



AH-64A APACHE
3/227th AVIATION REGIMENT
U.S. ARMY, HANAU ARMY AIRFIELD



AH-64A APACHE of the 3/227th Aviation Regiment outside one of the maintence hangars at its home base, Title page: Hanau Army Airfield in Germany.

Front cover: AH-64A APACHE with a full load of rockets, Hellfire missiles and 30mm gun ammo, flown by the "front seater" on a practice mission in Saudi Arabia, Pilot CW2 Alvin "Big Al" ANDERSON monitoring the flight from the back seat

Page 3: A string of 30mm shell casings drop from this AH-64A chain gun at a range in Saudi Arabia, only weeks before going into action. This APACHE is loaded in the "heavy" configuration of 16 Hellfire missiles, Pilot is known to be CW2 George WALKUP while no info existed on the CPG. (Photo by WO1 David N(ISS, A Co 3/227 AHB)

Rear cover: One of the key players in the Gulf War, loaded for another mission. The hostile desert environment caused heavy weathering on the matt paint which not only absorbed radar waves but a lot of desert dirt. "Nose art" was almost exclusively applied to the fairings rather than the fuselage nose section. Many different decorations emerged, some as explicit as this one. (Photos via Capt. Peyton RANDOLPH)

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with CPG CW2 Art "Shell" GRIBENSK at the controls.

(Photo by WO1 David NUSS, A Co 3/227 AHB)

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Finally, my most sincere thanks to my dear friend CW4 Greg Cain for arranging the visit and to his spouse Mary for their wonderful hospitality during my stay.

unit.

To those I skipped to mention, please do not feel offended, it was not my intention.

ON project.

The author

Readers are invited to send in slides and/or clear color photographs on military subjects which may be used in future LOCK ON publications.

tolerating the presence of this photographer.

which make this book so much more interesting.

To Ltc Patrick J. SHEAHAN, commander, and Capt Scott B. THOMPSON (who also

forwarded some photos of Gulf War engagements) of the 3/227th AVN for taking time

out of their busy schedule and providing me the opportunity to take photographs in their

To all the men, pilots, crewchiefs and maintenance personnel of the "Bounty Hunters" at

Hanau Army Airfield, especially SPC George S. HOMICH III, for their assistance and for

To Capt Peyton RANDOLPH and his spouse for providing some of the Gulf War pictures

Additional information on military aircraft of any kind is also welcomed.

Material used will be paid for upon publication and unused material will be

returned upon request. Original slides and photographs will be handled

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Project Manager &



## Forward

The AH-64A APACHE is without question the finest attack helicopter in the world today! It has proven itself in the deserts of Iraq to be a robust and lethal weapons system.

With its combination of Hellfire anti-tank missiles, 70mm rockets and the 30mm chain gun coupled with its day/night fighting capabilities, it is a force to be reckoned with on todays battlefield. The APACHE was responsible for destroying more enemy armored vehicles during the Iraqi war than all other weapon systems in both the Army and Air Force combined.

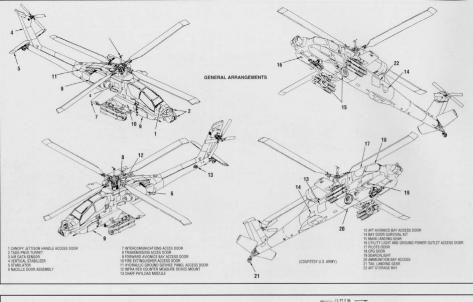
The AH-64 carries a crew of two. The pilot in command usually occupies the rear seat while the front seat is the copilot/gunner position (CPG); however, all weapons systems can be fired from either position. The APACHE is powered by two General Electric

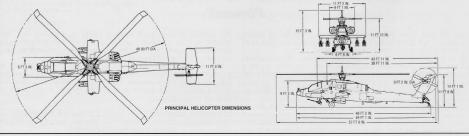
701 turbine engines, each rated at 1,690 shaft horsepower. The aircraft is fully aerobatic and is equipped with a full aircraft survivability suite. This includes a radar jammer, a radar warning receiver, an infra-red jammer and a chaff/flare dispenser.

At present the AH-64A is the only model of the APACHE in service with the Army; although the Army will soon be taking delivery of the more modern AH-64 (LONGBOW) to ensure the AH-64 remains the deadliest attack helicopter in the world in defense of world peace.

LTC Patrick J.SHEAHAN CPT Scot Commander 3rd BN/227 AVN Battalion Hanau Army Airfield, Germany

CPT Scott B.THOMPSON Battalion Intelligence Officer J. Germany







## 3rd BATTALION, 227th AVIATION REGIMENT

The 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment was constituted on 1 February 1963 as Company C, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion and assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division,

Fort Benning, Georgia. On 1 July 1965 the battalion was reorganized and relieved from assignment from the 11th Air Assault Division and reassigned to the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMOBILE), The battalion deployed to Vietnam in September 1965 and served with distinction from October 1965 through August 1971. It redeployed back to Fort Hood, Texas and inactivated in November of 1974. The battalion was again reactivated in May 1978 as part of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Finally, after almost 20 years with the 1st Cavalry Division, the battalion was reorganized and redesignated as 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment in July 1987 and was reassigned to 3rd Armored Division in Germany. The battalion was reorganized in July 1987 and was reassigned to 3rd Armored Division in Germany. The battalion was reorganized in the state of the st

in July 1987 and was reassigned to 3rd Armored Division in Germany. The battalion was reorganized in its present configuration in April 1989 in Fort Hood, Texas where it traded its AH-1 COBRA's for the AH-64 APACHE. While at Fort Hood the unit conducted a rigorous 3 month training program

with the APACHE's and finally returned to Hanau, Germany in September 1989, to join the 3rd Armored Division as its first APACHE battalion.

In August 1990 the battalion was attached to the 12th Aviation Brigade as part of Operation Desert Shield and was deployed to Saudi Arabia in September.

The battalion played a key role in the early months of Desert Shield and found itself attached to the XVIII Airborne Corps when war broke out on 17 January 1991. During the conflict, 3rd Battalion conducted several successful engagements in Iraq to include an attack north of the Euphrates River distinguishing itself as the U.S. Army's northern most unit at the end of the war.

The unit redeployed to Germany in April 1991 and was reassigned along with its sister unit 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation to the 1st Armored Division in September 1991. The battalion currently is stationed at Hanau Army Airfield (HAAF), Federal Republic of Germany where it stands trained and ready for action, anywhere in the world.



Left: Crewmembers at work boresighting "DRAGON SLAYER"'s gun. Lots of these procedures can be executed outside the hangar and only require an auxiliary power unit. The APACHE is seen chained to the tarmac as a precaution during testing or when heavy winds are crossing the airfield.

Bottom left: Inside detail of the main landing gear strut. Note the semi-gloss shock strut, the forward facing cable cutter (to snap power line cables in straight level flight) and the very low pressure tire.

Bottom right: The APACHE has a very characteristic look with its exposed TADS/PNVS (Target Acquisition and Designation System)/ Pilot Night Vision System) in the nose, a narrow main structure with tandem seals and two side sponsons holding the main avionics. Note the various deflectors and cable cutters.

Next page: A close look showing the attachment of the shock absorber aside the pilot's cabin and both refuelling points aft of the cabin. Note the steps and handholds. Also note the upper IFF Transponder antenna and the Radar Jammer receiving antenna (see also page 11).













Above: The wings are of aluminum cantilever, spar and rib construction and have two hardpoints for external stores. The outboard pylon holds the Apache's primary armament for destruction of tanks, the point target weapons system or "Hellfire" missile. Up to four of these missiles can be carried on each pylon. The Hellfire currently has the tri-service type laser seeker which means it can be locked on before launch (LOBL) or after it leaves the launch rail (LOAL). The real life Hellfire's used against Iraq (at riaht) show the inevitable "war poetry".

The inboard mounted M-261 lightweight nineteen tube launcher can fire 2.75 inch folding fin aerial rockets (FFAR) in three modes: pilot, CPG or cooperative (precision) mode. It is considered a light anti-personnel

assault weapon.

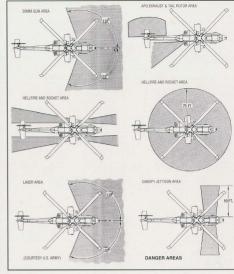
Note the pitot tube on the wing attack board and the small panel at the aft side end which covers the crewmember communication receptacle.



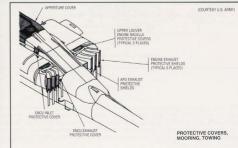
The right side avionics bay is located just below the engine exhaust and has some built-in test buttons. The door (with four ventilation ports and painted a contrasting yellow) locks underneath the large engine nacelle support bar.

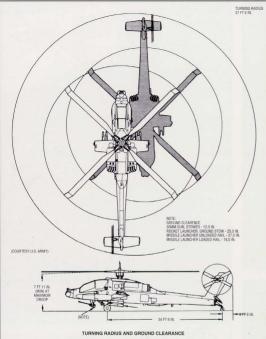


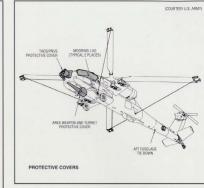










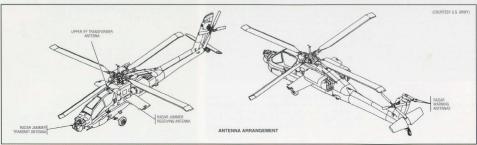




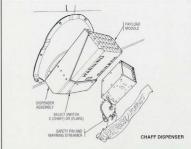
The three-point landing gear system incorporates a tail landing gear consisting of two trailing arms, nitrogen/oil shock strut, fork, axle and wheel. Impact-absorbing capability is similar to that of the main gear. The tail wheel is 360-degree free swiveling for landing and ground handling. The spring-loaded tail wheel lock can be hydraulically unlocked by the pilot or manually by a crewmember using the handle attached to the actuator.

Also note the tailplane actuator left of the tail wheel shock strut.











Retractable steps facilitate quick checks of the tail rotor assembly, mandatory procedure during preflight checks. The tail rotor assembly, providing antitorque action and directional control, is a very complex mixture of forks, suashplates, sciecors, bearings, etc. ranging from stainless steel to titanium. All movement is controlled through the intermediate gearbox at the bottom of the vertical stabilizer which also reduces the driveshaft RPM.



Left: Apart from its offensive weapons the APACHE carries an M-130 dispenser in which 30 M1 chaff cartridges can be stored which, when fired, provide effective countermeasures against radar guided defense systems.

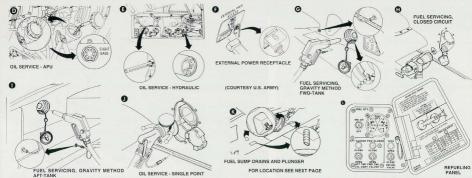


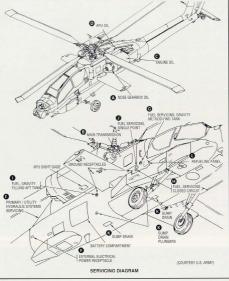


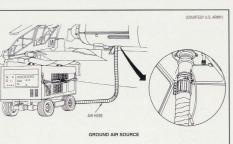


L SERVICING-MAIN THANSMISSION











Oil servicing stations and refueling receptacles are located all oner the aircraft as is illustrated on these two pages. Oil servicing concentrates around the engine and main transmission on both sides while refueling is only executed on the right side. The APACHE has two crash-resistant self-sealing fuel cells located forward and aft of the ammunition bay (see page 29) in the center fuselage section. Each cell is serviced through gravity filler receptacles or pressure-filled through closed-circuit or singlepoint adapters. Provisions are also made for as many as four external auxiliary fuel tanks to be carried on the stores pylons.

The forward fule cell holds 155 gallons, the aft cell 220 gallons and each auxiliary tank can take about 220 gallons of JP4, JP5 or JP8 jet fuel. Rapid refueling with only the N°2 engine shut down and rotors turning

is practiced on a regular basis.



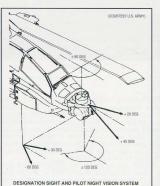


night target acquisition by means of a direct

The nose-mounted mission avionics consisting of the Pilot Night Vision Sensor (PNVS) (AN/AAQ-11) which is a stabilized FLIR contained in a rotating turnet mounted above the TADS or Target Acquisition Designation Sight (AN/ASQ-170). The PNVS is used by the pilot for externally aided vision at night or during adverse weather

view optical (DVO) telescope, a day television (DTV), and a forward looking infrared (FLIR) sensor system.

conditions.

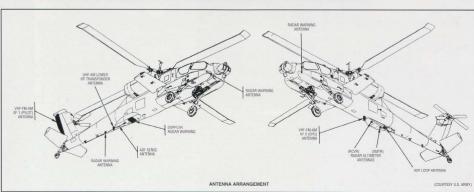






An APACHE stripped of its rotor blades positioned somewhere on the Hanau tarmac. Each main rotor blade is a constant-chord asymmetrical airfoil. The outboard tip is swept aft 20 degrees and tapers to a thinner symmetrical section. The blade has a 21inch chord. Chordwise, the leading-edge and forward half of the blade is a four-cell structural box of stainless steel and fiberglass with a stainless steel spar. The aft half of the blade has fiberglass skin with a nomex honeycomb core and a bendable trailing edge strip to aid in blade tracking.

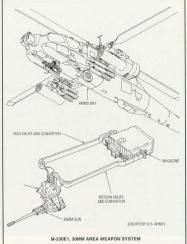
The blades may be folded by removing the appropriate blade attachment pin and adjacent pitch link bolts.





The 30mm gun in stowed position mounted centrally below the fuselage. Note the side sponsons (with recessed bottom covers) are not mounted flush with the rest of the bottom fuselage. Two more cable cutters are mounted in this area, one below the fuselage and one on top of the cable deflector surrounding the gun.





The M-230E1, 30mm gun is a single barrel, externally or DEN/DEFA type ammunition. ADEN type ammunition. ADEN type ammunition uses brass cartridges while DEFA rounds have steel cartridges.

The gūn is mounted in a hydraulically driven turret capable of slewing the gun 110 degrees left or right of the helicopter centerline and up 11 degrees to 60 degrees down. In the event of loss of hydraulics, the turret will lock in the current azimuth position and the gun will return to the elevation stow position of 11 degrees up. The rate of fire is set for 600 to 650 rounds per minute

The rate of life is set for 600 to 600 rounds per minute with a maximum capacity of the linkless storage subsystem of 1200 rounds. The gun duty cycle is as follows: six 50-round bursts with 5 seconds between bursts followed by a ten minute cooling period. For bursts limiter settings other than 50, the duty cycle can be generalized as no more than 300 rounds fired within 60 seconds before allowing the gun to cool for ten minutes.





Gun test equipment and loading adapters are stowed in solid custom-made boxes, protected from severe weather conditions such as the ones experienced in the recent Gulf War. Such equipment is often transferred by road and to areas where the word 'road' has a different meaning. Instead of removing the 1200 round magazine (see page 29) ammunition is feeded directly into the feeding system. The adapter can be used to either load or download ammunition.

War.





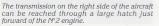
Major overhaul is executed within the protective shelter of large hangars, capable of holding up to 10 APACHE's (without rotor blades installed) at a time. There, stripped of all panels, the helicopter and its systems is thoroughly checked by highly qualified personnel, each specialized in one area of helicopter maintenance.

Left: the door of the forward autonics bay is hinged to facilitate quick "in the field" replacement of modules while the aft part of the fairing needs to be removed completely for maintenance. The slanted main gear trailing arm is attached to the lower fuselage and is designed to absorb vertical impacts of up to 12 feet per second without damage. Note the fire extinguisher accessible through a hatch in the right fairing (see page 7) and the ammo feed conveyor system.

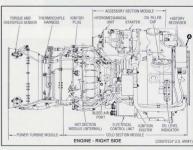












Top left: Avionics comprise intercommunication, FM-AM communication, UHF communication, voice security, automatic direction finder (ADF) Doppler Navigation, IFF, radar altimeter among other subsystems.

Top right and above: Like many of todays larger helicopters, engine nacelles are designed to serve as working platforms. The engine can be started by an external ground source or by the onboard APU (Auxiliary Power Unit) which also provides on-board power for system checks by ground personnel.

Below-nacelle inspection hatches ( with engine cooling louvers) allow quick check-ups. Note the engine fire access panels outboard of the inspection hatch, the water wash access panel up front and the APU fuel drain and APU vent at left in the small picture above.



Left: Another close look on the aft auionics bay, this time with battery and modules removed showing the mounting racks to good advantage. The compartment to the rear is the survival equipment storage bay which is large enough to store a combat helmet, an environmental survival kit, a survival weapon and a box of field-type rations for both crewmembers.

Right: The tail rotor gearbox, mounted on the vertical stabilizer, reduces the output RPM and changes the angle of drive. The tail rotor output shaft passes through the gearbox static mast. Note the two foldable steps at the top and bottom.

Below: Aerodynamic fairings cover the tail rotor drive shaft which consists of four shaft sections. Three drive shafts, of which two are of equal length, lead from the transmission to the intermediate gearbox. The final shaft is installed on the vertical stabilizer. Bearing hangers support the longer shafts while flexible couplings attached to the shaft ends are capable of accomodating shaft misalingments. Note the way the panels are hinged.



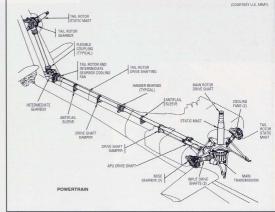






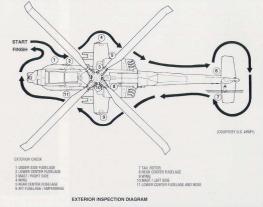


Above: The intermediate gearbox at the base of the vertical stabilizer, also reduces the rpm and changes the angle of drive. It can be seen here coupled to the aft shaft flexible coupling. A fan mounted on the gearbox input shaft draws air from an inlet on the vertical stabilizer (see also page 12). This air cools both the tail rotor gearbox and the intermediate gearbox (which is a grease-lubricated sealed unit). Four thermistors monitor temperature and an accelerometer measures vibration limits which can be monitored by both crew members.



Above right: The tail rotor assembly from the opposite side with a view on the tail rotor static mast. Note the support bar on the latter attached to the vertical stabilizer.





Some of the hydraulic equipment is located in the aft equipment bay which can be reached from the left side of the helicopter. The forward tail section houses a platform on the left and the hydraulic oil servicing compartment on the right. From this platform the upper equipment bay hatches can be opened giving way to the centrally positioned walkway running all the way through to the main transmission compartment. Reservoirs, pipelines and other feed lines are the main subjects in the left side of the equipment bay.

Right: The main rotor head, consisting of a hub assembly, pitch housings, rotor dampers and lead-lag links is a fully articulated system that allous the four blades to flap, feather, lead or lag independent of one another. The main rotor, which is mainly made of steet and aluminum, rotates about a static mast and is controlled by the cyclic and collective sticks through a subashplate mounted on that mast. Mechanical droop stops limit blade droop.
Aft of the main rotor is the AN/ALQ-144

Aft of the main rolor is the ANYALQ-144 Infrared Countermeasure light (known as the Disco Light). The system transmits radiation modulated mechanically at high and low frequencies using an electrically heated source causing an IR homing missile to break lock-on.

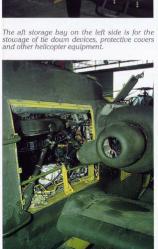
Below right: The APU or auxillary power unit is located inboard of the right engine nacelle in the aft equipment bay and consists of a gearbox, compressor and turbine section, together with associated fuel, lubrication and electrical system.







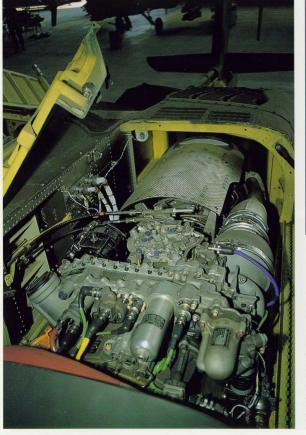


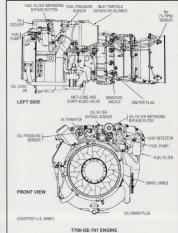












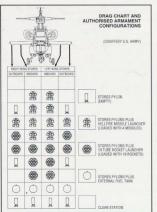
The APACHE is powered by two General Electric T700-GE-701 (1,720shp) front-drive turboshaft engines of modular construction.

of modular construction. The engine is divided into four modules: cold section, hot section power turbine section and accessory section which includes gearbox, fuel boost pump, oil filter, oil cooler etc. Each engine is cooled by air routed through the engine nacelle. Fixed louvers on the top and bottom of the aft portion of each nacelle and moveable doors (see photo at bottom right, preceeding page) in the bottom forward center of each nacelle accelerate convective engine cooling after shutdown. Note the very clean appearance of the engines.











Previous page: Where the fating housing on the right side can be described as fairly empty, the left side interior has some control boxes attached to the fuselage. Note the bulged canopy glass in the picture at far left. The top center photo reveals the stores control boxes and hardpoint positioning servo, usually covered by an aerodynamic fairing.

This page, right: The forward left avionics bay holds the sight electronics unit (SEU) and display electronics unit (DEU) of the helmet sighting system.

Bottom: A large area of the main airframe is taken by the 1200 round ammunition box shown at left. Once installed, it links up to the ammo feed system seen at the front bulkhead in the bottom right picture. The bottom fuselage cover can be seen on page 20.



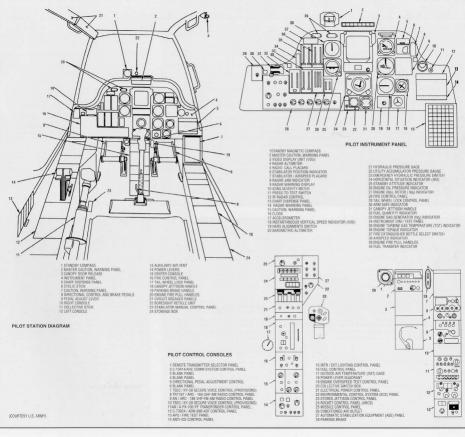






The crew compartments are arranged in tandem and are separated by a ballistic shield preventing fragments of a hit in either cockpit injuring both crewmembers. Entrance of both compartments is from the right side through independently operated canopy covers. The fairing is used as boarding platform. The canopy frame and the transparent ballistic shield form a rollover structure. The windshield consists of two heated laminated glass panels with one directly in front of the CPG and the other directly above his head. The canopy itself consists of five acrylic panels, two on each side of the crew stations and one directly above the pilot. Both crew members are adequately protected by Kevlar armor platting in and around the crew compartments.

To turn a lot of fighter pilots green with envy, the pilot's station in todays helicopter is as complex as that of a sophisticated jet fighter. Simultaneous handling of the collective and cuclic sticks does not facilitate the iob.

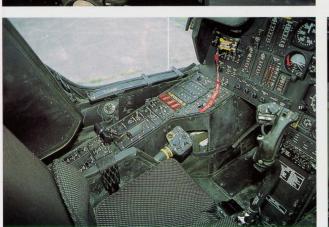




The flight control system consists of mechanical flight controls, digital automatic stabilization equipment, and an automatically or manually controlled stabilator. The mechanical flight controls provide a cyclic stick, collective stick and directional pedals in each crew station, connected in tandem, to control main and tail rotor hydraulic servo actuators.

The cyclic stick provides for helicopter movement about the pitch and roll axes. The CPG stick has a lockpin release mechanism at the base of the stick, allowing the stick to be folded while viewing the headsdown display (the cyclic stick remains functional in this position.) The collectine stick adjusts pitch angle of the main rotor blade and fuel flow metering requirements of the gas generator turbine. Each stick has an engine chop collar to permit both engines to be reduced to idle without moving the power levers.

Finally, the directional controls pedals provide for helicopter movement about the yaw axis.



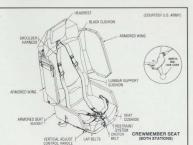


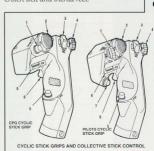




Above: The pilot's circuit breaker panel, located overhead on the left in the rear cockpit.

Left: Both seats provide ballistic protection and can be adjusted for height only. They are one-piece armored seats equipped with back, seat, and lumbar support cushions and shoulder harness, lap belt, crotch belt and inertia reel.







1 TRIM FEEL RELEASE SWITCH 2 WEAPONS ACTION SWITCH (MOMENTARY) 3 FLIGHT MODE SYMBOLOGY SWITCH 4 INOPERATIVE

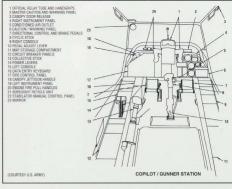
4 INOPERATIVE
5 DASE RELEASE SWITCH
6 GLIARDED TRIGGER SWITCH
7 REMOTE TRANSMITTER SELECTOR SWITCH
(PILOT GRIP ONLY)
8 RADIO, ICS ROCKER SWITCH

8 RADIO, ICS FIDOKER SWITCH
9 NIGHT VISION SWITCH
10 BORESIGHT HIAD / POLARITY SWITCH
11 ENGINE CHOP COLLAR
12 COLLECTIVE GRIP
13 STABILATOR MANUAL CONTROL SWITCH
14 AUTOMATIC OPERATION / AUDIO WARNING

15 BUCS TRIGGER OPERATIONAL (CPG ONLY)

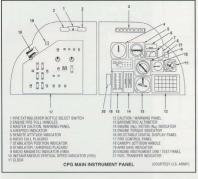
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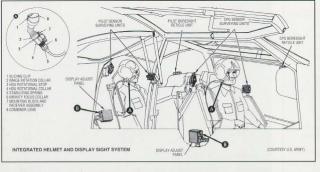






Photographic coverage of the CPG (Copilot Gunner) station system.

which has the busiest job on board when engaged. Centrally located is the ORT (Optical Relay Tube) and hand control column which receives power as part of the overall TADS



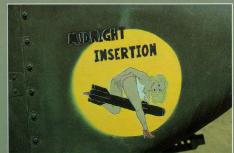


The APACHE is fitted with an integrated Helmet and Display Sight Subsystem (IHADSS) which consists of a crew member helmet, a helmet display unit (HDU), sensor survey unit (SSU) and the units in the forward left avionics bay, This system together with a skilled crew (and aren't they all ?) makes the APACHE one of the deadliest and most accurate weapon systems on todays battlefields.











## **VERLINDEN PUBLICATIONS**

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