

AIR ASSAULT DIVISION OPERATIONS

Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures

CONTENTS

PREFACE	xii
INTRODUCTION	xiii
The Evolution of the Air Assault Division	xiii
The Air Assault Division's Combat Power	xv
Fundamentals of Air Assault Division Employment	xv
Chapter 1 THE AIR ASSAULT (AASLT) DIVISION	1-1
THE MANEUVER BRIGADE	1-4
THE AVIATION BRIGADE	1-4
DIVISION ARTILLERY (DIVARTY)	1-5
THE DIVISION SUPPORT COMMAND (DISCOM)	1-6
THE AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY (ADA) BATTALION	1-6
THE ENGINEER BATTALION	1-7
THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (MI) BATTALION	1-7
THE SIGNAL BATTALION	1-8
THE CHEMICAL COMPANY	1-9
THE MILITARY POLICE (MP) COMPANY	1-9
NONDIVISIONAL ATTACHMENTS	1-10
Chapter 2 BATTLE COMMAND	2-1
FUNDAMENTALS	2-1
GUIDELINES	2-1
COMMAND POST RELATIONSHIPS	2-1
Jump Command Post	2-3
Tactical Command Post (TAC CP)	2-3
Division Main Command Post	2-4
Division Rear Command Post	2-4
COMMAND POST OPERATIONS AND TECHNIQUES	2-4

DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited

Alternate Command Post 2-4

Information Management 2-6

 Maneuver Information 2-6

 Intelligence Information 2-7

ADDITIONAL AIR ASSAULT DIVISION KEY PERSONNEL 2-7

 Air Assault Task Force Commander (AATFC) 2-7

 Air Mission Commander (AMC) 2-7

 Air Battle Captain (ABC) 2-7

 Ground Tactical Commander (GTC) 2-8

 The Relationship Between the Air Mission Commander and the
 Air Battle Captain 2-8

 Aviation Liaison Officer (ALO) 2-8

PLANNING TECHNIQUES 2-9

 Transition Operations Planning 2-9

 Parallel Planning 2-9

 Air Assault Mission Planning 2-10

 The Air Mission Brief (AMB) 2-11

 Fratricide 2-12

 Causes of Fratricide 2-12

 Fratricide Risks Considerations 2-13

 Fratricide Countermeasures 2-13

 Command and Support Relationships 2-15

REHEARSALS 2-17

 Rehearsal Planning 2-18

 Rehearsal Techniques 2-18

 Rehearsal Security 2-19

CONTINUOUS OPERATIONS 2-19

LIAISON OPERATIONS 2-21

COMMAND POST DISPLACEMENT 2-21

COMMAND POST SECURITY 2-22

COMMAND POST FACILITIES 2-22

THE TACTICAL COMMAND POST 2-22

THE MAIN COMMAND POST 2-23

THE REAR COMMAND POST 2-24

THE ASSAULT COMMAND POST 2-25

Chapter 3 OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS 3-1

FUNDAMENTALS 3-1

 Offensive Maneuver 3-1

 Tactical Offense 3-2

 Offensive Framework 3-2

 The Division in a Corps Offensive 3-3

 The Air Assault Division Offensive 3-3

THE DELIBERATE ATTACK 3-5

 Maneuver 3-9

 Deep Operations 3-9

 Close Operations 3-9

 Rear Operations 3-10

 Security Operations 3-12

 Reserve Operations 3-12

 Intelligence 3-12

 Fire Support 3-12

 Mobility and Survivability (M/S) 3-13

 Air Defense 3-14

 Combat Service Support 3-14

 Battle Command 3-14

PENETRATION 3-15

MOVEMENT TO CONTACT 3-15

 The Approach March 3-17

 Maneuver 3-17

 Deep Operations 3-18

 Close Operations 3-18

 Rear Operations 3-19

 Security Operations 3-19

 Reserve Operations 3-19

 Intelligence 3-19

 Fire Support 3-20

 Mobility and Survivability 3-21

 Air Defense 3-21

 Combat Service Support 3-21

	Battle Command	3-21
	Search and Attack Operations	3-21
	The Find-Fix-Fight or Finish Cycle	3-22
	Finding	3-22
	Fixing	3-22
	Fighting or Finishing	3-24
	Maneuver	3-24
	Intelligence	3-25
	Reconnaissance	3-25
	Human Intelligence	3-25
	Aerial Surveillance and Acquisition	3-25
	Fire Support	3-25
	Air Defense	3-26
	Mobility and Survivability	3-26
	Combat Service Support	3-26
	Battle Command	3-26
	Rear Operations	3-26
	EXPLOITATION AND PURSUIT	3-26
	FOLLOW AND SUPPORT	3-29
Chapter 4	AIR ASSAULT DIVISION DEFENSE	4-1
	TYPES OF DEFENSE	4-1
	FUNDAMENTALS	4-1
	THE AIR ASSAULT DIVISION IN THE DEFENSE	4-2
	AREA DEFENSE	4-3
	Terrain Retention	4-3
	Maneuver	4-4
	Deep Operations	4-4
	Close Operations	4-5
	Rear Operations	4-6
	Security Operations	4-6
	Reserve Operations	4-7
	Intelligence	4-7
	Fire Support	4-7
	Mobility and Survivability	4-8

	Air Defense	4-10
	Combat Service Support	4-10
	Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical	4-11
	Battle Command	4-12
	MOBILE DEFENSE	4-12
	Defending to Defeat Enemy Forces	4-12
	Maneuver	4-15
	Intelligence	4-17
	Fire Support	4-17
	Mobility and Survivability	4-17
	Air Defense	4-18
	Combat Service Support	4-18
	Battle Command	4-18
	Transition to the Defense	4-18
Chapter 5	CONCURRENT OPERATIONS	5-1
	REAR OPERATIONS	5-1
	Sustainment	5-1
	Movement	5-2
	Terrain Management	5-3
	Security	5-5
	Base Defense Forces	5-5
	Base Clusters	5-7
	Response Forces	5-8
	Tactical Combat Force	5-9
	Area Damage Control (ADC)	5-10
	Planning Considerations for Area Damage Control	5-11
	Operations	5-11
	RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS	5-12
	Planning	5-13
	Techniques	5-14
	SECURITY OPERATIONS	5-14
	Types of Operations	5-14
	Planning Considerations	5-14
	Screen Missions	5-15

Guard Missions	5-15
Flank Guard	5-16
Rear Guard	5-17
Offensive Covering Forces	5-17
Defensive Covering Forces	5-19
TARGETING	5-19
Considerations	5-19
Methodology	5-20
Decide	5-21
Detect and Track	5-22
Deliver	5-24
Assess	5-24
SUPPRESSION OF ENEMY AIR DEFENSE (SEAD)	5-25
SEAD Effects	5-26
Division SEAD Operations	5-27
Staff Responsibilities	5-27
ARMY AIRSPACE COMMAND AND CONTROL (A ² C ²)	5-29
Airspace Control Measures	5-29
Command Post Functions	5-30
The Tactical CP	5-31
The Main CP	5-31
The Rear CP	5-32
Army A ² C ² Planning	5-32
Army A ² C ² in Battle	5-32
ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW)	5-32
Roles and Relationships	5-33
Planning Considerations	5-34
DECEPTION OPERATIONS	5-35
COUNTERFIRE	5-36
Components of Counterfire	5-36
Planning Considerations	5-36
Techniques	5-38
Chapter 6 OTHER OPERATIONS	6-1
RELIEF IN PLACE	6-1

RETROGRADE OPERATIONS AND SCENARIO	6-1
Maneuver	6-2
Deep Operations	6-2
Close Operations	6-2
Rear Operations	6-4
Security Operations	6-4
Reserve Operations	6-4
Intelligence	6-4
Fire Support	6-4
Mobility and Survivability	6-5
Air Defense	6-5
Combat Service Support	6-5
Battle Command	6-5
FORWARD PASSAGE OF LINES	6-5
LINKUP OPERATIONS AND SCENARIO	6-6
Maneuver	6-6
Intelligence	6-7
Fire Support	6-7
Mobility and Survivability	6-8
Air Defense	6-8
Battle Command	6-8
BREAKOUT FROM ENCIRCLEMENT OPERATIONS AND SCENARIO	6-10
Maneuver	6-10
Deep Operations	6-11
Close Operations	6-11
Rear Operations	6-13
Security Operations	6-13
Reserve Operations	6-13
Intelligence	6-13
Fire Support	6-13
Mobility and Survivability	6-14
Air Defense	6-14
Combat Service Support	6-14
Battle Command	6-14

INFILTRATION.....	6-15
MOVEMENT OPERATIONS.....	6-15
Tactical Road March.....	6-15
Types of Marches.....	6-17
Planning.....	6-18
March Warning Order.....	6-18
Staff Responsibilities.....	6-18
Preparation.....	6-19
Execution.....	6-19
Road Movement Table.....	6-20
Standard AASLT Division March Tables.....	6-20
ASSEMBLY AREA OPERATIONS.....	6-20
RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE.....	6-22
ARMORED-LIGHT OPERATIONS.....	6-23
Employment Considerations.....	6-23
Armored Force Capabilities.....	6-23
Armored Force Limitations.....	6-24
Task Organization Considerations.....	6-25
Corps Transportation Assets.....	6-26
Brigades Versus Battalions.....	6-26
OPCON Versus Attached.....	6-26
Planning Considerations.....	6-27
Intelligence.....	6-27
Maneuver.....	6-27
Fire Support.....	6-27
Air Defense.....	6-28
Mobility and Survivability.....	6-28
Combat Service Support.....	6-28
Command and Control.....	6-28
Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical.....	6-28
Tactical Mobility.....	6-28
Infantry Mounted on a Tank Unit.....	6-29
Foreign National Support (FNS).....	6-29
Tactical Employment.....	6-29

	Offensive Operations	6-29
	Defensive Operations	6-30
Chapter 7	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS	7-1
	MILITARY OPERATIONS ON URBAN TERRAIN (MOUT)	7-1
	The AASLT Division's Role.	7-1
	Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield	7-1
	Command and Control	7-2
	Task Organization for Combat	7-2
	Fire Support Capabilities and Limitations	7-2
	Weapons Systems Effectiveness	7-2
	Combat Service Support	7-3
	Special Equipment Requirements.	7-3
	Control Measures	7-3
	Defensive Operations	7-4
	Offensive Operations.	7-5
	WINTER AND COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS	7-8
	The Commander	7-8
	Winter and Cold Weather Considerations	7-9
	Whiteout	7-9
	Grayout	7-9
	Ice Fog	7-9
	Snow Cover.	7-9
	Ice Cover.	7-9
	Extreme Cold	7-10
	Daylight and Darkness	7-10
	Low-Population Density and Transportation Routes.	7-10
	Mapping and Navigation	7-10
	Weather Variations.	7-10
	Seasonal Transition.	7-11
	Delayed Responses.	7-11
	Operations	7-11
	Reconnaissance.	7-11
	Security	7-11
	Offensive Operations	7-12

	Defensive Operations	7-12
	DESERT OPERATIONS	7-12
	The Desert Environment	7-13
	Impact on Operations	7-13
	Mobility	7-13
	Observation and Fields of Fire	7-14
	Cover and Concealment	7-14
	Obstacles	7-15
	Key Terrain	7-15
	Avenues of Approach	7-15
	Techniques for Operating Vehicles	7-16
	JUNGLE OPERATIONS	7-16
	Jungle Environment	7-16
	Types of Jungles	7-16
	Common Jungle Features	7-17
	Jungle Operations Considerations	7-17
	Navigation and Mobility	7-17
	Communications	7-17
	Offensive Operations	7-18
	Defensive Operations	7-18
	Combat Service Support	7-19
	RETROGRADE RIVER CROSSING OPERATIONS	7-19
Chapter 8	DEEP OPERATIONS	8-1
	DEEP ATTACK	8-1
	Synchronization	8-1
	Targeting	8-4
	DECIDE, SET CONDITIONS, EXECUTE	8-4
	Deciding	8-6
	Setting Conditions	8-7
	Executing	8-9
	BATTLE RHYTHM	8-9
	TYPES OF DEEP OPERATIONS	8-10
	Raids	8-10
	Army Attack Helicopter Raids	8-10

Division Responsibilities	8-11
Aviation Brigade Responsibilities	8-11
Attack Helicopter Battalion Responsibilities	8-12
Artillery Raids	8-12
Combined-Arms Raids	8-13
Air Assault	8-13
Air Assaults to Secure Terrain and/or Destroy Enemy Forces	8-13
Air Assaults to Establish FOBs	8-18
GLOSSARY	Glossary-1
REFERENCES	References-1
TACSOP	TACSOP-1

PREFACE

The air assault (AASLT) division is unique. It provides the warfighting commanders-in-chiefs (CINCs) an operational ground force capable of attacking directly into the enemy's vulnerable rear areas. It fights according to the proven tenets of Army operations.

The AASLT organization and its tactics significantly differ from its armored and light infantry counterparts. To unleash its full potential soldiers must understand how this extraordinary force fights.

Field Manual 71-100-3 builds on the solid foundation of current doctrine that the following field manuals (FMs) discuss. Field Manual 100-1 describes the Army's role in achieving national objectives. Field Manual 100-5 explains how the Army fights campaigns. Field Manual 71-100 describes the general nature of the division and addresses its tactics. Field Manual 90-4 describes the principles for heliborne movements and landings by any Army force.

Field Manual 71-100-3 goes beyond these fundamental doctrinal works to explain how the AASLT division fights. It describes, through samples of tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), how commanders might employ the division.

The proponent of this manual is headquarters (HQ), US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Submit changes and suggestions on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 and forward them to the Commanding General (CG), US Army, Combined Arms Center (CAC), ATTN: ATZL-SWW-D, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027.

Masculine pronouns apply to both men and women.

If you visualize an enemy force out there that needs to be taken down..., visualize an armor force which would be obviously a strong opponent to us We would go out 150 kilometers and start working that force with our Apaches and take most of that force down.

We would only introduce our close battle forces for one or two reasons. One is to help clean that force up if that is necessary. The other is to establish a gas station for our Apaches so we can continue that fight even further.

That is how we would use our close battle forces. Now, they are used in other situations. You need close battle forces (foot infantry) to control populations; you need them to control facilities; you need them to take ownership of ground as you process yourself into a country because that is going to drive you to the center of gravity; that is going to drive you to the war termination event; that is going to drive you to victory.

Now, I'm not minimizing the importance of that force. But, what I'm suggesting to you is how you introduce it and when you introduce it is very different in terms of how we employ this force in the 101st today and in the 1990s.

*MG Keane
CG, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)
April 1995*

INTRODUCTION

The Evolution of the Air Assault Division

Air assault operations arose from the "airborne idea," one of several solutions suggested to break the brutal trench deadlock of World War I's (WWI) Western Front. In simplest terms, the airborne idea looked to new technology—the airplane—to transport fighting forces across contested front lines into the enemy's vulnerable rear areas.

During WWI, United States Army (USA) Air Corps pioneer Colonel Billy Mitchell drew up plans to parachute the 1st Infantry Division directly into the German-held city of Metz. The war ended before he could try this ambitious plan.

Experimentation before and during World War II (WWII) led to the creation of sizeable airborne forces in Great Britain, Germany, the Soviet Union, Japan, and the United States. All powers developed parachute troops built around light infantry formations. Each country also activated glider troops centered around more heavily armed combined arms forces which possessed some artillery, vehicles, and even, by 1944, some light armor.

Both parachute and glider forces displayed strengths and weaknesses. The paratroopers often flew from distant bases directly into battle. They could fight upon landing, conducting what we now call a forced entry. But, with their limited array of handheld weapons and their tendency to scatter wildly on night drops, parachute units often could not exploit the initial surprise of their landings.

Glider units could also launch from far-off bases into combat to force an entry. Gliders usually landed a more coherent, heavily armed element on the ground—provided the men and gear inside

survived the impact. However, being at the mercy of their towing airplanes, gliders typically spread out far from their assigned objectives. Therefore, even though the glider force could land a stronger force, it could rarely organize rapidly enough to capitalize on the element of surprise.

The airborne divisions of WWII enjoyed some noteworthy successes. German *falschirmjaegers* pounced on Belgium and Holland in 1940 and seized Crete in 1941. British and American paratroopers secured the beach exits at Normandy in 1944; a smaller contingent helped ease the Rhine crossings in 1945. Despite these triumphs, the constraints of 1940s technology stunted full development of the airborne idea's potential. As good as airborne soldiers were, they were only able to conduct one assault landing per campaign. And, their lack of heavy armament and available motor transport made them slow in exploiting opening drops. Faced by enemy mobile reserves or stiff opposition on their drop zones (DZs), the paratroopers and glidermen suffered inordinately high casualties, bloody reminders of their lack of firepower and deficient battlefield mobility.

After WWII, technological and doctrinal developments changed the nature of parachute and glider forces. Carried in faster, larger aircraft and equipped with dramatically better airdrop equipment, parachute troops gradually evolved into today's all-weather, more heavily armed airborne units. Even more impressive developments altered the glider portion of the equation.

Army aviation, built around increasingly sophisticated rotary-wing aircraft, grew from an adjunct player to a primary member of the combined arms team. During the Korean War (1950-1953), the Army experimented with aerial medical evacuation (MEDEVAC), and the Marine corps attempted to move fighting men by helicopter. The helicopter offered all the advantages of a glider with two important additions: a pilot could steer it directly onto target, and he could repeat the process again and again.

The 1960s witnessed the birth of Army airmobility, an interim stage between the glider era and modern AASLT methods. The jet-powered utility helicopter (UH)-1 Iroquois (the ubiquitous Huey of Vietnam fame) provided the means. Lieutenant General Hamilton Howze's famous study group suggested the doctrine. The Vietnam War (1965- 1973) provided the testing ground.

In Vietnam, most all units used helicopters to fight, move, and resupply in the dense jungles and mountain ranges. Two divisions, the 1st Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division, fought airmobile formations structured around the speed, range, and lifting power of the new turbine-powered Huey and cargo helicopter (CH)-47 Chinook helicopters.

Despite the many frustrations that dogged the Army in Southeast Asia, airmobile operations clearly showed great promise. However, the nature of the Vietnam War did not demonstrate the full potential of airmobility. Platoon and company engagements against an elusive light infantry opponent offered only the barest hints of the tempo, range, and hitting power of forces fighting aboard rotary-wing aircraft.

The goals in Vietnam were almost exclusively tactical—gaining and maintaining contact. Airmobile forces never struck deep into the enemy's unprotected vitals. Day operations, limited attack aviation roles, and company-size landings typified Vietnam-era use.

After Vietnam, technology and doctrine evolved toward contemporary AASLT operations. A second generation of Army aircraft offered the right tools—squad-carrying UH-60 Blackhawks, medium-lift CH-47D Chinooks, and the attack helicopter (AH)-64 Apache gunships, all capable of flying and fighting at night. The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) developed the tactics and techniques for using these potent new flying machines.

During Operation Desert Storm in February 1991, a hundred miles into Iraq, AASLT forces came of age. The 101st Airborne turned the Iraqi flank and severed enemy withdrawal routes. Attack helicopters and air assault task forces (AATFs) ranged across an area some 300 by 200

miles deep conducting 3 brigade-scale air assaults in 4 days. In doing so, the AASLT division helped determine the outcome of the Persian Gulf War.

The Air Assault Division's Combat Power

The 101st Air Assault Division is a microcosm of Army aviation. Every battlefield operating system (BOS) element in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) uses Army aviation to accomplish its mission.

The AASLT division can extend Army operations to operational depth, habitually flying and fighting at night. Using organic Army aviation, the division can—

- Air assault one brigade with habitual attachments out to 150 kilometers (km) every 24 hours.
- Attack deep with three attack aviation battalions out to 150 kilometers every 24 hours.

As demonstrated by its performance during the Persian Gulf War, the division can operate at this pace for from 72 to 96 hours. After maintaining this operational tempo (OPTEMPO) for up to 96 hours, the division must reduce its OPTEMPO for a period of from 24 to 48 hours to plan, maintain, and sustain operations for division units.

The AASLT division rapidly deploys lead units by air to any contingency area in the world. When possible, it self-deploys its aviation assets to the contingency location.

The AASLT division's lead battalion task force (TF) can begin movement 18 hours after notification. Depending on the conditions in theater, the division can fly directly into a secure area in country or assemble at an intermediate staging base (ISB) outside the future area of operations (AO).

Working from an ISB, the division can conduct an AASLT forced entry. The division has the mobility and combat power to expand its initial forced lodgment in an aggressive, swift, and potentially decisive way. The remainder of the division deploys via airlift or sealift based on mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available (METT-T).

All types of Army divisions make important contributions to battlefield success. However, the AASLT division combines a particularly potent and impressive array of capabilities. It also operates farther and faster than other divisions and is generally free from terrain restrictions.

With the fire power of its attack aviation and the tenacity of its AASLT infantry, the AASLT division possesses the strength to hold its own against enemy armored regiments in conventional combat. Although much of the division normally deploys via sealift, the division's relatively light structure allows it to quickly move via airlift. Its aviation mobile combined arms punch makes it a force to be reckoned with in crisis-response contingencies. In short, the AASLT division constitutes a force designed to meet the majority of foreseeable armed conflicts or even operations other than war (OOTW).

Fundamentals of Air Assault Division Employment

The AASLT division is organized, equipped, and trained for decisive combat. Aviation and combined arms create remarkable agility bold leaders employ personal initiative to seize and hold battlefield initiative; and the division fights and sustains in the extraordinary depth unique to AASLT forces. To do this, they synchronize their efforts around the following five ideas (aligned with the tenets of Army operations):

1. FIGHT DEEP (depth). Potent combined arms teams jump the enemy's front lines and leap over forbidding terrain, all to get into the hostile rear area and hurt the enemy where he can least tolerate the damage. Over all other considerations, the wholehearted commitment to the tenet of

depth, exploiting the potential to go deep and slash at the enemy's vitals, characterizes the AASLT division.

2. **FIGHT FAST (agility).** Reaching almost four times the best speed of mechanized forces, an AASLT division can plan and execute actions faster than the enemy can react. Intensive training and a shared vision of the battlefield allow division leadership to see, think, decide, and act at an accelerated, synchronized tempo.

3. **FIGHT HARD (initiative).** Attacking deep into enemy rear areas with speedy rotary-winged aircraft, the AASLT division rapidly concentrates overwhelming combat power well behind enemy lines. Air assault commanders fight opportunistically, flying and marching to the sound of the guns, always alert for chances to destroy the enemy.

4. **FIGHT OFTEN (synchronization).** Decisive AASLT operations require the ability to deliver a relentless, synchronized succession of attacks, knocking the foe down and finishing him off. The division conducts combat operations on a continuous basis fighting around the clock. Division logistic units conduct sustainment operations both day and night to support the force. When necessary, the division conducts reconstitution operations for identified units.

5. **FIGHT JOINT AND COMBINED (versatility).** The AASLT division is a force-projection division, which can easily act in conjunction with air, naval, and space assets, and can fight as a partner with allied nations.

Synchronization of AASLT forces across time and space allows them to fight deep, fast, hard, and often. In an AASLT division, time is always at a premium. Synchronization measures must be routine and in place before fighting begins. Equally important, other Army commanders who direct the AASLT division should know how best to employ its unique capabilities.

CHAPTER 1

THE AIR ASSAULT (AASLT) DIVISION

This chapter describes the AASLT division's organization, capabilities, and limitations; its brigades, separate battalions, and separate companies. The AASLT division is austere and capable of conducting independent operations for only 48 hours. It makes optimum use of offensive, decentralized, irregular-type operations by highly trained small units.

The AASLT division can conduct deep operations, urban and jungle warfare, infiltration operations, and control land areas, including local populations and resources. It can destroy enemy armored vehicles on any battlefield.

The AASLT division uses helicopters to provide enhanced combat power and tactical mobility to infantry, artillery, combat support (CS), and combat service support (CSS) units (Figure 1-1, page 1-2). Division organization includes—

- A division headquarters and headquarters company (HHC), which controls assigned or attached units.
- Three AASLT infantry brigades, each consisting of an HHC and three AASLT infantry battalions. (Heliborne infantry battalions serve as the division's close combat units with the mission to close with and destroy the enemy and to seize and hold terrain.)
- The aviation brigade, which includes—
 - A brigade HHC.
 - Three assault battalions (to provide combat lift aircraft for troops and equipment).
 - Three attack helicopter battalions (AHBs) (to range fast and deep to destroy enemy forces).
 - One medium assault battalion (to provide combat lift for heavier troops, weapons systems, materiel, and supplies).
 - A command aviation battalion, which includes the division's pathfinder detachment and aerial electronic warfare (EW) detachment (to provide general support (GS) for the division's command posts (CPs), including courier service).
- One air cavalry squadron (to conduct reconnaissance and security (R&S) operations).
- The division support command (DISCOM), which delivers CSS and consists of five assigned units:
 - The HHC, including the division materiel management center (DMMC), division movement control center (DMCC), and the division medical operations center (DMOC).
 - Three forward support battalions (FSBS) (to provide medical, supply, and maintenance support to the maneuver brigades).
 - One main support battalion (MSB) (responsible for medical, supply, maintenance, and truck transportation support throughout the division area, including bolstering the efforts of the FSBS).
 - One aviation intermediate maintenance (AVIM) battalion (to repair the division's aircraft).
 - An air ambulance company (to ensure aerial casualty evacuation).
- The air defense artillery (ADA) battalion, which counters enemy air threats.
- The engineer battalion, which concentrates on enhancing mobility and survivability (M/S).
- The signal battalion, which installs reliable, secure, fast, and mobile communications.
- The military intelligence (MI) battalion, which provides intelligence (intel), counterintelligence (CI), and EW support
- The chemical (cml) company, which provides decontamination, flame field expedients, and smoke generation.
- The military police (MP) company, which-
 - Provides support by combatting enemy forces in rear areas.
 - Conducts area security missions, providing security to critical division resources.

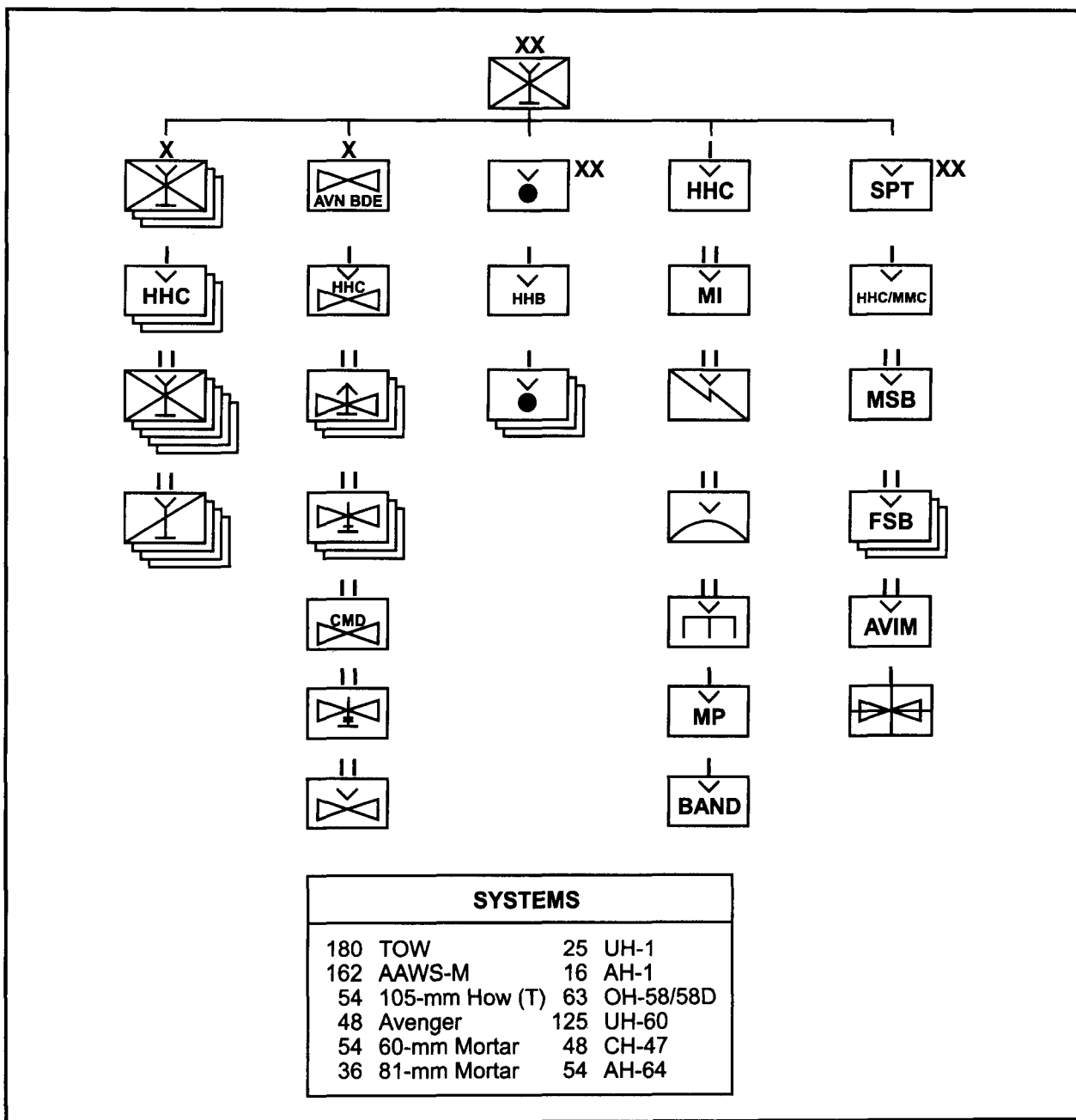


Figure 1-1. Air assault division task organization

- Expedites movement of critical combat resources while conducting battlefield circulation control (BCC) missions.
- Evacuates and controls enemy prisoners of war (EPWs).
- Provides police services, keyed to the echelon commander's priorities, as needed.
- Nondivisional units, usually allocated to an AASLT division, include air traffic control (ATC), target acquisition, additional artillery, engineering assets, parachute riggers, and added CSS. Additional aviation is also often assigned.
- A corps support group (CSG) is normally allocated to the AASLT division upon commitment.