

# AH-64E Apache

Battalions at 24 Aircraft

Fiscal Year 2022 Requirements for the Army National Guard



# NGAUS



## The Issue

Army National Guard AH-64 Apache battalions are currently equipped at 75% of the Army requirement to deploy in support of combat operations overseas. The Army requires all Apache battalions, both the Active Component and Army National Guard, to deploy with 24 aircraft each, but Army National Guard Apache battalions are only equipped at 18 aircraft each.

A pair of AH-64 Apache helicopters assigned to the Utah National Guard's 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, perform a fly-over at the annual Governor's Day celebration at Camp Williams, Utah.

## Background

In January 2016, the National Commission of the Future of the Army (NCFA) recommended that four Apache battalions remain in the Army National Guard. Due to limited funding at the time, Army National Guard Apache battalions were only equipped with 18 aircraft each until funding became available to bring the Army National Guard battalions to 24 aircraft each.

Active Component Apache battalions are equipped at 24 aircraft each and the requirement for an Apache battalion, whether Active Component or Army National Guard, to deploy in support of overseas contingency operations remains at 24 aircraft each. Army National Guard Apache Battalions are therefore required to utilize aircraft from other units to meet the 24 aircraft deployment requirement.

For the last several years, NGAUS has advocated for funding to organize and equip Army National Guard Apache battalions the same as their Active Component counterparts. Thanks to Congress, funding was included in Fiscal Year 2019 defense appropriations legislation to designate six AH-64 Apache Block IIIB new-build (AH-64E) aircraft to the Army National Guard. However, Apache battalions need to be fielded with all aircraft of the same model (AH-64D or E) due to training and maintenance differences between models; having a mixed fleet of D and E models is not feasible.

Additionally, the three remaining Army National Guard Apache battalions would still require six additional aircraft each in order to meet deployment requirements. Providing 18 AH-64E Apache aircraft to the Army National Guard in Fiscal Year 2022 defense appropriations legislation would fully equip one battalion with all AH-64 E models and the remaining three battalions with 24 each AH-64D models to ensure they reach maximum lethality and readiness as an operational force in today's threat environment.

## Recommendation

### ARNG Designation



Designate at least 18 AH-64E aircraft to the Army National Guard within defense appropriations legislation to ensure Army National Guard Apache battalions are equipped at 100% of their operational requirement

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