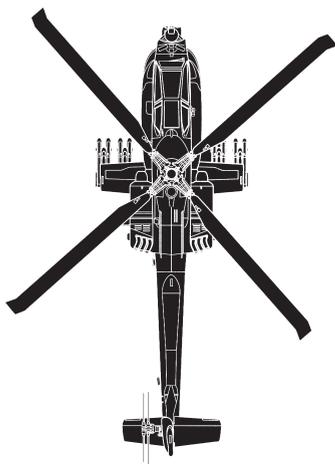


AH-64 Apache



The US Army's AH-64 Apache attack helicopter has dominated land combat for decades with its speed, electronics, and deadly firepower. This powerful combination enabled eight Apaches on the first day of the Gulf War to destroy two key Iraqi radar sites and help clear the way to Baghdad for Air Force F-117 stealth aircraft. The Apache has distinguished itself in Afghanistan, Panama, and Israeli-Arab conflicts.

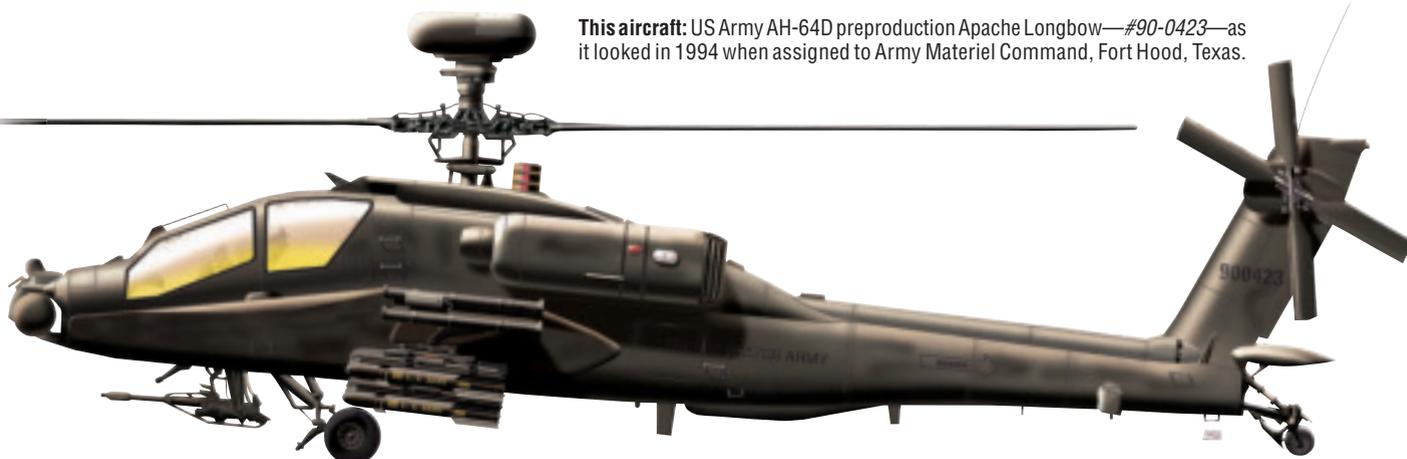
The Apache is a twin-engine aircraft with four-blade main and tail rotors and a tandem cockpit for pilot (rear) and copilot/gunner (forward). Intended to replace the Bell AH-1 Cobra, it began life as the Hughes YAH-64. McDonnell Douglas purchased Hughes Helicopters in 1984 and then merged with Boeing in 1997. Production and

development continued with the vastly improved AH-64D Apache Longbow. Maintenance and other difficulties impeded its effectiveness in Bosnia and Kosovo, however.

Both crew members can fly the aircraft and use ordnance. Day and night attack capability is enhanced by the night vision systems and a sophisticated nose-mounted sensor suite for target acquisition. The stub wings have four hardpoints for armament. The powerful 30 mm M230 chain gun cannon is mounted in a rotating turret under the forward fuselage, between the tailwheel-type undercarriage. Many redundant systems and strengthened structural components were designed to enhance crew survivability.

—Walter J. Boyne

This aircraft: US Army AH-64D preproduction Apache Longbow—#90-0423—as it looked in 1994 when assigned to Army Materiel Command, Fort Hood, Texas.



DOD photo by AIC Dillon Davis



A US Army AH-64 Apache helicopter takes off during combat search and rescue training in Germany.

In Brief

Designed, built by Boeing (formerly Hughes, McDonnell Douglas) ★ first flight Sept. 30, 1975 ★ crew of two (pilot, copilot/gunner) ★ two GE T700-GE-701 turboshaft engines ★ number built about 1,800 ★ **Specific to AH-64D Longbow:** max speed 182 mph ★ cruise speed 165 mph ★ max range 275 mi ★ armament one 30 mm chain gun, AIM-92 Stinger missile pack, four AGM-114 Hellfire missiles and/or Hydra 70 rockets ★ weight (max) 23,000 lb ★ span (rotor diameter) 48 ft ★ length 58 ft 2 in ★ height 12 ft 8 in.

Famous Fliers

Notables: Richard Cody, Rucie Moore, Tory Myers, Charles Roman, Cynthia Rosel, Alex Swyrn, David Williams, Ronald Young Jr. **Test Pilots:** Raleigh Fletcher, Mark Metzger, Robert Ferry.

Interesting Facts

Employed in combat first by Netherlands ★ produces less noise with four-bladed rotor than do most other aircraft with two-bladed rotors ★ achieves air-to-air capability through employment of AIM-92 Sidewinders ★ can be used to designate targets for fighter aircraft ★ older models remanufactured in early 2000s into far deadlier Longbow variant ★ destroyed 278 Iraqi tanks and numerous other Iraqi vehicles in Gulf War, with only one loss ★ can be transported in either C-5 or C-17 airlifters ★ produced under license in Britain and in Japan ★ flown by Egypt, Greece, Japan, Israel, Netherlands, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, US, and Britain.