



1-211th ARB – UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

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UNIT RESUME FOR THE 1-211th ARB

1-211th ARB Unit Resume v4

The 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) is an Apache National Guard unit based out of West Jordan, Utah. 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) and OEF XII (2012-13) in Afghanistan. We 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.

The unit was recently evaluated by 1st Army during Annual Training (A.T.) in June 2015. Some of the highlights of our unit included:

- "Overall, the D Company Maintenance Program is on par or ahead of just about any unit in the AH-64 community, Active or Reserve/NG. They are operating at steady-state levels that a majority of the units we have seen cannot match."
- "Unit personnel show a surprising proficiency with operations that NG units are not normally proficient in. The operations cell put together mission products that were exceptional in their quality."
- "The Master Gunner showed great knowledge of aerial gunnery requirements, which is especially surprising due to how recently the aerial gunnery program was revamped. The gunnery scenario was excellent, accomplishing all requirements while also reducing the time needed to shoot each table."
- "The Standardization Pilot (SP) has an excellent understanding of the personnel he is responsible for training. The other Standardization personnel across the Battalion go above and beyond to ensure the aviators are well trained. I was especially impressed with the TACOPS area. The ASE training is better than I normally see in an AC unit." NOTE: There is an acronym list at the end of this document.

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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**. It consists of over 19,000 square miles of restricted airspace with 2,675 miles of ground space. On the ground numerous target areas, radar and video facilities support over 22,000 training sorties and 1,000 test sorties annually. Add to this a diverse topography that has striking similarities not just to Afghanistan and Iraq, but to some of the most austere environments in the world – and you have one incredible training environment – one of the best in the world. It is here that units from across the military – Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines – come to hone their tactics and targeting skills, as do a large number of international forces, including a variety of Special Operations forces. The UTTR also features several ranges for aerial

gunnery, electronic warfare simulation, and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) integration and training. The UTTR attracts many different units that we are asked to work with. *One obvious advantage of the UTTR is that it allows full employment of ALL systems of the Apache – including weapons and its ASE / EW (Aviation Survivability Equipment / Electronic Warfare) equipment. And the remoteness and vast size of the range allows the aircraft to complete any mission – with the exception of over-water operations.*

The UTTR is in the back yard of the 1-211th and we frequently work with many of these units 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 aircraft power management. Our unit “wrote the book” for Apache high-altitude mountain training and over the years has trained many other Active Component (AC) and National Guard (NG) units in the importance of power management and high mountain combat operations. Within minutes of takeoff, our pilots are training at altitudes in excess of 11,000’ MSL (Mean Sea Level). Not many units have ready access to such a robust training area.

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Planned Training for Remainder of FY 15 & 16:

- September 2015: The unit is to send several members to the U.K. as part of an ongoing exchange program with the U.K. British Apache Forces. The exchange has been a proven success – the British have shared several effective Radar TTPs (Techniques, Tactics, and Procedures); in exchange, we have shared our AH-64 Apache high mountain / power management / mountain Close Combat Attack program.
- October 2015: The unit is scheduled to work with the 1-5th Special Forces Group JTACs (Joint Tactical Air Controllers) doing Close Combat Attack (CCA), Close Air Support (CAS), Air-to-Ground Interdiction (AGI) AH-64 flight missions.
- November 2015: The unit is scheduled to work with the 1st SOW (Special Operations Wing) doing CCA, CAS, AGI missions.
- November & December 2015: The unit is scheduled to work with British JTACs doing CCA, CAS, AGI missions.
- December 2015: The unit is scheduled to participate in the Yama Sakura War Fighter Exercise (WFX), acting as a CAB (Combat Aviation Brigade) as part of a large-scale, bilateral counterattack against a notional threat invading Japan. Parts of the unit will be operating in JBLM (Joint Base Lewis McCord), WA, and in Japan.
- January 2016: The unit is scheduled to participate in Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) MTX (Marine Training Exercise), near Lake Tahoe, CA.
- February 2016: The unit is scheduled to work with the Air Force 34th FWS (Fighter Weapons School) at Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, Nevada, with training focused on Defensive Combat Maneuvering (DCM) / Air-to-Air training and RESCORT (Rescue Effort) training with Air Force HH-60 Pavehawks.

- March 2016: The unit is scheduled to participate in the Canadian Maple Peak exercise working with Canadian JTACs doing CCA, CAS and AGI missions in Canada.
- April 2016: The unit is scheduled to participate in the 19th Special Forces Group (SFG) War Fighter Exercise as AH-64 Apache CCA, CAS, and AGI controllers.
- July & August 2016: Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). The 1-211th ARB is scheduled to take HHC, two AH-64D Longbow Apache Line Companies, and D & E Companies to the JRTC in Fort Polk, LA.

Chronological History of Recent Unit Training, Accomplishments, etc.

- August 2015: The unit participated in a large scale pre-mobilization validation exercise with our higher headquarters 40th ID (Infantry Division) CAB of the California NG. Training occurred at Camp Roberts and Fort Hunter-Liggett, CA. Our unit provided armed air escort, CCA, CAS, and AGI in support of (ISO) Air Assault missions for the 40th ID Infantry Brigade Combat Team (I-BCT). Prior to this, LNOs (Liaison officers) from our unit participated in the 40th ID CAB WFX at Fort Hood, TX, in May/June, to bolster integration with our Wartrace higher HQ. Our unit also worked with the 75th Ranger Regiment in the UTTR, doing AH-64D live-fire exercises day and night, firing 30mm and 2.75 inch rockets while providing CCA / CAS / AGI.
- July 2015: The unit participated in the classified BR 15 exercise with Tier 1 Special Operations forces at Dugway Proving Grounds (DPG) within the UTTR, to include joint fires with an Air Force AC-130 “Gunship.” Additionally, the unit has support this same Tier 1 Special Operations organization in the classified DI exercises at DPG in 2013 and 2014.
- June 2015: 1-211th conducted A.T. in the UTTR and at Dugway Proving Grounds. The unit conducted split based operations out of Wendover Airfield, NV, and with a large gunnery / maintenance force operating out of DPG. Training focused on completion of gunnery qualification and advanced gunnery tables. Additionally, the unit conducted full spectrum / decisive action training as well as provided CCA / CAS / AGI support to the 19th SF (Special Forces) and the 1457th Engineers. Furthermore, the unit conducted multiple STXs (Situational Training Exercises), including an EW (Electronic Warfare) range STX at Granite Peak in the UTTR to allow aviators to hone their counter radar TTPs as well as a Personnel Recovery (PR) Evasion Lane. Concurrently, the unit hosted members of the U.K. 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 SFG, Air Force, and Aussie Commandos), B-1 Bombers, F-15 & F-16 Fighters, Naval MH-60s Seahawk helicopters, and a Marine KC-130 “Harvest Hawk airplane.” The event was a combination of dry and live-fire exercises with multiple aircraft “in the stack” day and night. There were simulated ADA (Air Defense Artillery) / AAA (Anti-Aircraft Artillery) / threat missile emitters that the aircraft reacted to as part of the training. Focus of the training was to prepare the units for Operation Inherent Resolve (in Iraq and Syria), with an emphasis on new ROE (Rules of Engagement) and SPINS (Special Instructions). The unit also did RESCORT training with the Navy HSC-85’s MH-60 Seahawk helicopters as part of their unit’s final training exercise.

- May 2015: Over drill the unit conducted a night Battalion level full spectrum / decisive action AH-64D Longbow Deep Attack / Vertical Maneuver deliberate mission (OPORD: Trapping Travis).
- April 2015: Over drill the unit conducted a day Battalion level full spectrum / decisive action AH-64D Longbow Apache Deep Attack / Vertical Maneuver deliberate mission.
- April 2015: The unit participated in Operation 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 [Air Support Operations Squadron], 19th SF, 125th STS [Special Tactics Squadron]), the Dutch JTACs, Dutch Commandos, US Air Force FAC-As (Forward Air Controller – Airborne), A-10s, B-1s, and F-15 & F-16 fighters. The event was a combination of dry and live-fire exercises with multiple aircraft “in the stack,” during both the day and night, with an emphasis in training in the full spectrum / decisive action environment. There were simulated ADA / threat missile emitters that the aircraft reacted to as part of the training. Training included use of the SPINS/ATO (Air Tasking Order)/ACO (Air Control Order), and use of the “Fallen Angel” On Scene Commander (OSC) Checklist.
- March 2015: The unit participated in training with the Air Force 34th FWS at Nellis AFB (Air Force Base), with emphasis focused on DCM / Air-to-Air training and RESCORT training with Air Force HH-60 Pavehawks Rescue Helicopters. **Our unit frequently trains with the FWS and has participated in their training well over a dozen times over the last decade.**
- February 2015: The unit conducted 3 days of AGI training with the British Special Operation JTACs / British SAS (Special Air Service) and the 19th SFG JTACs with training focused on the new J-Fire publication. Trained in nuances of the new 5 & 9 Line for CAS and the new 5 Line for CCA as part of Operation Fast Mover 1-15.
- February 2015: The unit participated in a 3-day mission (Operation Vernon) with the 19th SFG JTACs by providing AH-64D recon and CCA / CAS / AGI support.
- January 2015: Over drill the unit participated in collective mission planning for a BN (Battalion) level mission (Defend the Gap) 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 real AH-64D Longbow Apache aircraft.
- December 2014: The 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 JBLM, WA, and Camp Asaka, Tokyo, Japan. **Our unit frequently supports Yama Sakura, having participated in this exercise in most years since 1991.**
- December 2014: The unit participated in the US Air Force JTAC (388th & 419th Fighter Squadrons) and British SAS Training & Validation in UTTR for Operation Open Door and Operation Cleanup – a total of

8 sorties over 4 days/nights conducting CCA, CAS and AGI missions in a joint mission with Air Force F-16s and AC-130s.

- November 2014: The unit participated in Vigilant Guard – a multi-state response force training in Domestic Operations (DOMOPS). The 1-211th ARB established an Air Operations Base (AOB) and worked closely with other Guard units across the western region, as well as numerous state and federal agencies. Our Apaches flew numerous times throughout, both day & night providing FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) reconnaissance and providing command / control missions in support of the exercise.
- September 2014: Several members of the unit participated in an exchange program with the U.K. British Apache Forces. Our Apache aviators brought back several lessons learned, in particular Radar and Directed Energy Weapon TTPs that have been incorporated into our tactical operations. While in the U.K., our Apache aviators participated in Exercise Lightning Force, based out of Otterburn and Spade Adam, a Royal Air Force EW range with real threat ADA emitters.
- August 2014: The unit participated in an Unconventional Warfare Exercise (UWEX) Personnel Recovery mission known as Operation Skyline with the 19th SF and other Special Operations forces in central Utah. Training included notionally downed Apache aviators who had to practice evasion. The training spanned several days, with some of our Apache aviators executing their EPA (Evasive Plan of Action).
- August 2014: The unit conducted AH-64D live-fire advanced gunnery tables at DPG.
- August 2014: The unit participated in training at the Air Force Fighter Weapon School at Nellis AFB, with emphasis in training focused on DCM / Air-to-Air training and RESCORT training with Air Force HH-60 Pavehawks.
- June 2014: The entire unit moved to and integrated with 40th ID CAB at Camp Roberts, CA, in order to participate in the 40th ID Infantry Brigade Combat Team (I-BCT) Operation Thunderbolt Tempest. This was a Division level exercise with extensive AH-64D Longbow Apache AGI, CCA, and CAS and a multi-aircraft operation of mixed helicopter formations with over 60 participating aircraft, including AH-64s, UH-60s, CH-47s, and some UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) aircraft. The **training culminated in a massive 23-ship air assault mission supporting the 40th ID Infantry BCT**. The 40th ID CAB was in direct support of approximately 1500 personnel/soldiers during the exercise. Several missions were conducted at high altitude at or above 10,000' MSL at the Marine Corps Mountain Tactical Warfare Training Center. The 40th ID CAB is the 1-211th ARB's Wartrace Higher HQs. After the training, the unit conducted and qualified in Apache aerial gunnery at Fort Hunter Liggett, CA.
- April 2014: The unit participated in the “**Lone Survivor**” exercise in the UTTR. The **joint training** was a **Personnel Recovery scenario that included Apaches, Blackhawks, F-16s and KC-130** aircraft working together **to recover the isolated personnel, which were notionally downed F-16 pilots**.

- March 2014: The unit participated in the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) MTX (Marine Training Exercise) 2-14, near Lake Tahoe, CA. This event was a joint and multinational mission which included Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Air Force, and Naval aircraft, with over 700 Marines inserted into numerous high mountain LZs (Landing Zones). Our unit operated in some of the most mountainous terrain in California, with many LZs between 8,000 – 11,000' MSL. Our Apache aviators worked with Ground Commanders and JTACs, conducting CCA, CAS, and AGI during both the day and night, utilizing PHODS (Portable Helicopter Oxygen Delivery System) to compensate for continued high altitude operations.
- 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 4 -160th SOAR (Special Operations Aviation Regiment) with AH-64D Longbow Apache armed escort and CCA / CAS / AGI support.
- 2013: Mandatory Unit “C-5” Reset Year was required by the AC after completion of the deployment to Afghanistan. In 2013 our unit completed joint flight exercises in the UTTR with the Air Force and Navy aircraft – missions varied from CCA / CAS / AGI to RESCORT, to PR. Much of this training included working closely with the 19th SF JTACs. The unit participated in Yama Sakura 65, working from JBLM, WA, and Hokkaido, Japan.
- 2012: The unit deployed to RC-North (Regional Command) and RC-West in Afghanistan ISO OEF XII, conducting split-based operations in Kunduz, Mazar-e-Sharif, Meymaneh, and Shindand. Our unit frequently worked with U.S. Forces, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and ISAF forces and also provided nightly direct support to Tier 1 Special Operations Forces / Task Force 160th SOAR.
- 2012: During the 1-211th ARB's last deployment to Afghanistan, several other units had crashed so many aircraft (UH-60s, OH-58D KWs, etc.) that the U.S. OEF Commanding General, LTG Terry, requested that DES (Department of Evaluation & Standardization) come to Afghanistan and evaluate / fix what was wrong. During the DES outbrief to General Terry, **the 1-211th ARB was the only aviation 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 that he believed the 1-211th would not have any Apache accidents. The challenge was met and 1-211th ARB had no Class A, B, or C aircraft accidents in OEF 12. As a result of the DES positive comments about the 1-211th ARB flight standardization program, **GEN Terry then sent his Standardization Instructor Pilot and Safety Officer to visit our unit to learn how our flight standardization program works and what we were doing right (our good flight standardization practices, methods and TTPs) so that they could pass it on to other OEF aviation units.** Essentially, other units should follow what the 1-211th was doing. How the 1-211th got these positive comments from DES was a long term and highly developed flight training program designed and executed by the Utah Apache instructor pilots. This entailed a lot of very hard work and extremely long hours by the IPs for many years. **“First things first”** was emphasized to **follow our motto of "create safe and combat effective aviators."**

Also, our unit has capitalized on its wealth of experience and the continuity of the AH-64 Apache senior instructor pilots (IPs / SPs) by taking promising PCs (Pilot-in-Command) and developing them into Unit Trainers (UTs). **This allows senior IPs / SPs a conduit to pass their expertise on to PCs / UTs, who in turn pass this expertise on to junior pilots.** Our unit has focused this training in Tactical Operations and High Mountain / Power Management. Furthermore, our unit has taken advantage of diverse and robust Situational Training Exercises (STXs), also known as Line Oriented Flight Training (LOFT) in the civilian sector; see FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 120-35C. **This allows for more than just rote memorization and evaluation – it challenges aviators by placing them in complex scenarios and tests them in advanced areas such as Rules of Engagement, Electronic Warfare, Defensive Combat Maneuvering, the latest TTPs, and advanced weapons employment techniques, just to name a few.** Our flight training program is tailored, as much as possible, to the way that the Air Force's Fighter Weapons School trains their Graduates (**since the U.S. Army has no such advanced tactics school or training program**) and also follows the training syllabus of the National Guard's HAAATS Power Management / High Mountain Flying Training.

- 2012: During OEF 12 the 1-211th not only completed its own AH-64D Apache 500-hour aircraft phase maintenance inspections but also completed for its higher HQs, two 500-hour Apache phase inspections without ASB (Aviation Support Battalion) or contractor support, one 500-hour phase for the 12th CAB and one 500-hour phase for the 101st CAB (both Active Component Brigades) during OEF 12. The Active Component (AC) CABs were heavily dependent on contractor maintenance, which was in a state of turbulence due to a new civilian company acquiring the aircraft maintenance contract with insufficient ability to support AH-64 Apache maintenance. **Contrast this with our unit, taking only four days to do the 250-hour Apache maintenance inspections (the AC and civilian contractors took twice as long) and 15 days to do 500-hour phase maintenance inspections (half the time it took the AC and civilian contractor teams).** The unit flew over 11,000 flight hours during OEF, for an annualized equivalent of ~15,000 flight hours with an OR (Operational Readiness) rate of 80 percent FMC (Fully Mission Capable). The 1-211th ARB received the AAAA National Guard Unit of the Year award for our successes during this deployment.
- April 2012: Prior to deployment, our unit completed a three-month Longbow Apache UFTP (Unit Fielding Training Program) at Fort Hood, TX, and was **validated by the 21st CAV and 1st Army and certified by them as combat ready in all missions, to include full spectrum / decisive action operations and COIN (Counter Insurgency) operations.** On future deployments, the UFTP will not be required for the 1-211th ARB. The UFTP was a mandatory one-time requirement for all Longbow units to complete. **On future deployments, the 1-211th ARB will only take 30 days to deploy.** If **home station mobilization** is completed by loading our aircraft onto a C-5 at Hill AFB (as 1-211th ARB did when the unit deployed to Kuwait in 2011) then **millions of dollars will be saved.**
- January 2012: The unit completed CERTEX (Certification Exercise) re-training that started in December 2011, participated in ATX (Aviation Training Exercise) at Fort Rucker with 12th CAB, and completed packing and loading for movement to Fort Hood on 15 Jan 2012.
- November 2011: The 1-211th ARB received a Mobilization Order for deployment to OEF on 28 Nov 2011, with a mobilization date of 15 January 2012. Unit exchanged Block 1 for Block 2 Apaches in this

month and conducted rapid turn-around AH-64D Block 2 training for unit aviators in under 30 days to prepare for UFTP in the new airframe.

- October 2011: The unit supported B Company, 2-160th SOAR (A) for air escort and capture of notional High Value Targets (HVT) while providing AH-64D Longbow Apache CCA / CAS /AGI support.
- August 2011: The unit completed CERTEX at Camp Williams, UT, and other local training areas to prepare the unit for final movement to Fort Hood, TX, in order to finish mobilization requirements and UFTP. The unit was scheduled to deploy to Iraq, but with less than 30 days to the mobilization date, our unit was off-ramped. Some CERTEX tasks were retrained in December prior to deployment to Afghanistan.
- July 2011: The entire unit self-deployed all vehicles, aircraft and equipment in a couple of days to Gowen Field, ID, for a 25-day training event in order to complete gunnery qualification as well as numerous live-fire exercises and Readiness Level (RL) Progression.
- May 2011: The 1-211th ARB successfully completed the ARMS (Aviation Resource Management Survey) Inspection – Standards, TACOPS (Tactical Operations), and Personnel Recovery all scored 100 percent, with Flight Standardization receiving a “Commendable.”
- 2010: The unit conducted its first-ever AH-64D Longbow gunnery qualification and thereafter conducted numerous advanced gunnery tables in the UTTR, including DPG. Also purchased and trained with hand-held Ground Commander LASER pointers and aircraft gun-mounted FANG and IZLID infrared LASERS on all aircraft to prepare for future combat operations. The majority of the year was spent RL progressing aviators in the new AH-64D Longbow airframe, the LCT (Longbow Crew Trainer) flight simulator, and the AH-64D AVCATT flight simulator. In November, the 21st CAV visited the unit for the first time in conjunction with UFTP. According to one of their evaluators, “We have not seen a unit integrate this well and this effectively in any of the units we have worked with so far.” Later in the year, training shifted from individual training to collective training, with an emphasis on aerial recon, security, and attack missions in both full spectrum / decisive action / deliberate operations missions and QRF (Quick Reaction Force) CCA scenarios.
- February 2010: The 1-211th ARB senior Apache Standardization Instructor Pilot helped DES set up and flight train the first Apache unit to participate in HAMETS (High Altitude Mountain Environment Training Site). Additionally, the same AH-64 SP flight trained some of the 21st CAV SPs to be the HAMETS primary Apache instructor pilots at Fort Carson, CO. The same AH-64 SP also conducted high mountain / power management / mountain CCA flight training for the Active Component AH-64 Apache aviators at the HAAATS (High Altitude Army Aviation Training Site) in Eagle, Colorado.
- September 2009: The unit received its first AH-64D Block 1 Apache helicopters and began RL progressing aviators and prepping for Longbow Apache UFTP. The Block 1 aircraft, given to us from the Active Component, arrived to our unit in very poor condition. Thanks to the technical expertise of our superb maintenance team, our unit was able to restore the aircraft to a like-new condition and were flying again shortly.

- 2009: The unit conducted AH-64A gunnery qualification and thereafter advanced gunnery tables in the UTTR and DPG. In the spring, the unit deployed to Suffield, Alberta, Canada, ISO Operation Desert Ram / Maple Guardian. This training event consisted of U.S. and Canadian aviation assets and artillery participating in a complex, live-fire exercise on a multipurpose range while our AH-64 Apaches provided CCA / CAS / AGI support to the Canadian JTACs. Additional training consisted of aerial recon / security fundamentals, CCA / CAS / AGI with JTACs throughout the FY. The unit participated in Yama Sakura 57 in Japan and JBLM, WA.
- 2008: The unit conducted gunnery qualification and thereafter advanced gunnery tables in the UTTR and DPG. Additional training consisted of CCA / CAS / AGI exercises with 5th SF from Kentucky and 4th BN, 23rd Infantry Regiment from Washington. The Utah Senior Apache Standardization Instructor Pilot trained several Active Component Longbow Apache aviators at the HAAATS and other locations to share Utah's High Mountain / Power Management / Mountain CCA program. This was a big push due to the fact that many Active Duty units were crashing aircraft because their pilots did not have the proper understanding of power management and high mountain flying, especially in OEF. The unit participated in Yama Sakura 55.
- 2007: The unit conducted gunnery qualification and thereafter advanced gunnery tables in the UTTR and DPG. Conducted RL Progression training on new aviators. Started training aviators on unit combat critical flight tasks. The unit A.T. was conducted at Nellis AFB, NV, and the unit participated in the Air Force Red Flag exercise. Additionally, in 2007 the 1-211th ARB / Utah AASF (Army Aviation Support Facility) received the "Excellence in Maintenance" award for AH-64 readiness.
- 2006: Reset year. The unit conducted RL Progression training on new aviators and completed annual gunnery training. Alpha Company and a Delta Company maintenance detachment participated in a JRTC rotation at Fort Polk, Louisiana.
- April 2004 – March 2005: The unit deployed to Afghanistan ISO OEF V with AH-64A Apaches. Split-based operations were staged primarily out of Bagram and Kandahar but were also often staged out of other FOBs (Forward Operating Base) across the country. At that time, the 1-211th ARB was the only Apache unit in Afghanistan and frequently worked with Tier 1 Special Operations forces on complex missions across the country. The Battalion earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation during this deployment. Task Force Pirate set the record for the most hours flown in theater to that date, all while maintaining an impressive operational readiness rate and conducting several complex missions (i.e. Operation Chainsaw), many of which led to the capture or kill of numerous HVTs. The 1-211th ARB received the AAAA National Guard Unit of the Year award for our successes.
- January – April 2004: Our unit mobilized and was sent to Fort Carson, CO, for three months of pre-deployment training. The unit was validated by 5th Army.
- November 2004: The 1-211th ARB received mobilization orders for OEF V.
- 2002 – 2004: The unit conducted numerous full spectrum / decisive action operation training missions and also began focusing AH-64 Apache flight training on COIN operations and CCA / CAS / AGI in

preparation for the deployment to OEF. During this time, the unit participated in many Air Force Fighter Weapons School training events and exercises, with an emphasis of training in DCM / Air-to-Air training and RESCORT.

- 2001 – 2002: The unit deployed to Kuwait ISO Operation Desert Spring with AH-64A Apaches. The unit was based out of Camp Doha, postured for any crises that might arise in the Middle East. Our Unit was validated by 5th Army at Camp Williams, Utah, prior to deployment. The unit did home station mobilization out of Utah.

Additionally, the Utah AH-64 Apache Standardization IPs have helped several AC Apache units and NG Apache states with in-depth high mountain / power management / mountain CCA flight training and other critical flight training. The flight training was done at either HAAATS in Eagle, Colorado, or HAMETS in Fort Carson, Colorado, the unit's home station, Fort Hood, Texas, in Utah or in Afghanistan. Units that Utah Apache IPs assisted include: 101st CAB, 82nd CAB, 12th CAB, 2-6th CAV ARB, 1-2nd Attack ARB, 1-285th ARB AZ NG, 1-104th ARB PA NG, 1-135th ARB MO NG, 1-183rd ARB ID NG, 21st CAV and DES (Department of Evaluation and Standardization, the Army's equivalent to the FAA for flight evaluations).

Utah's high mountain and power management flight training program has permeated Army Aviation and has saved numerous lives and aircraft in almost every Apache unit. These mountain flying / power management / mountain CCA skills fade over time in the AC Apache units due to high pilot turnover and loss of continuity of instructor pilots. The NG Apache States have a much lower pilot turnover rate and maintain a much higher continuity of Apache instructor pilots.

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“Century” Brief Info:

The Utah National Guard’s four most experienced AH-64 Apache aviators collectively have approximately 120 years of aviation experience, over 32,000 flight hours, approximately 5,000 combat hours, and 12 deployments. All four aviators were on active duty in attack helicopter battalions; three were active duty instructor pilots; three were AH-1 Cobra pilots; all are Standardization Instructor Pilots and Instrument Flight Examiners. Collectively, they have 32 years left to serve in the National Guard. The 1-211th also has 12 highly experienced CW4s in all specialized tracks, i.e. Standardization, TACOPS (AMSO), Safety, and Maintenance Test Pilots / Examiners. Most AC Apache Battalions only have two or three CW4s in their ranks.

The reason the National Guard is above the “varsity level” is due to the vast amount of continuity and experience of the Apache aviators, as well as these individuals possessing a critical aspect known as “passion” for the attack helicopter profession.

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A more complete record of the Utah Army NG Attack / Scout / Recon Helicopter unit history dating back for over the last 40 years is documented in the Utah Army NG Aviation monthly newsletters (instituted by COL Robert Mabey) maintained in the Fort Douglas Utah Military Museum. 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 National Guard provides a home for numerous attack and scout aviators / maintainers who have left active duty to continue their passion for attack and scout helicopter aviation in the National Guard. These aviators and maintainers have provided great continuity of training and vast flight / maintenance experience to our unit, which has kept the unit dollar cost low (the NG only costs 42% of what an AC**

Apache unit costs) and kept the NG unit safety record high (the NG accident rate is significantly less as compared to the Active Component Apache units). The Utah Army National Guard Attack helicopter units have, without a doubt, earned their keep in Army Attack Aviation.

A few more important Utah Army NG Attack / Scout / Recon Helicopter unit history facts displayed on wall plaques and certificates are listed below.

February 1999: The unit supported C 2/1 Special Forces Group (SFG - Airborne) with CCA / CAS / AGI AH-64 Apache flight training support.

June 1998: The unit supported the US Air Force Combat Search and Rescue Joint Test Force during JREX (Joint Rescue EXercise) 98 training exercise at Spokane, Washington. The unit provided AH-64A Apache RESCORT and CCA / CAS / AGI flight support during this training exercise.

August 1992: 1-211th Attack Helicopter BN completed initial AH-64A Apache UFTP by 21st CAV at FT Hood, TX.

1988: The unit was re-designated as the 1-211th Attack Helicopter Battalion and equipped with the AH-64A Apache in 1989 due to the help of Senator Jake Garn.

Other AH-1 Cobra activities in the 1980s: The unit AH-1 Cobras supported two Reforger exercises in Germany, supported two Red Flag exercises at Nellis AFB, Nevada, participated in an NTC rotation (1987), and the Cobra unit also participated in numerous other flight exercises and the Stinger missile test.

1988: The unit participated in Fire Exercise 88 with its AH-1S Modernized Cobras.

1985: The unit participated with AH-1s in Operation Primate at Gowen Field, ID. This was part of the Idaho Desert Warfare Convention.

1983 - 1988: The unit supported MAWTS-1 (Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One) with AH-1F Cobras during their WTI (Weapons Tactics Instructor) Pilot phase of training. The unit was the Air-to-Air "Aggressor" support to MAWTS at Yuma MCAS, AZ. MAWTS is the Marine Corps equivalent to the Top Gun School. Via MAWTS-1 our unit essentially founded the Army Aviation Air-to-Air / DCM and trained DES.

1983: The unit participated with AH-1s in Operation Dead Dog 5 flight mission training in the UTTR and conducted Joint Air Attack Team (JAAT) training with A-10 Warthogs as part of the Desert Warfare Symposium.

1983: In April, the unit supported Delta Troop of 1st Squadron 4th U.S. CAV with AH-1 Cobra CCA / CAS / AGI flight support.

1983: The Utah 163rd ACR (Armored Cavalry Regiment) was the first Army NG unit to receive the AH-1S MC (F model) Cobras. Senator Tower of Texas and the 4 Star Commanding General of Fort Hood, TX, complimented the 163rd as an outstanding unit when COL Steve Jackson picked up the new AH-1S MCs (Modernized Cobra) from the Bell plant in Fort Worth, TX. The reason that the Utah Army NG got brand-new AH-1S MC Cobras from the Bell plant in 1983 is because Senator Tower and the Fort Hood CG (Commanding General) said that the Utah Army NG Attack Helicopter unit was such an outstanding unit and had a great reputation.

1981: The unit participated with AH-1s in Operation Border Star flight mission training at the Dona Ana-Orogrande Complex, near Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX. Our unit "defeated" the 5th MECH by using full spectrum / decisive action flight TTPs.

1981: In April, the unit received its first AH-1S Cobra / TOW Helicopters. The AH-1S Cobras were received by what was then Attack Helicopter Troop, 163rd Armored CAV Regiment.

1979: The unit was re-designated as the Attack Helicopter Troop of the 163rd Armored CAV Regiment and was equipped with the AH-1G Cobra.

1977: The unit fires SS-11 guided missiles from UH-1M Huey Helicopters at Lakeside Range, Utah.

1975: The Utah Army NG attack helicopter unit was originally established in 1975 as the 396th Attack Helicopter Aviation Company and was equipped with UH-1M model Huey Gunships.

Acronyms:

AAA – Anti-Aircraft Artillery

AAAA – Army Aviation Association of American

AASF – Army Aviation Support Facility

AC – Active Component

AC – Advisory Circular (published by the FAA)

ACO – Air Control Order

ACR – Armored Cavalry Regiment

ADA – Air Defense Artillery

AFB – Air Force Base

AGI – Air-to-Ground Interdiction

AOB – Air Operations Base

ARB – Attack Reconnaissance Battalion

ARMS – Aviation Resource Management Survey

ASB – Aviation Support Battalion

ASE – Aviation Survivability Equipment

ASO – Aviation Safety Officer

ASOS – Air Support Operations Squadron

A.T. – Annual Training

ATX – Aviation Training Exercise

ATO – Air Tasking Order

AVCATT – Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer

BCT – Brigade Combat Team

BDE – Brigade
BN – Battalion
CAB – Combat Aviation Brigade
CAS – Close Air Support
CAV – Calvary
CCA – Close Combat Attack
CERTEX – Certification Exercise
CG – Commanding General
COIN – Counter Insurgency
DCM – Defensive Combat Maneuvering
DES – Department of Evaluation & Standardization (FAA equivalent: flight evaluators of Army Aviation)
DOMOPS – Domestic Operations
DPG – Dugway Proving Grounds
EPA – Evasive Plan of Action
EW – Electronic Warfare
FAA – Federal Aviation Administration
FAC – Forward Air Controller
FAC (A) – Forward Air Controller – Airborne
FANG – Flight Aimer Night Gunnery
FCR – Fire Control Radar
FLIR – Forward Looking Infrared
FMC – Fully Mission Capable
FOB – Forward Operating Base
FWS – Fighter Weapon School
FY – Fiscal Year
HAAATS – High Altitude Army Aviation Training Site (sometimes known as HAATS)
HAMETS – High Altitude Mountain Environmental Training Site
HHC – Headquarters and Headquarters Company
HVT – High Value Target
IBCT – Infantry Brigade Combat Team

ID – Infantry Division

IE – Instrument Examiner (also known as IFE – Instrument Flight Examiner)

ISAF – International Security Assistance Force

ISO – In Support Of

IZLID – Infrared Zoom Laser Illuminator/Designator

JAAT – Joint Air Attack Team

JBLM – Joint Base Lewis McCord

J-Fire – Joint Fire

JREX – Joint Rescue Exercise

JRTC – Joint Readiness Training Center

JTAC – Joint Tactical Air Controller

LCT – Longbow Crew Trainer

LNO – Liaison Officer

LOFT – Line Oriented Flight Training

LZ – Landing Zone

MAWTS-1 – Marine Aviation Weapons & Tactics Squadron One

MCAS – Marine Corps Air Station

MCMWTC – Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (also known as MWTC)

ME – Maintenance Examiner (also known as MTP-E – Maintenance Test Pilot Examiner)

MECH – Mechanized

MP – Maintenance Pilot (also known as MTP – Maintenance Test Pilot)

MSL – Mean Sea Level

MTX – Marine Training Exercise

NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NG – National Guard

NTC – National Training Center (located at Fort Irwin, CA)

ODA – Operational Detachment - Alpha

OEF – Operation Enduring Freedom

OPORD – Operation Order

OR – Operational Readiness

OSC – On Scene Commander

PC – Pilot-in-Command

PHODS – Portable Helicopter Oxygen Delivery System

PR – Personnel Recovery

QRF – Quick Reaction Force

RC – Regional Command

RESCORT – Rescue Escort

RFI – Radio Frequency Interferometer

RL – Readiness Level

ROE – Rules of Engagement

SAS – Special Air Service

SF – Special Forces

SFG – Special Forces Group

SOAR – Special Operations Aviation Regiment

SOAR (A) – Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)

SOW – Special Operations Wing

SP – Standardization Pilot (also known as SIP – Standardization Instructor Pilot)

SPINS – Special Instructions

STS – Special Tactics Squadron

STX – Situational Training Exercise

TACOPS – Tactical Operations (also known as AMSO – Aviation Mission Survivability Officer)

TF – Task Force

TTPs – Techniques, Tactics, and Procedures

TOW – Tube-launched Optically-Tracked Wire-guided

UAS – Unmanned Aerial System

UFTP – Unit Fielding Training Program

USAF – United States Air Force

UT – Unit Trainer

UTTR – Utah Test & Training Range

UWEX – Unconventional Warfare Exercise

WFX – War Fighter Exercise

WTI – Weapons Tactics Instructor



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



The unit is home to some of the most experienced maintenance personnel across the Army.



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.