

AH-64E Apache Modernization

Army National Guard

Fiscal Year 2024 Requirements for the Army National Guard



NGAUS



The Issue

The Army requires all Apache battalions, both the Active Component and Army National Guard, to deploy with 24 aircraft each, historically Army National Guard Apache battalions are only equipped at 18 aircraft each.

▲ 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 2023 defense appropriations legislation to designate 24 remanufactured AH-64 Apache Block IIIA 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 two remaining Army National Guard Apache battalions still require 24 additional aircraft each in order to meet deployment requirements. Providing 24 AH-64E Apache aircraft to the Army National Guard in Fiscal Year 2024 defense appropriations legislation would fully equip one battalion with all AH-64E models and the remaining two battalions with 24 AH-64D models to ensure they reach maximum lethality and readiness as an operational force in today's threat environment.

Recommendation

ARNG Appropriations

- Ensure at least 24 AH-64E Reman 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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