depicts the 1-149th ARB and 36th CAB's deployment history. Like all ARNG ARBs we have answered the Nation's call at every opportunity that we have been given.

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