

= 10th Combat Aviation Brigade (United States) =

The Combat Aviation Brigade , 10th Mountain Division is a combat aviation brigade of the United States Army based at Fort Drum , New York . It is a subordinate unit of the 10th Mountain Division .

Reactivated in 1988 , the 10th Mountain Division 's Combat Aviation Brigade supported the division as it undertook numerous operations and overseas contingencies in the 1990s , including Operation Restore Hope , Operation Uphold Democracy , and Task Force Eagle , as well as disaster relief following Hurricane Andrew . The brigade has since become involved in the War on Terrorism , seeing four deployments to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom and a deployment to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom . The brigade is currently on its fourth deployment to Afghanistan and is serving in Regional Command - East under Combined Joint Task Force 101 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom .

= = Organization = =

The Combat Aviation Brigade , 10th Mountain Division comprises five principal battalions under the command of its Headquarters and Headquarters Company . The brigade commands 1st , 2nd , 3rd Battalions , 10th Aviation Regiment , and 6th Squadron , 6th Cavalry Regiment , which operate a number of aircraft including UH @-@ 60 Black Hawks , AH @-@ 64 Apaches , CH @-@ 47 Chinooks , and OH @-@ 58 Kiowas . In addition , the 277th Aviation Support Battalion provides supporting services to the combat battalions when they are deployed , making the brigade capable of operating independently of higher command headquarters , and capable of taking on additional battalions and other , smaller units when deployed , as necessary .

= = History = =

The brigade HHC was constituted on 1 April 1988 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company , Aviation Brigade , 10th Mountain Division , and activated at Fort Drum , New York . The brigade was activated at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome , NY as part of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) on 2 July 1988 . The brigade remained based at Griffiss until 1992 (August ?) . It appears that initially the brigade was made up of 3 @-@ 17 CAV , and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 25th Aviation Regiment (2 @-@ 25 and 3 @-@ 25 AVN) .

The brigade has played a key role in all Division missions , including support for Hurricane Andrew relief in south Florida , in Somalia , Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti , SFOR and KFOR missions in Bosnia and Kosovo and most recently Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom . In each instance , the Brigade has demonstrated its capability to rapidly deploy and conduct aviation missions upon arrival . The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade has 12 CH @-@ 47s , 24 AH @-@ 64s , 30 OH @-@ 58s , and 50 UH @-@ 60s to assist the 10th Mountain Division to fight and win in any environment .

In Somalia from 1993 (' Operation Restore Hope and Operation Continue Hope ') the 10th Mountain Division brought an aviation task force to support them in their UNOSOM II missions . Task Force Raven , built around 2nd Battalion , 25th Aviation Regiment , was a task organized aviation unit with a total of 52 attack , scout , lift , and medical evacuation aircraft . They flew over 6000 missions over the streets of Mogadishu . Twelve AH @-@ 1 Cobras made up the attack helicopter force . The lessons learned by this aviation task force are particularly useful for the rest of the conventional aviation units in the U.S. Army . Fortunately , LTC R. Lee Gore , commander of Task Force Raven ordered a detailed after action review upon the unit 's return . " During the Battle of Mogadishu on 3 ? 4 October 1993 , UH @-@ 1V and MH @-@ 60s moved casualties from the airfield to the 46th Combat Support Hospital at the U.S. Embassy compound . The battalion returned home in December 1993 @-@ January 1994 , relieved by the 4th Battalion , 4th Aviation Regiment , from Fort Carson . (Casper , 128)

= = = Haiti 1994 = = =

The division formed the nucleus of the Multinational Force Haiti and Joint Task Force 190 (JTF 190) in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy . More than 8 @, @ 600 of the division 's troops deployed during this operation . On 19 September 1994 , the 1st Brigade conducted the Army 's first air assault from an aircraft carrier . This force consisted of 54 helicopters and almost 2 @, @ 000 soldiers . They occupied the Port @- @ au @- @ Prince International Airport . This was the largest Army air operation conducted from a carrier since the Doolittle Raid in World War II .

= = = Afghanistan Deployments = = =

In 2003 and into 2004 , the brigade deployed for the first time to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom . As the only aviation brigade in the theater , the brigade provided air support for all U.S. Army units operating in the country . The brigade 's mission at that time focused on close air support , medevac missions , and other duties involving combat with Taliban and Al @- @ Qaeda forces in the country . The brigade returned to Fort Drum in 2004 .

In winter 2006 the brigade was deployed again to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom as the only aviation brigade in the theater , stationed at Bagram Air Base , Afghanistan . Named " Task Force Falcon , " the brigade 's mission was to conduct aviation operations to destroy insurgents and anti @- @ coalition militia in an effort to help build the Afghan National Security Force 's capability and allow the Afghan government to increase its capabilities . In addition , the Task Force provided logistical and aviation support for ISAF forces throughout the country , conducted tactical maneuvers and performed security and attack operations when needed .

Prior to the modular force structure reorganization , the 10th Aviation Brigade consisted of a Headquarters Company , 10th Aviation Brigade ; 3rd Squadron , 17th Cavalry Regiment , 1st Battalion , 10th Aviation Regiment (United States) (formerly 2nd Battalion , 25th Aviation Regiment) , 2nd Battalion (Assault) , 10th Aviation Regiment (formerly 3rd Battalion , 25th Aviation Regiment) ; 3rd Battalion , 10th Aviation (General Support) , and C Company (Aviation Intermediate Maintenance) , 10th Aviation Regiment .

After the transformation , the reorganized brigade retained the 3 ? 17th Cavalry and 1- and 2 ? 10th Aviation . 3 ? 10th Aviation and C @- @ 10th Aviation were inactivated . Also reactivated as part of the reorganized unit were 6th Squadron , 6th Cavalry Regiment and the 277th Aviation Support Battalion . During the transition elements of the 10th Aviation continued to be deployed as part of Task Forces part of Operation Iraqi Freedom , with units returning to Fort Drum for reorganization after their tours were complete . Elements of the 10th Aviation Brigade were deployed to Iraq in 2008 as part of continued operations in that country .

= = Honors = =

The brigade has been awarded two Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for Somalia , and service in ' Afghanistan 2003 ? 2004 ' . As of 6 February 2009 , the Army 's official lineage and honors website says that Campaign Participation Credit for the war on terrorism has ' yet to be determined.'