

Army Aviation Training

the Combined Arms Training Strategy Program

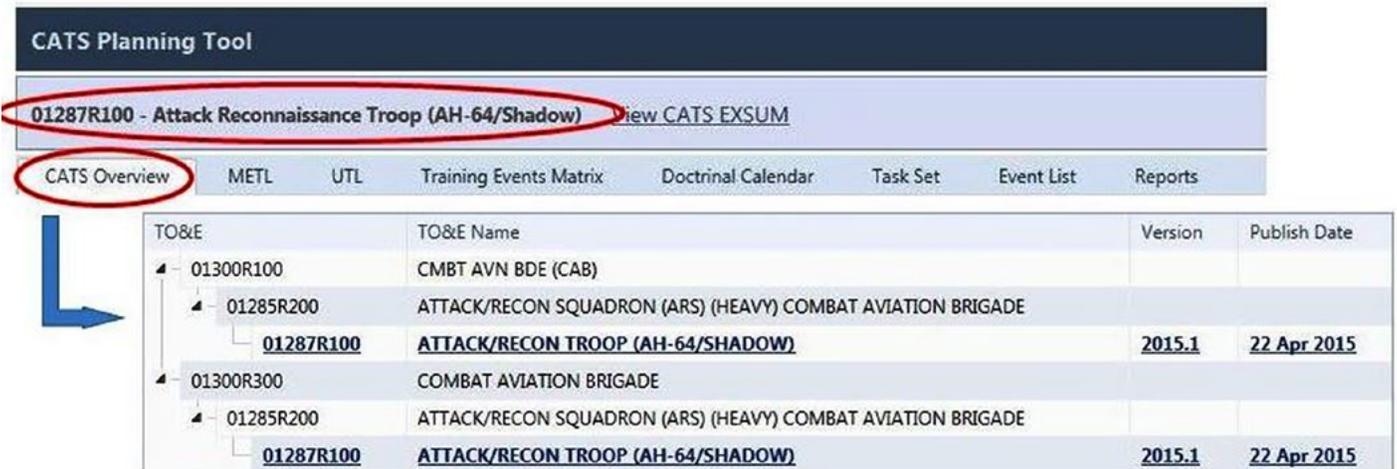
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Army Aviation training has been subject to several major changes over the past twelve months. These changes include: the development and approval of Department of the Army (DA) Mission Essential Task Lists (METL) standardized down to the company level, the introduction of the Army Readiness Training and Reporting (ARTR) system, the ongoing replacement of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) training model with the Sustainable Readiness Model (SRM), and - one of the most significant changes - the integration of Combined Arms Training Strategy (CATS) data from the Digital Training Management System (DTMS) into the Army's Net-centric Unit Status Report (NetUSR) system. The CATS program is used by leaders to assist with building a unit training and assessment plan for collective training that includes these recent changes.

The CATS is the Army's overarching strategy for training the force. Aviation CATS is made up of collective training products developed and approved by the aviation proponent and provided to Active and Reserve component aviation commanders through the Army Training Network (ATN) and the DTMS. Unit CATS products are developed for all current DA approved aviation tables of organization and equipment (TOE) and are designed to assist the commander and staff with developing the unit training plan (UTP).

The CATS contains descriptive, task-based training plans that provide "a way" to build and sustain unit training readiness throughout the SRM training cycle (figure 1). The CATS is built around the functions and capabilities of the unit's TOE and highlight mission essential tasks (MET) and supporting

collective tasks (SCT) (figure 2). Digital links within the CATS (on ATN and in DTMS) provide commanders access to task conditions, standards, performance steps, and performance measures within each collective task's training and evaluation outline (T&EO). The collective tasks are grouped into task sets (formerly task selections) that focus on a specific function or capability that the unit is designed to perform (figures 3-5). The unit CATS and its associated task sets provide a base strategy for unit commanders to plan, prepare, execute, and assess unit training. The commander may use CATS data to develop the UTP and training calendar (figure 6) by choosing task sets, collective tasks, and training events, based on the unit METL and an assessment of the unit's collective task proficiency.



Command Relationship/Force Structure

Figure 1. CATS Overview/Unit Hierarchy. This diagram shows the unit hierarchy (command relationship) for an attack reconnaissance troop—TOE 01287R100.

01287K100 Attack Recon Troop primary TOE stated capabilities:
 Attack helicopter elements for ... Aerial firepower, mobility, and shock effect as a maneuver element of the respective division...

← TOE capability

DA Standardized METL (01287R100)

Mission: **ATTACK/RECON TROOP (AH64/Shadow)**
 Description: **To destroy enemy armored, mechanized, and other massed forces through the use of aerial firepower, mobility, and shock effect.**

Number	Name	
01-2-5179	Conduct Aerial Deliberate Attack Missions (Company/Troop)	Add
01-2-5186	Conduct Aerial Screening Missions (Company/Troop)	Add
01-2-5193	Conduct Aerial Hasty Attack Missions (Company/Troop)	Add
01-2-5195	Conduct Aerial Movement to Contact Missions (Company/Troop)	Add
01-2-9015	Conduct Aerial Reconnaissance Missions (Company/Troop)	Add
55-2-4830	Conduct Expeditionary Deployment Operations in Support of the Offense, Defense, Stability and defense support of civil authorities (DSCA)	Add

← MET for Deliberate Attack

CATS Unit Training Planner

Welcome to the Unit Training Planner Training Plan : Attack Recon Troop-1 METL : ATTACK/RECON TROOP (AH-64/SHADOW) (01287R100) Component : Active

Overview METL Tasks to Train Task Set Events Calendar Confirmation

Mission : To destroy enemy armored, mechanized, and other massed forces through the use of aerial firepower, mobility, and shock effect.

Status : HQDA Approved METL

Number	Name
01-2-5179	Conduct Aerial Deliberate Attack Missions (Company/Troop)
01-1-5163	Employ Aircraft Survivability Measures
01-2-5183	Conduct Enroute Aerial Maneuver Missions
01-2-5200	Conduct Direct/Indirect Fire Planning In Support Of Aviation Missions
01-2-5201	Perform Aerial Engagement Area (EA) Tactical Missions
01-2-7917	Conduct Aerial Attack Missions (Company/Troop)
01-2-9017	Perform Aviation Missions Within Airspace Coordinating Measures
71-2-5100	Conduct Troop Leading Procedures for Companies

← MET for Deliberate Attack

← SCTs

Figure 2. The DA Standardized METL. This diagram shows the DA standardized METL for the attack reconnaissance troop–TOE 01287R100. The aerial deliberate attack mission essential task (MET) is expanded to show the SCT for this MET.

Task sets are the core of each CATS. They list recommended events (e.g., classes, situational training exercises, field training exercises), iterations for both Active and Reserve component training cycles, condition (i.e., crawl, walk, or run), training domains (i.e., live, virtual, constructive, or gaming), and the recommended training audience. In addition, training aids, devices, simulators and simulations (TADSS); facilities; and resources (e.g., equipment, flight hours, and ammunition) are recommended. Each task set contains an overview with description and training guidance, and contains purpose, outcome, and execution guidance (POEG) for each event within the task set.

01287K100 Attack Recon Troop primary TOE stated capabilities:
 Attack helicopter elements for ... Aerial firepower, mobility, and shock effect as a maneuver element of the respective division...

Task Set of associated tasks to train a specific capability: **01-TS-2806 Conduct Aerial Attack Operations**

Collective tasks to train the specific capability

01-1-5163	Employ Aircraft Survivability Measures
...	
01-2-5179	Conduct Aerial Deliberate Attack Missions (Company/Troop)
...	
01-2-7800	Conduct Manned Unmanned Teaming Missions
...	
01-2-7917	Conduct Aerial Attack Missions (Company/Troop)
...	

Events that enable the task set to be trained to proficiency in a crawl-walk-run methodology
 TM TNG FOR CONDUCT AERIAL ATTACK OPERATIONS
 STX FOR CONDUCT AERIAL ATTACK OPERATIONS
 FTX FOR CONDUCT ATTACK RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY/TROOP OPERATIONS

Events are structured to achieve required proficiency and described to assist commanders: STX for Conduct Aerial Attack Operations

Active/Reserve – cycle, iterations, and durations of the event are defined
 Condition: Walk
 Training Audience: TROOP HEADQUARTERS, ATTACK/RECON PLATOON (AH-64), ATTACK/RECON PLATOON (AH-64), ...
 TADSS: 01-146: Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (AVCATT) (1)
 Multi-Echelon Training: No multi-echelon events suggested
 Concurrent Training: No concurrent training suggested
 Domain: Live, Virtual
 Training Gates:
 Action Gates: TM TNG for Conduct Aerial Attack Operations
 Facilities: Local Training Area, Simulator Center
 Purpose: Train personnel and attain unit proficiency on tasks, processes, and procedures associated with planning and conducting aerial attack operations.
 Outcome: Unit is proficient on tasks, processes, and procedures for planning, coordinating, and executing aerial attack operations.
 Execution Guidance: The STX is intended to attain proficiency on the tasks, processes, and procedures for planning, coordinating, and executing ...
 Resources: LIN, Quantity, Nomenclature, OPTEMPO, Class 3-POL, and Class 5 Ammunition (LIN and Non-Lin) (e.g., H05006/4/AH64E/3 hrs/1384.8 gallons)

Figure 3. Task Set Details. This diagram shows the relationship between a designed unit capability (TOE mission), the collective tasks contained within the selected task set, the training events available in the task set, and a training summary (POEG statement).

The information contained within a task set details the specific METL, function or capability, and echelon it is designed to train. It recommends a training progression for the unit to obtain full proficiency in the selected collective tasks in complex and challenging environments. Also, each task set lists ARTR assessment standards of fully trained (T), trained (T-), practiced (P), marginally practiced (P-), or untrained (U) so that units can assess their training readiness when conducting mission analysis or developing/updating their UTP. In order for the commander to report a proficiency level of T, the unit must receive an external evaluation of its METs.

For example, if the commander of an attack reconnaissance troop wants to conduct unit training on the MET for an aerial deliberate attack mission then he can choose the "Conduct Aerial Attack Operations" task set

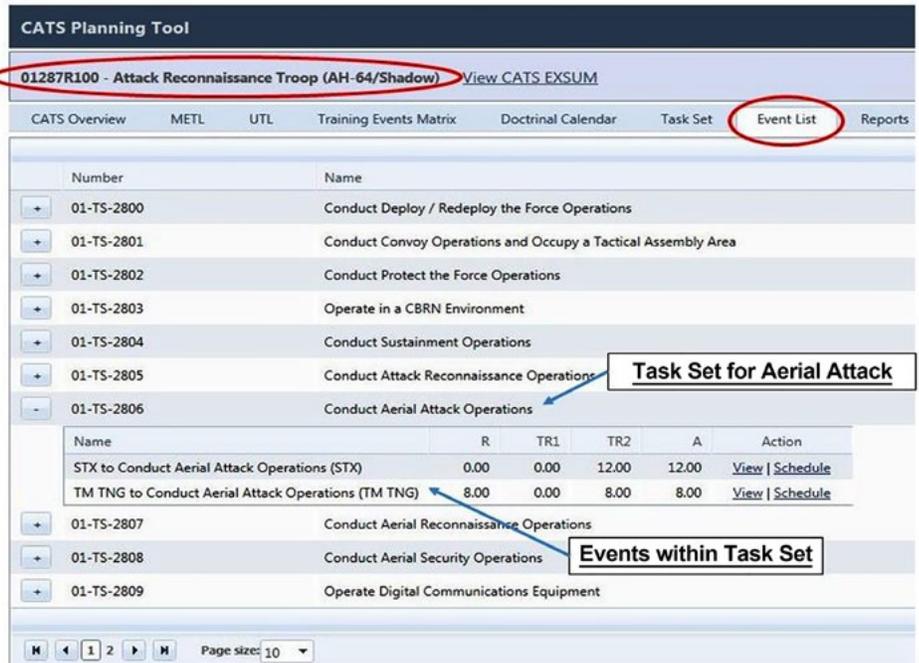


Figure 5. Event List. This diagram is an excerpt from the "Event List" tab within the CATS Planning Tool in DTMS. It illustrates the relationship between the selected task set (Conduct Aerial Attack Operations) and the available training events built into the selected task set.

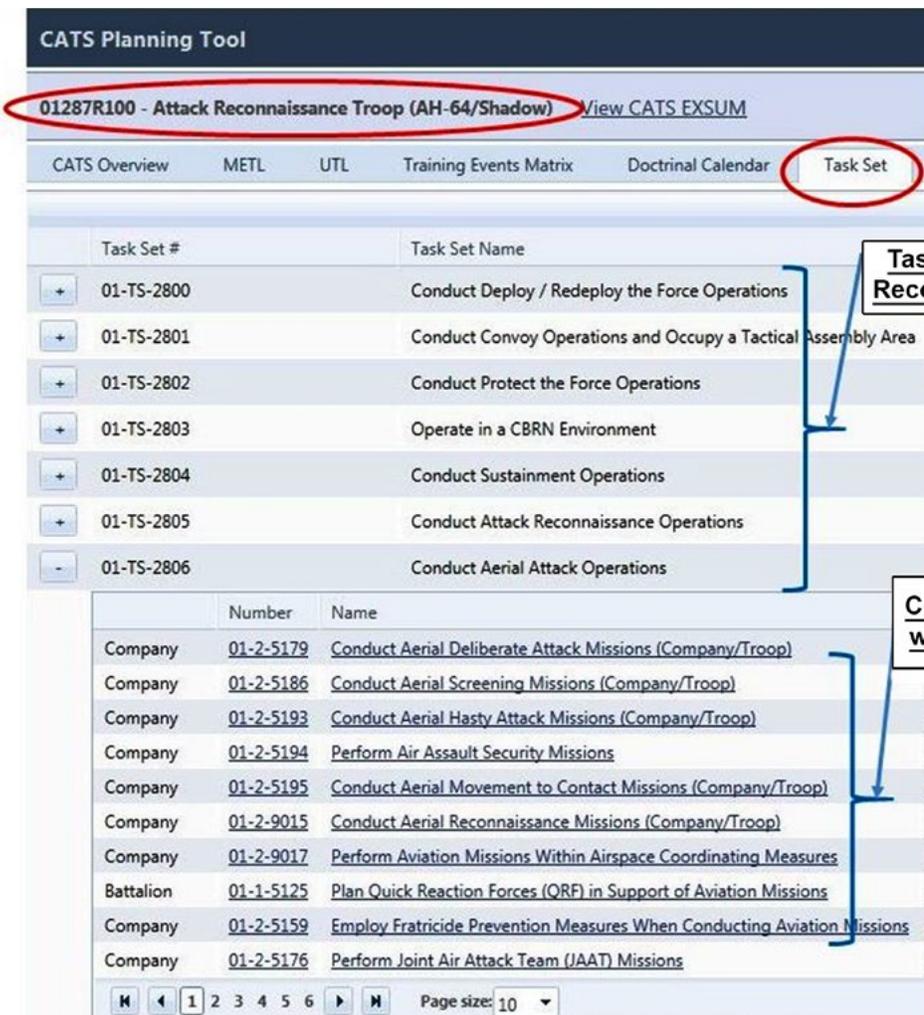


Figure 4. Task Set—Attack Reconnaissance Troop. This diagram is an excerpt from the "Task Set" tab within the CATS Planning Tool in DTMS. It illustrates the relationship between the selected task set (Conduct Aerial Attack Operations) and the available collective tasks built into the selected task set.

within the unit's CATS. The task set contains recommended collective tasks that may be trained using team training and situational training exercise (STX) events in a crawl-walk-run progression. In this example, the selected task set provides a methodology for the unit to obtain walk-level proficiency in the capability of conducting an aerial attack. Once the unit reaches proficiency at the walk level (via the STX), the unit would then train and demonstrate run-level proficiency during a future training event, such as a unit field training exercise.

The CATS available to the force through DTMS is flexible and may be tailored to meet the particular needs of the using unit. Accessing CATS through DTMS is unit TOE number specific and provides users with the full range of system planning and tracking capabilities. Users must have a DTMS account with appropriate permissions acquired through the unit's DTMS manager to enable unit specific access. Accessing CATS through DTMS facilitates the ability to plan and assess training, maintain a record of collective task proficiency, and compile after action review reports. CATS may also be viewed through the ATN.

The CATS ATN feature allows anyone with a common access card the ability

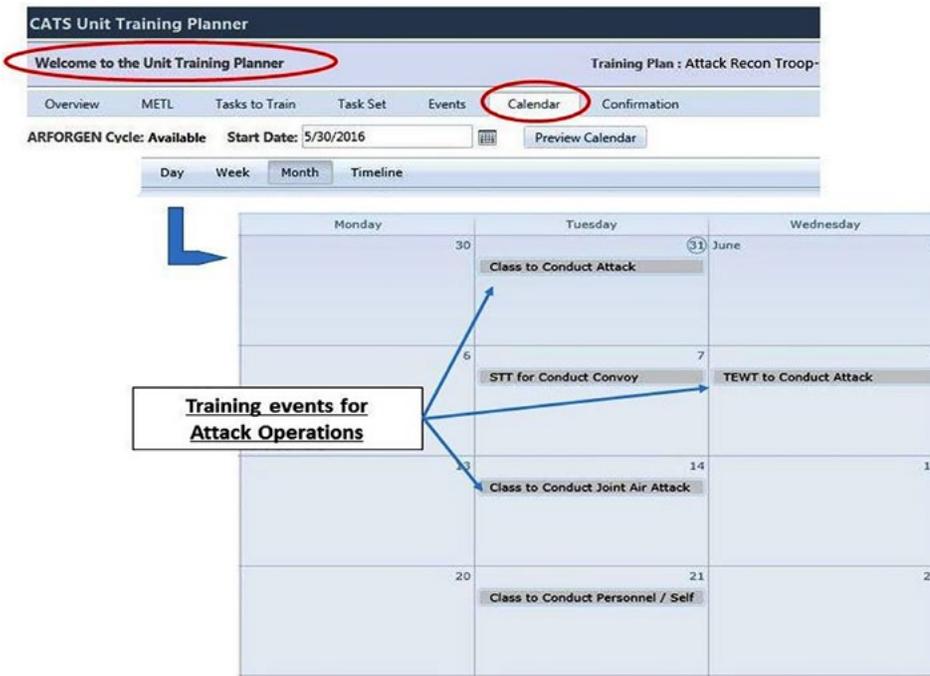


Figure 6. Unit Planning Calendar. This diagram is an excerpt from within the CATS Planning Tool in DTMS. It illustrates a sample planning calendar for an attack reconnaissance troop. Sample calendars are provided by the aviation proponent within every aviation unit CATS.

to view approved CATS. The ATN website also offers a CATS knowledge base link. The CATS knowledge base contains links to the DTMS CATS planning tool, DA Standardized METL, and TADSS. It also provides access to CATS-related publications and references, tutorials, briefings, frequently asked questions, and CATS program points of contact.

Aviation CATS analysts are incorporating ARTR initiatives to better assist

commanders with assessing unit training and readiness. These initiatives are currently being implemented into all training strategies and training management products with a tentative delivery to the field of November 2016. The ARTR initiative is comprised of two major components. First, it establishes a more defined and quantifiable “Objective” assessment of collective and individual tasks. Secondly, it will establish a digital transfer (link) of the DTMS data

used to create the training plans and subsequent objective assessments that will automatically populate relevant training assessment data into the NetUSR program. The ARTR will meet the longstanding need to directly link the training planning system with the readiness reporting system to provide an objective reporting system with robust and detailed evaluation criteria.

Soldiers may request assistance in using CATS, developing their UTPs, or other CATS-related issues through the “Ask a Trainer” option under the “Collaborate” tab on the ATN homepage at https://atn.army.mil/frm_askTrainer.aspx. Additional assistance is available by calling the DTMS Help Desk located in the Training Management Division, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas at (913) 684-2700, DSN 552-2700 or toll free at (877) 241-0347.

Additionally, aviation specific CATS analysts are available to conduct Mobile Training Team visits at no cost to the unit. Typically, these visits are two to three days in length and conducted on a weekend for Reserve and National Guard units. To request a unit visit contact any one of the CATS Program points of contact listed at the bottom of the CATS Knowledge Base web page at: https://atn.army.mil/dsp_template.aspx?dpID=336.



¹ Milley, Mark. Army Readiness Guidance, Calendar Year 2016-17. Washington. Department of the Army. January 2016. Web. <https://www.army.mil/e2/downloads/rv7/standto/docs/army_readiness_guidance.pdf>
² U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence. Army Aviation Training Strategy. Fort Rucker. U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence. January 2016. Web <<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/usaace-dotd>>
³ Department of the Army. TRADOC Pamphlet 350-70-1, Training Development in Support of the Operational Domain. Fort Eustis. U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. February 2012. Web. <<http://www.tradoc.army.mil/tpubs/pamndx.htm>>

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Acronym Reference

ARFORGEN - Army Force Generation	POEG - purpose, outcome, and execution guidance
ARTR - Army Readiness Training and Reporting	SCT - supporting collective tasks
ATN - Army Training Network	SRM - Sustainable Readiness Model
CATS - Combined Arms Training Strategy	STX - situational training exercise
DTMS - Digital Training Management System	TADSS - training aids, devices, simulators, and simulations
DA - Department of the Army	T&EO - training and evaluation outline
METL - mission essential task list	TOE - table of organization and equipment
MET - mission essential task	UTP - unit training plan
NetUSR - Net-centric Unit Status Report	