



Redstone Test Center

Aviation Flight



Aviation Flight Test Directorate - Testing for Tomorrow's Aviation Warfighter

The experimental test pilots, flight test engineers, and support personnel of Redstone Test Center's Army Aviation Flight Test Directorate (AFTD) conduct the rigorous testing necessary for Army acquisition and airworthiness decision makers to equip our soldiers with the most lethal, effective and safe aviation equipment. AFTD's cadre of experimental test pilots, flight test engineers, and technicians work with a fleet of test and test support aircraft to provide its customers complete developmental flight test and test support services.

The AFTD team is comprised of nearly 400 military, Department of Army civilian, and contract personnel with diverse, multi-service backgrounds, and includes 50 U.S. Naval Test Pilot School graduates and 40 flight test engineers. More than 260 contract engineering and technical personnel from QinetiQ, Tyonek, Sikorsky, and Wyle support our operations.

AFTD conducts aviation flight test operations at Redstone Arsenal and dispersed test locations. When specific test capabilities or climatic conditions are required, AFTD test teams conduct tests at remote sites throughout the United States.

Mission: To facilitate warfighter success, AFTD:

- Plans and conducts testing of manned and unmanned aviation platforms and associated systems; analyzes data and reports the findings
- Develops recommendations for airworthiness, system safety, and materiel release decision authorities
- Provides continuing test and test support services through the acquisition life cycle
- Maintains experimental test pilots deployed within combat aviation brigades to support operational testing and force modernization

Core Competencies:

- Aircraft Survivability Testing
- Unmanned Aircraft System & Manned-Unmanned Teaming
- Targeting/Pilotage Sensors
- Navigation/Communications/Avionics
- Aircraft Platform Interoperability
- Software Regression
- Aircraft Performance
- Handling Qualities
- Aircraft Icing Testing - Natural & Artificial

The Fleet:

Our aircraft can be specially-equipped and instrumented to simultaneously test components and subsystems for multiple test programs. This reduces flight-testing time and accelerates system development and fielding. Data can be recorded and transmitted to ground stations for real-time and post-flight analysis.



Mission, design and series we currently test and fly:

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| UH-1 | AH-64A |
| UH-60A/L | AH-64D |
| EH-60A/L | AH-64D/BLK3 |
| UH-60M | RQ-7B |
| UH-60MU | ERMP |
| HH-60A/L | C-27J |
| HH-60M | C-12C/D |
| HH-60L/M | C-12U |
| MH-60M | C-12R |
| CH47D | RC-12G |
| CH-47EMD | RC-12N/P |
| CH-47F | B-300 |
| OH-58D | UC-35A/B |
| B-407 | T-34C |

