

FM 3-04.113 (FM 1-113)

Utility and Cargo Helicopter Operations

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Headquarters, Department of the Army

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Preface

Field manual (FM) 3-04.113 is intended for use by commanders, staffs, and United States (U.S.) military personnel expecting to operate and employ Army aviation assault and/or general support (GS) helicopter units.

This FM is the Army's doctrine for how to fight and sustain assault helicopter battalions (AHBs) and general support aviation battalions (GSABs). The operational concepts described in this manual are based on Army doctrine as established in FM 1, FM 3-0, and FM 3-04.111. Emphasis is placed on modular force structure and the enhanced operational capability provided by Army aviation transformation.

FM 3-04.113 applies to regular Army and reserve component units. It builds on collective knowledge and experience gained through recent operations, numerous exercises, and the deliberate process of informed reasoning. This publication is rooted in time-tested principles and fundamentals, while accommodating new technologies, and evolving responses to the diverse threats to our national security. This manual also assists Army proponent schools in teaching utility and cargo helicopter operations.

FM 3-04.113 lays out the "how-to" of assault and GS helicopter organizations, missions, command and control (C2), tactical employment, and sustainment. It describes the responsibilities and duties of key personnel during training, operations, and combat. This manual is authoritative but not considered inflexible. Each situation in combat must be resolved by an intelligent interpretation and application of the doctrine set forth herein. Standardized battalion and company operations are necessary for effective employment of aviation battalion task forces (ABTFs). To this end, like companies should follow similar operational and employment procedures.

Finally, FM 3-04.113 furnishes a foundation for assault and GS helicopter doctrine, force design, materiel acquisition, professional education, and individual and unit training.

This publication applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the United States Army Reserve, unless otherwise stated.

The proponent of this publication is Headquarters, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Send comments and recommendations on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to publications and Blank Forms) to Commander, United States Army Aviation Warfighting Center, ATTN: ATZQ-TDD-D, Fort Rucker, Alabama 36362-5263 or complete the Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) electronic change request form at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/7288766>. Comments may be e-mailed to the DOTD at av.doctrine@us.army.mil. Other doctrinal information can be found on the Internet at the Aviation Doctrine Branch homepage (<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/394729>), Army Knowledge Online (AKO).

This publication has been reviewed for operations security (OPSEC) considerations.

Chapter 1

Missions and Organization

AHBs and GSABs are organized and equipped to support Army and joint, interagency, and multinational (JIM) operations. These units conduct continuous maneuver, support, and maneuver sustainment missions across the depth and breadth of the operational environment. Each unit focuses on time-tested fundamentals to achieve success. This chapter discusses these fundamentals in relation to the type of battalion and outlines the basic organization, principal mission focus, and capabilities of the AHB and GSAB. The organization description for each unit is based on the official table of organization and equipment (TOE). Operationally, all units are resourced according to a modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE), so organizations may be different than described in the TOEs in this FM.

SECTION I – OVERVIEW

COMBINED ARMS

1-1. Combined arms is the synchronized and simultaneous application of warfighting functions (WFF) to achieve an effect that is greater than if each arm were used in sequence. It is the full integration of a unit's differing capabilities in such a way that, to counteract one, the enemy must become more vulnerable to another. Combined arms employs all the WFF and their supporting systems. Combined arms multiply the effectiveness of Army forces in all operations.

1-2. Employing combined arms is simple in concept; however, it requires highly trained Soldiers, skilled leadership, effective staff work, and integrated information systems. Combined arms operations must be synchronized so the effects of combat power occur simultaneously. Synchronization is defined as arranging activities in time, space, and purpose to mass maximum relative combat power at a decisive place and time (joint publication [JP] 1-02). Through synchronization, commanders arrange WFF to mass the effects of combat power at the chosen place and time to overwhelm an enemy or dominate the situation.

1-3. Combined arms is achieved through organizational design (standing organizations) and temporary reorganization (tailored and task-organized units). For example, units organic to brigade combat teams (BCTs) perform all WFF; however, the BCT does not organically include Army aviation. When required, capabilities are added through the temporary tailoring and task-organizing of subordinating elements of different units under one commander.

1-4. Aviation battalions plan, coordinate, and execute operations thereby creating opportunities for commanders to disrupt the enemy's decisionmaking process. This process forces the enemy to make decisions that disrupt its initial plans. The battalion—through coordination, liaison, C2, situational awareness (SA), and situational understanding (SU)—assists in setting conditions for the force's success.

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FUNDAMENTALS

ARMY WARFIGHTING FUNCTIONS

1-5. Battalion commanders and staffs must be fully aware of the six Army WFF (see field manual interim [FMI] 5-0.1). Table 1-1 provides examples of tasks the AHB and GSAB may perform in support of each warfighting function.

Table 1-1. Assault helicopter battalion and general support aviation battalion roles in Army warfighting functions

Army WFF	AHB and GSAB Role
Movement and Maneuver	Insert and augment ground forces to find, fix, and/or destroy the enemy. Transport personnel, equipment, and supplies. Insert engineers and survivability materiel. Emplace Volcano minefields.
Intelligence	Assist commander and staff in conducting intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB). Provide higher headquarters (HQ) SA. Confirm/deny elements of the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) plan and priority intelligence requirements (PIR).
Fires	Transport indirect fire systems, forward observers, and ground designation teams. Assist in planning joint suppression of enemy air defenses (J-SEAD) fires and electronic warfare (EW).
Sustainment	Conduct air movement operations of personnel, supplies, and equipment. Perform aircraft recovery. Support forward arming and refueling point (FARP) emplacement or resupply. Perform aeromedical evacuation or casualty evacuation (CASEVAC).
Command and Control	Provide air and ground commanders the ability to rapidly traverse and see the battlefield. Provide battle command on the move (BCOTM), Army Airborne Command and Control System (A2C2S), and retransmission. Provide air traffic services (ATS).
Protection	Transport air defense artillery (ADA) systems. Transport fortification supplies, support deception by false insertions. Support chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) surveys.

TYPES OF OPERATIONS

Decisive Operations

1-6. Decisive operations directly accomplish the mission assigned by higher HQ. Decisive operations do not require the presence of overwhelming forces; they simply require the massing of overwhelming firepower and other effects against the enemy. The AHB and GSAB enhance and extend the capabilities of commanders to initiate, conduct, and sustain combat operations. These units provide tactical air movement of troops, as well as internal and external lift of weapon systems, supplies, and equipment at corps and lower echelons to negate the effects of complex terrain. AHBs and GSABs support decisive operations through—

- Air assaults.
- Inserting/extracting engineer, Pathfinder, and infantry elements to increase the tempo of reconnaissance and security.
- Minefield emplacement at chokepoints along primary enemy avenues of counterattack or along enemy avenues of withdrawal to cut-off the enemy's retreat.
- C2 support.
- Air movement to reinforce success.
- Aerial emplacement and sustainment of FARPs.

Shaping Operations

1-7. Shaping operations establish and preserve conditions for success of the decisive operation by manipulating the battlefield. Shaping includes lethal and nonlethal operations that—

- Make the enemy vulnerable to attack.
- Impede or divert the enemy's attempts to maneuver.
- Provide combat support to facilitate the maneuver of friendly forces.
- Enhance deception or otherwise dictate the time and place for decisive battle.

1-8. Through shaping, commanders gain the initiative, preserve momentum, and control the tempo of combat. Shaping operations may occur with, before, or after initiation of decisive operations and involve any combination of forces. AHBs and GSABs support shaping operations through—

- Air assault and air movement to seize terrain or attack enemy units, facilities, or equipment.
- Insertion and extraction operations in support of special operating forces and conventional units to conduct raids, long-range surveillance (LRS), or reconnaissance.
- Volcano operations to turn, block, and otherwise delay the enemy.
- C2 support.
- Aerial emplacement and sustainment of FARPs and forward operating bases (FOBs).
- Psychological operations (PSYOP) with leaflet drops or loudspeaker missions.

Sustaining Operations

1-9. Sustaining operations generate and maintain combat power. Sustaining operations at any echelon are defined as those assisting the decisive and shaping operations by ensuring freedom of action and continuity of operations. Sustaining operations include base security, maintenance, movement control, terrain management, and protection of lines of communications (LOC) and HQ. AHBs and GSABs support sustaining operations through—

- Air movement.
- Aeromedical evacuation.
- CASEVAC.
- Downed aircraft recovery.
- Personnel recovery (PR) operations.

SECTION II – MISSIONS

1-10. The missions of utility and cargo helicopter units are air assault, air movement, C2 support (GSAB), aeromedical evacuation (GSAB), CASEVAC, ATS (GSAB), and PR.

ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION

1-11. The AHB's primary missions are to conduct air assault and air movement operations to extend the tactical reach of the maneuver commander, negate effects of terrain, seize key nodes, achieve surprise, and isolate or dislocate enemy forces. These missions encompass numerous other functions including: