

Top 9 Attack Helicopters

Often we receive many questions which is the best attack helicopter in the world. Which is the greatest modern gunship and why. Our Top 9 analysis is based on the combined score of performance, firepower, protection and avionics. We use specifications for comparison and available data. This list do not includes gunships, that are currently in development or at the prototype stage. It includes only best helicopters that are currently in service and in production. All of the attack helicopters mentioned here are incredibly powerful and devastating. Crew training of the helicopter is also important, as performance of the actual machine depends from the crew performance.

Currently top 9 best attack helicopters in the world are these:



Nr.1 [Boeing AH-64D Longbow Apache](#) (USA)

The AH-64D is an upgraded version of the original [AH-64A](#), which was developed for the US Army, to replace the AH-1 Cobra. The Longbow Apache saw combat during recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Longbow Apache is fitted with a mast mounted antenna with new fire control radar. This attack helicopter can fire Hellfire 2 air-to-ground missiles in fire-and-forget mode. Other improvements include targeting, battle management system, cockpit, communications, weapons and navigation systems. The gunship is also fitted with a 30-mm cannon.

Entering service in 1995, early aircraft lack the radar system fitted to the definitive AH-64D Longbow Apache that followed from 1997. Early in 1999 the US Army finally decided that 530 AH-64As would be upgraded to D standard, for which 500 Longbow systems would be procured, and that the other 218 surviving AH-64As would be passed to the Air National Guard

The AH-64D is also in service with Israel, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom



Nr.2 Bell AH-1Z Viper (USA)

The AH-1Z Viper gunship is based on the AH-1W SuperCobra. This helicopter is used by the US Marine Corps. It follows the line of the AH-1 Cobra helicopters, which was the world first dedicated attack helicopter. A total of 226 Vipers will be built. Some of them will be upgraded from AH-1W airframes. Others will be newly-built machines. Production of the Viper began in 2003. It reached initial operational capability in 2010.

The AH-1Z Viper has new rotor, uprated transmission upgraded avionics and new target sighting system. Upgraded helicopters have improved flight characteristics. This helicopter is fitted with infrared suppression system, which covers exhausts.

The Viper is armed with a 20-mm three-barrel cannon. It can carry up to 16 Hellfire aground attack missiles. It can also carry unguided rockets and Sidewinder air-to-air missiles.



Nr.3 [Kamov Ka-52 Hokum-B](#) (Russia)

The Ka-52 is a further development and a two-seat version of the famous [Ka-50 Hokum](#). This attack helicopter entered service with the Russian Army and its small scale production commenced in 2008.

The Ka-52 is one of the fastest and most maneuverable attack helicopters due to its two coaxial contra-rotating main rotors. Armor of this gunship withstands hits from 23-mm projectiles. Pilots are seated in ejection seats.

This gunship is armed with a 30-mm cannon and up to 12 Vikhr anti-tank missiles. It can also carry unguided rockets and Igla air-to-air missiles.

The Ka-52 is fitted with a battlefield management system and can exchange data with other helicopters, as well as third-party sources. This helicopter is also intended as an aerial command post for a group of helicopters. It provides target detection and coordinates the attacks.



Nr.4 [Mil Mi-28 Havoc](#) (Russia)

The Mi-28 has been in development since the late 1970s. This helicopter was finally accepted to service with the Russian Army in 2006. Currently Russian Army operates over 20 of these helicopters. Some sources report that it is also in service with Kenya.

This attack helicopter is fitted with two heavily-armored cockpits. Probably it is one of the most armored attack helicopters to date. The Mi-28 is also fitted with emergency escape system for the crew.

The Mi-28 is typically fitted with eight Ataka anti-armor missiles along with unguided rocket pods. This gunship is also fitted with a 30-mm cannon.

Comparing with the previous Mi-24 Hind it is better optimized for anti-armor role. It lacks secondary troop transport capability. However the Mi-28 has a small passenger compartment and in case of emergency it can carry three passengers. This feature allows to rescue downed helicopter crew.

It was reported that during comparative trials the Mi-28 lost to the [Ka-50](#).

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