

Fact Sheet

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12th Combat Aviation Brigade

BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS: Katterbach Army Airfield, Katterbach, Germany

DESCRIPTION: the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade (“Griffins”) is an aviation brigade of the United States Army based in Ansbach, Germany. As the U.S. Army’s only aviation unit in Europe, 12th CAB provides critical lift, attack and aerial medical evacuation capabilities. Army aviation delivers a force-multiplying effect with its unmatched application of maneuver, firepower, mobility, logistics, command and control, and intelligence and security. Providing operational flexibility and mission tailorability, it is at the forefront of land power dominance.

MISSION: 12th Combat Aviation Brigade trains and conducts Aviation Operations across the Range of Military Operations in support of the United States Army Europe, European Command, NATO, CENTCOM, AFRICOM and other contingency locations around the globe.

FOUNDING DATE: June 18, 1965

MAJOR SUBORDINATE UNITS / HQ LOCATION

- 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation: / Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2nd and 3rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalions, 159th Aviation / Storck Barracks, Illesheim, Germany
- 3rd Airfield Operations Battalion, 58th Aviation / Storck Barracks, Illesheim, Germany
- 3rd Assault Helicopter and 5th General Support Aviation Battalions, 158th Aviation / Katterbach Army Airfield, Germany
- 412th Aviation Support Battalion / Shipton Kaserne, Ansbach, Germany



CAPABILITIES: With over 100 airframes, assault and attack units all fall under one command, making close-air support available in flexible packages for commanders. The brigade’s 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 159th Aviation provide attack and reconnaissance with AH-64 ‘Apache’ Attack Helicopters. The 3rd and 5th Battalions of the 158th Aviation provide lift assets for troops and cargo in CH-47 ‘Chinook’ Cargo Helicopters and UH-60 ‘Blackhawk’ Utility Helicopters. The 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation provides general aviation support across Europe, including aerial medical evacuation dedicated to training at the Joint Multi Readiness Center in Hohenfels and fixed-wing aviation in support of USAREUR and EUCOM. The brigade’s support elements include the 412th Aviation Support Battalion for sustainment and the 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation which conducts airfield operations at the brigade’s airfields.

HISTORY: The 12th CAB returned from their most recent deployment to Afghanistan in March 2013, the first time that elements from the brigade have been at home station in Germany together since 2007. Founded as the 12th Aviation Group in 1965, the unit deployed to Vietnam and earned 18 campaign streamers. The brigade deployed elements to support the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1984 and maintained rotation to Cyprus until 1998. The 12th also participated in Operations Desert Shield and Storm and enforced the subsequent no-fly zone over Northern Iraq from bases in Turkey. Activated in 2006, the brigade returned from its most recent deployment to Afghanistan in March 2013. Helicopters from the brigade were the first non-special operations helicopters to cross the border into Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 12th has also conducted humanitarian relief operations in the Kashmiri Region of Pakistan in 2005, Lebanon again in 2006, and Montenegro in 2012. German President Joachim Gauck awarded the German Presidential Unit Citation to Task Forces from 12th CAB for their support of German and NATO forces during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in 2012.