

# **STUDENT HANDOUT**

## **ATTACK HELICOPTER EMPLOYMENT, THE CARDINAL RULES**

F 30-456-I	43-456-I
39-456-I	61-456-I
41-456-I	67-456-I

**(CONFERENCE)**



**AUGUST 1969**

**UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL  
FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA**

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## ATTACK HELICOPTER EMPLOYMENT, THE CARDINAL RULES

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(CONFIDENTIAL)



AUGUST 1969

UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL  
FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF TACTICS  
UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

August 1969

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PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

ATTACK HELICOPTER EMPLOYMENT, THE CARDINAL RULES

1. KNOWLEDGES: Without the aid of notes, references, and without error, student will be able to—
  - a. Write from memory the 12 cardinal rules of attack helicopter employment. The rules need not be verbatim.
  - b. Write the cardinal rule being violated in four sketches of tactical situations involving attack helicopters.
2. SKILLS: None.

NOTES

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PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

ATTACH HELICOPTER EMPLOYMENT, THE CASUALTY

1. KNOWLEDGE: When the student is given a task, he will be able to:

2. Skills: When the student is given a task, he will be able to:

3. Attitudes: When the student is given a task, he will be able to:

4. Attitudes: When the student is given a task, he will be able to:



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ADVANCE SHEET

ATTACK HELICOPTER EMPLOYMENT, THE CARDINAL RULES

PURPOSE: This conference is designed to provide you—as a future attack (armed observation) helicopter pilots—with several vital rules which will apply to the majority of missions performed by attack (armed observation) helicopter units in the Republic of South Vietnam.

SUMMARY: This period of instruction is concerned with attack (armed observation) helicopter tactics and employment techniques at the fire team (scout team) level. The 12 cardinal rules have been proven in combat from the utilization of the first attack (armed observation) helicopter team in South Vietnam up to the present day. Variations of certain rules due to terrain and situation differences will be mentioned. This period will provide each student with tested guidelines which will enable him to make sound tactical, on-the-spot decisions.

## NOTES

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STUDENT OUTLINE

ATTACK HELICOPTER EMPLOYMENT, THE CARDINAL RULES

1. Take your time

2. Know the situation  
A. Consideration  
Mission

Enemy  
Terrain & weather  
Troops & equip - available

3. Brief

4. Avoid FH. in Dead Man's Zone

Avoid prominent terrain features

5. Avoid Flying 180° wing position

6. Avoid Flying Parallel to terrain Features

7. High Recon First

Locate Friendly Enemies

(surprise enemy weapons & vehicles)

8. Always assume that the area is HOT

9. Locate Friendlies First

10. Avoid Firing From over the  
Heads of Friendly Troops



11. Avoid Target overflight

weapon

12. Engage at Max. EFF. Range

Disengage before Enemy's EFF. Range

or conserve ordnance & use it wisely

NOTES

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PERFORMANCE CHECK

ATTACK HELICOPTER EMPLOYMENT, THE CARDINAL RULES

1. Write from memory the 12 cardinal rules.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
  - g.
  - h.
  - i.
  - j.
  - k.
  - l.
2. Each of the following sketches depicts a typical tactical situation involving attack (armed observation) helicopter employment. Write the rule being violated in the space provided.

NOTE:



PLATOON LEADER



ANTIAIRCRAFT  
WEAPON



FIRE TEAM LEADER



AUTOMATIC  
WEAPON



WINGMAN

No. 1

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

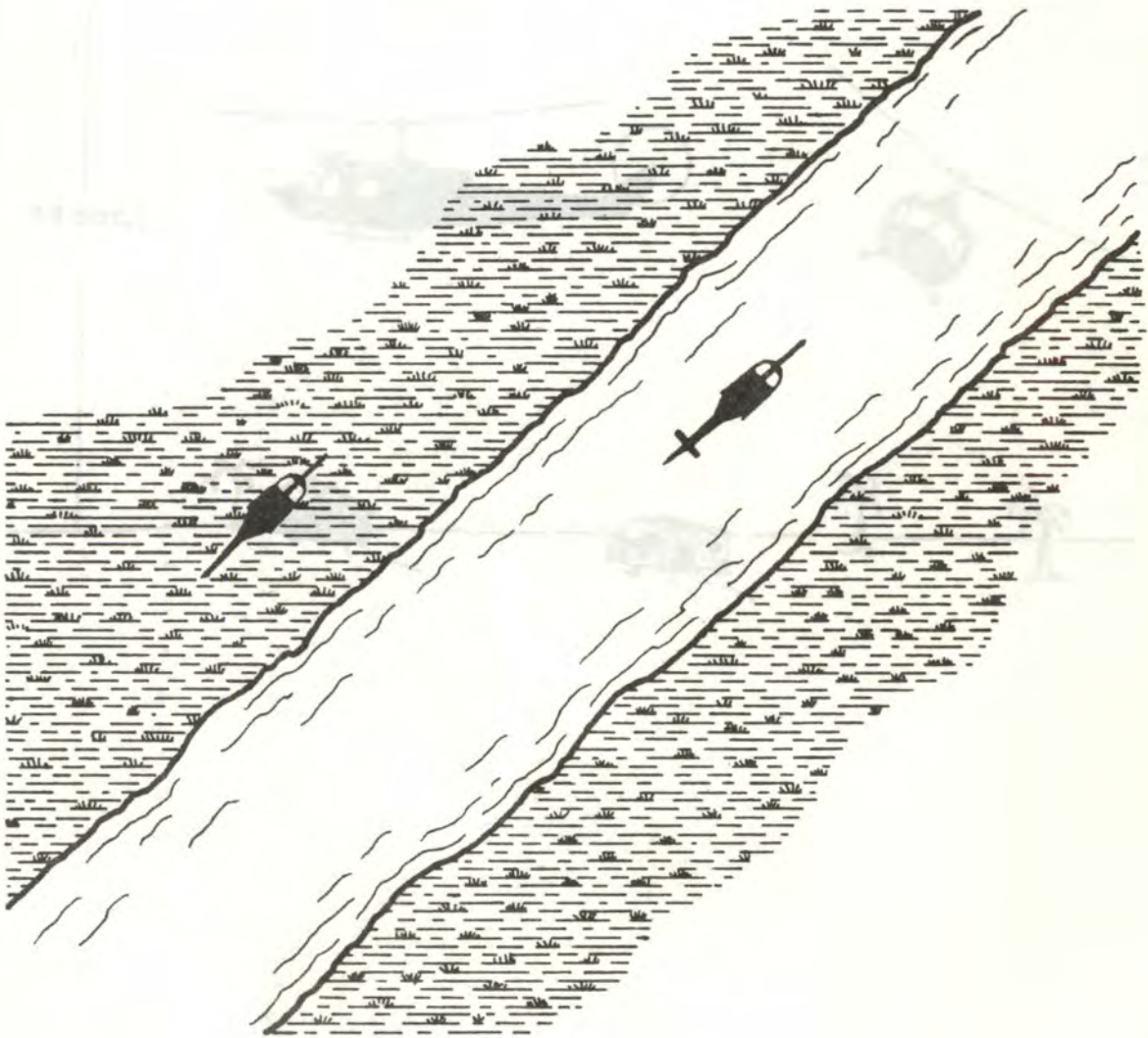




No. 2

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

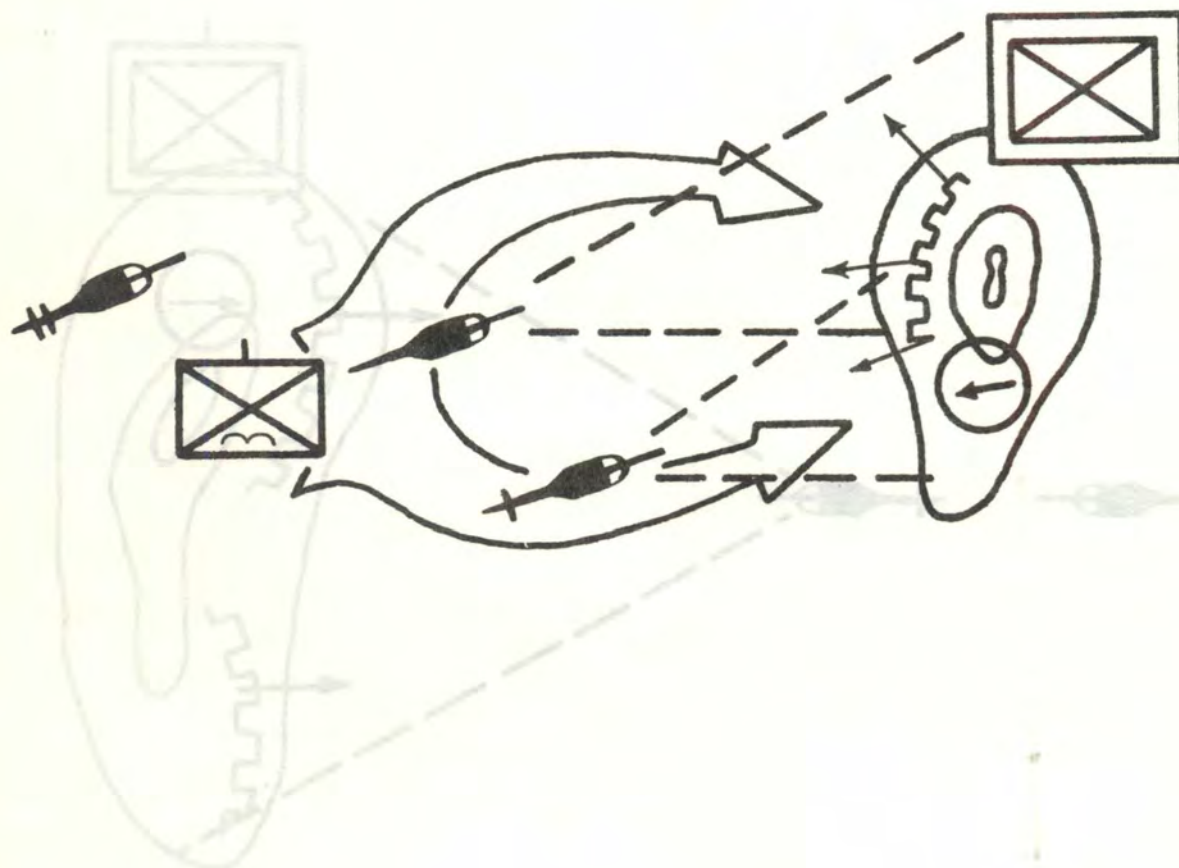
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No. 3

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



No. 4

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

