

Longbow Apache

Conducts close combat attack, deep precision strikes, and armed reconnaissance and security in day, night, and adverse weather conditions.

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance



Description & Specifications

The AH-64D Longbow Apache is the Army's heavy attack platform for both the current and Future Force. It is highly mobile, lethal, and can destroy armor, personnel, and materiel targets in obscured battlefield conditions. The fleet includes the A model Apache and D model Longbow. The Longbow remanufacturing effort uses the A model and incorporates a millimeter wave fire control radar (FCR), radar frequency interferometer (RFI), fire-and-forget radar-guided Hellfire missile, and other cockpit management and digitization enhancements.

Both A and D models are undergoing recapitalization modifications such as upgrading to second-generation forward looking infrared (FLIR) technology with the Arrowhead Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight/Pilot Night Vision Sensor (MTADS/PNVS), non-line-of-sight communications, and video

transmission/reception, and to reduce maintenance cost. Fielding (634 Apaches) began in June 2005.

Apache is fielded to active National Guard (NG) and Army Reserve (AR) attack battalions and cavalry units through the 2006 Army Modernization Plan. The Army will convert its remaining A models to the Longbow Apache configuration. The program began with two multi-year contracts: the first delivered 232 Longbows from FY96–FY01; the second delivered an additional 269 aircraft from FY02–FY06; 120 A to D conversions will occur in FY07–FY10.

The current strategy is to upgrade 597 Block I and II AH-64Ds to a Block III configuration, with an eventual acquisition objective of 634 total Block III modernized Longbows. The Block III modernized Longbows will be designed and equipped with an opensystems architecture to

incorporate the latest communications, navigation, sensor, and weapon systems.

Combat mission speed: 167 mph
Combat range: 300 miles
Combat endurance: 2.5 hours
Max. gross weight: 20,260 pounds
Armament: Hellfire missiles, 2.75-inch rockets, and 30mm chain gun
Crew: Two (pilot and co-pilot gunner)

Program Status

- **3QFY06:** Block III Milestone B DAB approval allowing entry in SDD
- **FY06:** Fielded two attack battalions

Projected Activities

- **FY07:** Field last active component AH-64D attack battalion
- **FY07:** Field First National Guard (AZ) AH-64D attack battalion
- **FY07:** Contract award for 120 extended Block II A to D conversions
- **FY07:** Award production contract for 11 wartime replacement Block II aircraft, bringing new builds to 45

ACQUISITION PHASE

Concept & Technology Development

System Development & Demonstration

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support

Longbow Apache

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

Egypt, Greece, Israel, Kuwait, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates

Direct commercial sales: Japan, Greece, and the United Kingdom

CONTRACTORS

Airframe/fuselage:

Boeing (Mesa, AZ)

Fire Control Radar:

Northrop Grumman (Linthicum, MD)

Lockheed Martin (Oswego, NY;

Orlando, FL)

MTADS/PNVS:

Lockheed Martin (Orlando, FL)

Boeing (Mesa, AZ)

Rotor blades:

Ducommun AeroStructures (Monrovia, CA)

