

Boeing Delivers 100th AH-64D Apache Longbow to U.S. Army

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The Boeing Company has delivered the 100th AH-64D Apache Longbow multi-mission combat helicopter to the U.S. Army.

The helicopter was delivered during a brief ceremony this week at the Boeing rotorcraft center in Mesa, Ariz., where Apache Longbows have been produced since production of Apaches began in 1982.

"Delivery of this milestone Apache Longbow to our number one customer is an important milestone for Boeing," said Martin Stieglitz, vice president and general manager of the Boeing facility in Mesa. "Our goal is to remanufacture the Army's entire fleet of 750-plus AH-64As and to deliver 1,000 more Apaches to our customers worldwide over the next decade."

Boeing is under contract with the U.S. Army to deliver 232 AH-64D Apache Longbows through 2001 and is in final negotiations for an additional 298 Apache Longbows through 2007 as part of a second five-year, multi-year contract with the U.S. Army.

In addition to the 100 remanufactured Apache Longbows for the U.S. Army, Boeing had delivered nine to the Royal Netherlands Air Force and six to GKN Westland Helicopters, Ltd., for use by the United Kingdom, through Nov. 30. The company is under contract to produce 30 AH-64D Apaches for The Netherlands and 67 WAH-64 Apache Longbows with GKN Westland, Ltd., for the United Kingdom.

Boeing began Apache Longbow production in 1996. The first Apache Longbows were delivered in 1997.

In addition to the U.S. Army, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom, Singapore also recently announced plans to purchase eight AH-64Ds from the U.S. Army through a foreign military sales contract.

Other nations have expressed interest in purchasing Apache Longbows, upgrading their AH-64As to the AH-64D configuration, or modernizing their combat helicopter fleets.

Apache Longbow fulfills a wide range of reconnaissance and combat missions, most without the need to reconfigure ordnance loads and electronic systems between missions.

The advanced, multi-mission AH-64D features fully integrated avionics and weapons plus a state-of-the-art modem that transmits real-time, secure digitized battlefield information to air and ground forces. The AH-64D incorporates a series of enhancements that make it more survivable in combat, and more easily deployable and easier to maintain.

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