



1-211th ARB – UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE 1-211th ARB

1-211th ARB Unit Resume Executive Summary v4

The 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) is an Apache National Guard unit based out of West Jordan, UT. Our unit has a long history of excellence with three deployments since 2001: Operation Desert Spring (2001-02) in Kuwait, and OEF V (2004-05) & OEF XII (2012-13) in Afghanistan. We have received the prestigious Army Aviation Association of American (AAAA) **National Guard Unit of the Year** award **three** times. On the unit's last deployment, we were awarded the "Fahnenband des Ministerpräsidenten" (Banner Ribbon of the Prime Minister) personally by President Joachim Gauck of Germany. This is the highest award given by Germany to a military unit – awarded for our support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). **On our most recent deployment, no Class A, B, or C accidents took place and all missions were completed with no fratricide or civilian casualties.**

The unit was originally established in 1975 as the 396th Attack Helicopter Aviation Company and was equipped with UH-1M (Mike model) Huey Gunships. In 1979 the unit was re-designated as the Attack Helicopter Troop of the 163rd Armored CAV (Calvary) Regiment and was equipped with the AH-1 Cobra. In 1988 the unit was re-designated as the 1-211th Attack Helicopter Battalion and equipped with the AH-64A Apache. **The Utah Army National Guard has performed the attack and scout role for over 40 years**, with multi-generational experience in the following attack / scout platforms: UH-1M Huey, AH-1G Cobra, AH-1S, AH-1F, OH-6A, OH-58A+, AH-64A Apache, and AH-64D Longbow.

Part of what makes our unit so successful is our world-class training area. Utah is home to the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR), **the nation's largest combined restricted land and closed "special use" airspace area.** The UTTR is in the back yard of the 1-211th and we frequently work with many different units and services throughout the year. Another key feature of Utah is its high-altitude deserts and numerous mountain ranges, which not only facilitates but demands superb expertise in power management. Our unit "wrote the book" for Apache high-altitude mountain training and over the years has trained many Active Component (AC) and National Guard (NG) units in power management and high mountain combat ops. Our pilots are training at altitudes in excess of 11,000' MSL.

Chronological History of Recent Unit Training, Accomplishments, etc.

August 2015: The unit participated in a large scale pre-mobilization validation exercise with our higher HQ, the 40th ID CAB (Combat Aviation Brigade), a California National Guard unit. Training occurred at Camp Roberts and Fort Hunter Liggett. The unit provided armed air escort, Close Combat Attack (CCA), Close Air Support (CAS) and Air-to-Ground Interdiction (AGI) in support of Air Assault missions for the 40th ID Infantry Brigade Combat Team (I-BCT). Also, our unit worked with the 75th Ranger Regiment in the UTTR, doing AH-64D live fire exercises / CCA / CAS / AGI.

July 2015: Unit participated in the classified BR 15 exercise with Special Ops Tier 1 forces at Dugway Proving Grounds (DPG) within the UTTR, which included joint fires with an Air Force AC-130 "Gunship." Also participated in DI 13 & 14.

June 2015: Unit Annual Training (AT) at UTTR & DPG – unit split based ops out of Wendover, NV, with a large contingent operating out of Dugway. Training focused on completion of gunnery qualification and advanced gunnery tables. Also, the unit conducted full spectrum / decisive action training as well as provided CCA/CAS/AGI support to the 19th SF & the 1457th Engineers. **The unit also conducted multiple STXs (Situational Training Exercise), including an EW (Electronic Warfare) range at Granite Peak to allow aviators to hone their counter radar TTPs**, as well as a PR (Personnel Recovery) Evasion Lane. Concurrently, our unit hosted members of the British Apache Forces as part of an ongoing exchange.

May 2015: The unit participated in Operation Lost Diamond, primarily conducting CCA, CAS and AGI. This was a collective, joint, and international training event in the UTTR that included working with JTACs (19th SF, Air Force, and Aussie Commandos), B-1 Bombers, F-15 & F-16 Fighters, Naval MH-60s, and a Marine KC-130 "Harvest Hawk." The event was a combination of dry / live fire exercises with multiple aircraft "in the stack," day and night. There were simulated ADA / threat missile emitters that aircraft reacted to as part of the training. Focus of the training was preparing units for

Operation Inherent Resolve (in Iraq and Syria), with an emphasis on new ROE / SPINS. Also, the unit did Rescue Escort (RESCORT) training with the Navy HSC-85's MH-60s as part of their final training exercise.

April 2015: Unit participated in Op Misty Flail, primarily conducting CCA, CAS, and AGI. This was a collective, joint, and international training event in the UTTR that included working with JTACs (5th & 9th ASOS, 19th SF, 125th Special Tactics Squadron), and Dutch Commandos, A-10s, B-1s, and F-15 & F-16 fighters. Event was a combination of dry and live fire exercises with multiple type of aircrafts "in the stack," with an emphasis in day/night training in a full spectrum / decisive action environment. There were simulated ADA / threat missile emitters that the aviators reacted to as part of the training. Also trained the use of SPINS/ACO/ATO and the "Fallen Angel" On Scene Commander Checklist.

March 2015: The unit participated in training with the Air Force Fighter Weapon School (FWS) at Nellis Air Force Base (AFB), Nevada, with emphasis focused on Defensive Combat Maneuvering (DCM) / Air-to-Air training and RESCORT training with the Air Force HH-60 Pavehawks. **Our unit frequently trains with the Fighter Weapon School and has participated in their training well over a dozen times in the last 10 years.**

February 2015: Three days of AGI training with Special Ops JTACs & British SAS (Special Air Service), with focused training on the new J-Fire publication. Trained in nuances of the new 5 & 9 Line for CAS and new 5 Line for CCA.

January 2015: Collective mission planning for a Battalion level mission for a Phased, Deliberate Operation attack in a full spectrum / decisive action environment against a complex threat with advanced ADA, AAA, Artillery, Tanks and more, all integrated with Radar. Included collective flight training in the AH-64 AVCATT (Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer) flight simulator and in the AH-64 aircraft.

December 2014: Unit participated in Yama Sakura 67, acting as a CAB as part of a large-scale, bilateral counterattack against a notional threat invading Japan. Parts of the unit operated in Joint Base Lewis McCord (JBLM), Washington, and Camp Asaka, Tokyo, Japan. **Our unit frequently supports Yama Sakura, having participated in this exercise in most years since 1991.** Also, the unit participated in USAF (388th & 419th) JTACs (Joint Tactical Air Controller) and British SAS Training & Validation in UTTR – a total of 8 sorties over 4 days conducting CCA, CAS, and AGI missions.

November 2014: The unit participated in Vigilant Guard – a multi-state response force training in DOMOPS (Domestic Operations). The 1-211th ARB established an AOB (Air Ops Base) and worked closely with other Guard units across the western region as well as several state and federal agencies. Our Apaches flew numerous times throughout this mission, both day and night for FLIR recon and provided command & control missions in support of the exercise.

September 2014: Members of 1-211th participated in an exchange program with U.K. British Apache Forces. The unit brought back several lessons learned, in particular Radar and Directed Energy Weapon TTPs that have been incorporated into our tactical ops. While in the U.K., participated in Exercise Lightning Force, based out of Otterburn and Spade Adam, on a Royal Air Force Electronic Warfare range with real threat ADA emitters.

August 2014: The unit participated in an Unconventional Warfare Exercise (UWEX) PR Mission known as Operation Skyline with the 19th SF and other Special Op forces in central Utah. Training included evasion that spanned several days, with some of our aviators executing their EPA (Evasive Plan of Action). The unit also conducted advanced gunnery tables at DPG. The unit trained with the Fighter Weapon School at Nellis AFB, with emphasis focused on DCM / Air-to-Air and RESCORT training with Air Force HH-60 Pavehawks.

June 2014: Entire unit moved to and integrated with 40th CAB at Camp Roberts, CA, in order to participate in the 40th ID Infantry BCT Operation Thunderbolt Tempest. This was a Division level exercise with extensive AGI/CAS/CCA and multi-aircraft ops of mixed formations with over 60 participating aircraft, including AH-64s, UH-60s, CH-47s, and some UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) aircraft. Training culminated in a **massive 23-ship Air Assault mission supporting the 40th ID Infantry BCT.** CAB was in direct support of ~1500 personnel during the exercise. Several missions were conducted at high

altitude at or above 10,000' MSL. The 40th ID CAB is the 1-211th ARB's Wartrace Higher HQs. The unit also conducted and qualified in Apache aerial gunnery at Ft. Hunter Liggett, CA.

April 2014: Unit participated in Op "Lone Survivor" in the UTTR. Training was a **PR (Personnel Recovery) scenario that included Apaches, Blackhawks, F-16s & KC-130 aircraft working together to recover notionally downed pilots.**

March 2014: The unit participated in Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center MTX 2-14, near Tahoe, CA. This was a joint, multi-national mission which included NG, Air Reserve, Air Force, & Naval aircraft, with 700+ Marines inserted into numerous LZs. Our AH-64s operated in some of the most mountainous terrain in CA, with many LZs between 8,000'-11,000' MSL. Aviators worked with Ground CDRs and JTACs, conducting CCA, CAS, AGI at day and night, utilizing PHODS (Portable Helicopter O² Delivery System) to compensate for continued high altitude ops.

February 2014: The unit supported 4th BN 10th SF Group ODA (Operational Detachment – Alpha) 0422nd (Mountain Men) during their Cold Weather Training with AH-64D Longbow Apache CCA / CAS / AGI / Recon flight support.

2013 – 2014: The unit supported B Company TF 4 -160th SOAR with armed escort and CCA / CAS /AGI support.

2013: Mandatory Unit "C-5" Reset Year: Our unit completed many joint flight exercises in the UTTR with Air Force & Navy aircraft – missions varied from CCA, to AGI, to RESCORT, to PR. Much of this training included working closely with the 19th SF JTACs. The unit also participated in Yama Sakura 65, working from JBLM, WA, and Hokkaido, Japan.

2012: The unit deployed to RC-North and RC-West of Afghanistan in support of OEF XII, conducting split based ops in Kunduz, Mazar-e-Sharif, Meymaneh, & Shindand. Frequently worked with US, ISAF, & NATO forces and provided nightly direct support to Tier 1 Special Op Forces/TF 160th SOAR (Special Ops Aviation Regiment). During the DES (Dept of Eval & Standardization) outbrief to LTG Terry (U.S. OEF Commanding General), **the 1-211th ARB was the only unit mentioned positively by name** by the director of DES, COL Fee. COL Fee's statement was to the effect: **There is something unique about the 1-211th flight standardization program**, and he believed that the 1-211th would not have any Apache accidents. None occurred. **GEN Terry then sent his Standardization Instructor Pilot and Safety Officer to our unit to learn how our flight standardization program works so that they could pass it on to other aviation units.** The 1-211th also completed two 500-hour Apache phase inspections for other units *without* ASB (Aviation Support Battalion) or contractor support, one each for 12th CAB and 101st CAB (both AC brigades – higher HQ for 1-211th) during OEF 12. The AC CABs were heavily dependent on contractor maintenance, which was in a state of turbulence due to a new civilian company acquiring the contract that had insufficient ability to support AH-64 maintenance. **Contrast this with our NG unit, which took only 4 days to do a 250-hour Apache maintenance inspections (the AC and contractors took twice as long) and 15 days to do a 500-hour phase inspections (half the time it took the AC and contractor teams).** Our unit flew over 11,000 hours during OEF, for an annualized equivalent of ~15,000 hours with an OR (Operational Readiness) rate of ~80% FMC (Fully Mission Capable). Our unit received the AAAA National Guard Unit of the Year award. Prior to deployment, our unit completed a three-month UFTP (Unit Fielding Training Program) at Fort Hood, TX, and was validated by the 21st CAV and 1st Army. UFTP will not be required on our future deployments. **Our unit will only require 30 days to be ready for the next deployment.**

A more complete record of the Utah Army NG Attack / Scout / Recon Helicopter unit history dating back for over 40 years is found in the full unit resume, which includes a list of acronyms. The massive amount of high-level training and combat operations described above is repeated year in and year out for the last 40 years for the Utah Army NG Attack / Scout / Recon helicopter aviation units. **The Army National Guard provides a home for numerous attack and scout aviators / maintainers who have left active duty** to continue their passion in the Guard. These aviators and maintainers have provided great continuity of training and vast flight / maintenance experience to our unit, keeping **unit costs low (~60% less than the AC)** and the **unit safety record high (the AC has a much higher accident rate)**. We have, without a doubt, earned our keep in Army Attack Aviation.



Conducting gunnery ops at Dugway Proving Grounds inside the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR).



The 1-211th ARB's III/V personnel are just as fast and efficient at loading as any AC unit.



The 1-211th ARB frequently works with ground units in the UTTR from around the world.



Conducting a detailed mission brief for decisive action (full spectrum) ops over A.T. FY15.



Returning from Granite Peak (in UTTR) after conducting Electronic Warfare STX using FCR/RFI.



The unit routinely operates at high altitudes above 10,000' MSL. Photo taken at MWTC.