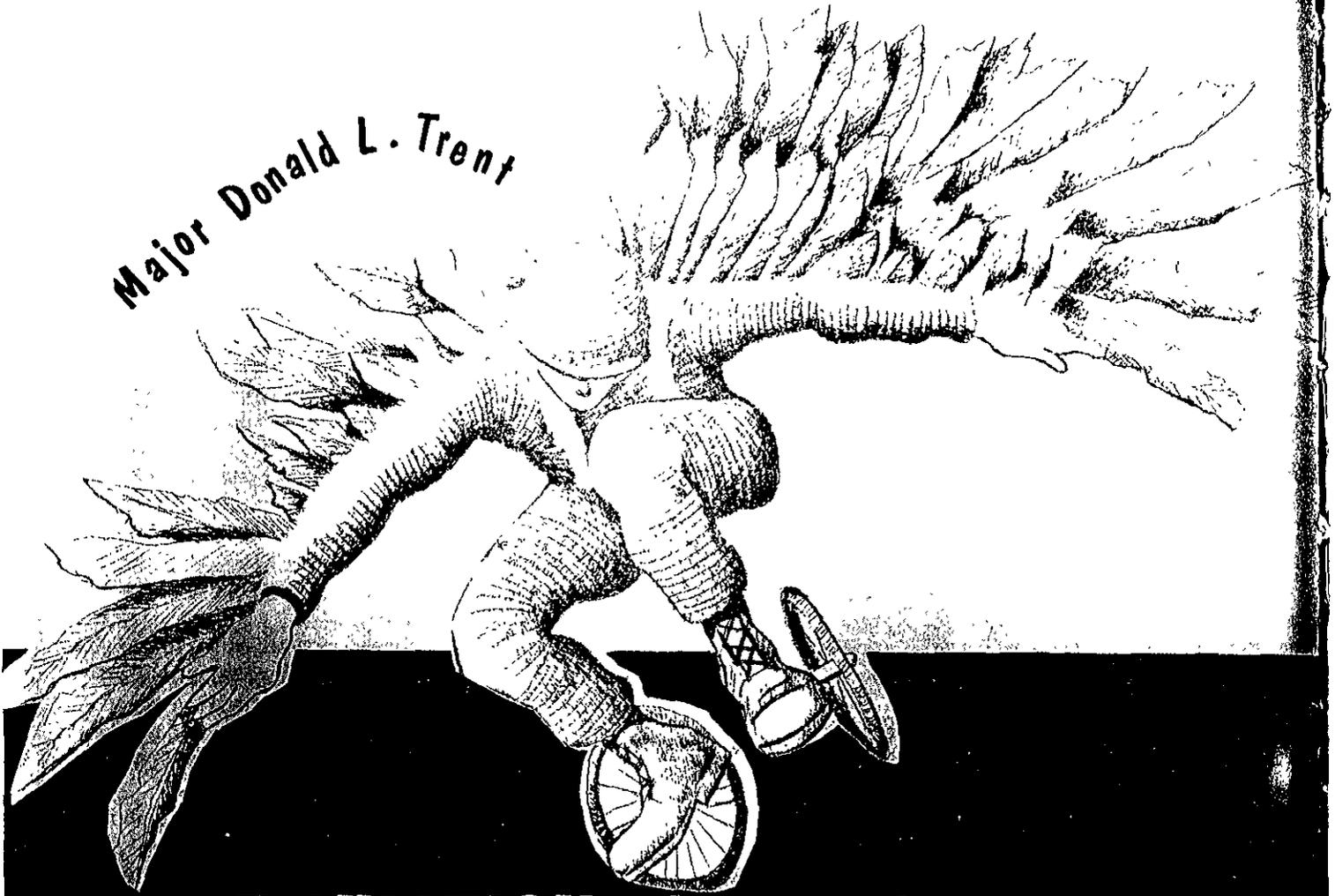


Major Donald L. Trent



## ARMY AVIATION: the combat multiplier

**P**ast military conflicts provide many examples of what the United States Army's evolving AirLand battle doctrine really means. The U.S. Third Army's attack across France, the Soviets' advance into Manchuria in 1945, the U.N.'s counteroffensive in Korea in 1951, and the Israelis' Sinai campaign of 1967 are particularly good examples. With one exception, all of these pitted numerically inferior against numerically superior forces. All were combined arms operations. The Third Army blitz is also a superb example of air and land forces working in concert. In fact, because of the Third Army's successes, the German high command characterized its commander, General George Patton, as "the most feared general of World War II . . . a master of doing the unexpected . . . completely unpredictable."

If U.S. commanders are to succeed on the integrated battlefield using the new AirLand battle doctrine, their enemy must perceive them, too, as "completely unpredictable." With its inherent risks, the integrated battlefield will give commanders an opportunity to recall and use

historical examples, and also to establish precedents for future action. This is the time for them to be innovative, to synchronize their efforts, to prepare. The AirLand battle doctrine gives them the impetus, the common goal, the charter for doing what they have to do. The Aviation Center has readily embraced the new doctrine and concepts, and feels that Army Aviation is ideally suited to play a major role on the integrated battlefield as a "combat multiplier."

But first, the commanders involved must have a clear understanding of the concept of the AirLand battle with its perceived battlefield, beginning with some definition of terms:

**The Integrated Battlefield.** This is a generic description of the battlefield on which either combatant has employed or could employ nuclear, chemical, conventional, electronic, or directed energy weapon systems, either singly or in combination.

**The Extended Battlefield.** This term describes the need to use the full range of friendly capabilities, including

deep-ranging sensors and weapons, with the goal of destroying the enemy's will to fight. Enemy units not yet in contact are brought under deep attack so that they can be destroyed, disrupted, or delayed. The concept recognizes that the deep and close-in battles are inseparable and that both must be prosecuted within the commander's overall objectives.

**The AirLand Battle.** This term ties together the integrated and extended battlefield concepts and applies them to the battlefield envisioned in the 1980s and beyond. Its main theme is to win by early offensive actions conducted by joint air and land forces. The key to modernization as set forth in the AirLand battle concept is based on Army 86 materiel and force structure requirements.

To fight the AirLand battle, commanders must employ their ground and air forces to seize the initiative before they take on the first enemy echelons. A commander's greatest concern will be to commit his forces at the critical point at which they can influence the battle. This is presently referred to in measurements of time or distance from the "forward line of own troops" (FLOT). Once a commander has determined that critical point, he must plan in detail, coordinate precisely, execute violently, and finish rapidly.

To prepare for its role, the Army Aviation community is continuing its development and procurement of new systems, its progressive training, and its development and testing of new organizations. The Army Aviation organizations scheduled for fielding under Army 86 are the Air Cavalry Attack Brigade (ACAB) and the Corps Aviation Brigade. These units are ideally suited to the offensive nature of the evolving battle doctrine.

The ACAB, for example, is a highly potent maneuver force. It can defeat the enemy's first and second echelon forces during offensive and defensive operations; attack in any direction; conduct reconnaissance, surveillance, attack, and airmobile operations simultaneously; conduct continuous operations; and offer unity of command for all of a division's aviation assets.

## NEW SYSTEMS

In addition, the following aviation systems will further improve the combined arms effort within those units.

### SEMA

Special electronics mission aircraft (SEMA) will allow the commander to see the battlefield far beyond the FLOT. The better he sees the battlefield, the better he can concentrate his forces or employ economy of forces at the right time and place. The improved GUARDRAIL system (RC-12D) provides communications intercept, exploitation, and emitter locating capabilities at corps level.

The QUICK FIX IIB (EH-60) is the first true division level electronic warfare system. It can disrupt the integri-



ty of an enemy's communications networks and also provide protection against hostile radar emitters.

The QUICK LOOK (RV-1) currently provides a corps level system that conducts visual reconnaissance and monitors an enemy's radar emitters while simultaneously retransmitting that data to ground facilities for quick processing and dissemination.

The Side Looking Airborne Radar (SLAR) (OV-1D) complements QUICK LOOK at corps level with near real time radar imagery of both fixed and moving targets and infrared (IR) imagery photo reconnaissance functions.

The heliborne Standoff Target Acquisition System (SOTAS) will be mounted on an EH-60 to further round out the commander's ability to see far beyond the FLOT.

### AHIP

The Army Helicopter Improvement Program (AHIP) is developing an improved scout helicopter that will be better able to fight when it works with the attack helicopter. It will provide improved battlefield reconnaissance, timely information, security, aerial observation, and target acquisition and designation systems during both day and night operations and during periods of reduced visibility.

The improvements that are now being made will include electronic countermeasures, an air-to-air missile system, and better vision equipment. A mast-mounted



sight (MMS) will provide standoff target acquisition, while laser designation systems will permit them to remain masked during reconnaissance, surveillance, artillery observation, and target acquisition missions. The MMS will also give the helicopter visual and optical equipment that is more compatible with that of the AH-1S and AH-64 helicopters.

### AH-1S

The AH-1S, a fully modernized Cobra helicopter, which is now being fielded, will be an integral part of the Army's attack helicopter force through the year 2000.



The AH-1S can carry eight tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided (TOW) missiles, 320 rounds of 20mm ammunition, and 14 70mm (2.75-inch FFAR) rockets. In an alternate mission configuration, the aircraft can carry up to 76 70mm rockets.

When it is fielded, the Forward Looking Infrared Augmented Cobra TOW Sight (FACTS) will give the AH-1S attack fleet an improved target engagement capability during night and reduced visibility operations.

### AH-64

The AH-64 advanced attack helicopter will improve the Army's ability to influence the battle on a broad front. It can be armed with as many as 16 Hellfire missiles in addition to its rapid-firing, armor-piercing 30mm cannon, which has a maximum effective range of three kilometers. Alternate mission configurations for the AH-64 include armament loads of up to 76 70mm rockets or a combination of Hellfire, 70mm rockets, and 30mm rounds.

Reliability, availability, and maintainability have been built into the AH-64, and it has been designed so that it is nearly invulnerable to 12.7mm rounds. The Pilot's Night Vision System (PNVS) improves the crew's ability to spot an enemy force during periods of limited visibility. In concert with the Target Acquisition and Designation Systems (TADS), the PNVS will enable the AH-64 to



fight in conjunction with the Abrams tank and the Bradley fighting vehicle around the clock.

### UH-60

The UH-60 Blackhawk, the Army's new firstline utility assault helicopter, will be used chiefly in the main battle area as a troop-carrying and logistics aircraft. A com-



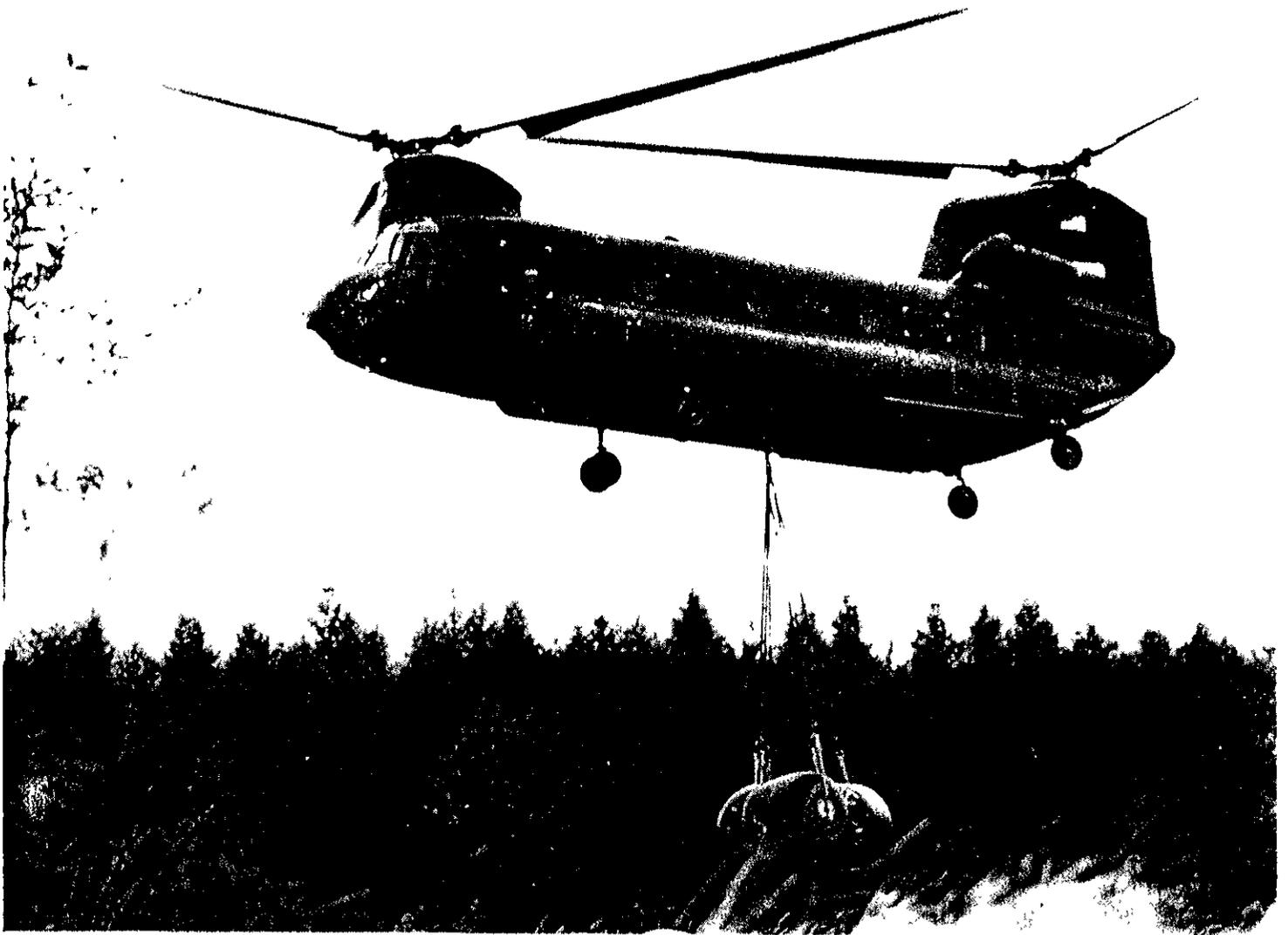
mander can use the UH-60 to conduct air assaults and raids. He can also use it to move antiarmor teams through the battle area, to deploy rear area security forces to counter enemy airborne and airmobile operations, and to resupply his units.

### CH-47D

The CH-47D Chinook modernization program provides a helicopter that will meet the Army's medium lift transport needs of the 1980s and 1990s. It will play a vital role on the modern battlefield, particularly in airlifting maneuver forces to widely dispersed positions to prevent them from becoming potential nuclear or chemical targets.

### TRAINING EFFORT

As for training, the Aviation School is working on the



premise that our forces must be prepared to perform 24 hours a day on the integrated battlefield. The School is conducting realistic training with our current systems while awaiting the new and improved systems that are on the way.

The training at Fort Rucker is now focused more than ever on stressing the combined arms effort as well as on producing technically sound aviators. The basic manuals on employment are being updated to conform to the emerging AirLand battle doctrine; to insure a smooth transition into the future, all systems, concepts, and organizations are being tested against all kinds of scenarios.

Finally, the Aviation Center continues to work closely with the other TRADOC schools and centers to insure that everyone fully understands the role of Army Aviation as a full-fledged member of the combined arms team.

Army Aviation gives a combined arms commander a highly flexible and potent combat multiplier. As an authentic combined arms element, Army Aviation sup-

ports the eight TRADOC mission areas set forth in TRADOC Pamphlet 525-5. The Aviation School is writing new doctrine and testing new concepts. The proof of its success, though, will eventually come from the field. Now is the time for the field to prepare for and use Army Aviation as the combat multiplier it is intended to be.



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