

## ***Surprise Polish Plans For Mammoth 96 AH-64E Apache Order Announced*** ***Joseph Trevithick - The Drive***

*Poland says it plans to buy as many as 96 Boeing [AH-64E Apache](#) attack helicopters, which will replace its aging fleet of around 30 Cold War-era [Mi-24 Hind gunships](#) and then some. This would also make the Polish Land Forces the second-largest AH-64 operator worldwide, [behind the U.S. Army](#).*



*US Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopters. © US Army*

*The announcement reflects a broader multi-billion-dollar Polish military spending spree, spurred in part by the current conflict in Ukraine. Just this year, authorities in Poland have announced plans to purchase of 48 [FA-50 light combat jets](#) and 180 [K2 tanks](#), among other things, [from South Korea](#), as well as 250 [M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams](#) tanks from the United States.*

*This follows other major procurement programs in recent years, including [an order for 32 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters](#).*

*Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense Mariusz Blaszczak, who was in Germany today as part of the latest meeting of the U.S.-led Ukraine Contact Group, was the first to make the announcement about the Apache deal, via an unexpected post on Twitter earlier today. The AH-64E had been competing with Bell's [AH-1Z Viper](#) for Poland's long-running Kruk (meaning Raven) attack helicopter tender.*

*"We sent an inquiry to the USA regarding the acquisition of 96 AH-64E APACHE helicopters in the latest GUARDIAN version for the needs of the Aviation of the Land Forces," Blaszczak said according to a machine translation of his Polish-language Tweet. "Along with helicopters, we will also obtain technology transfer."*



*The Drive - A Polish Mi-24 Hind. Qubadli Kenan via Wikimedia*

*Surprise Polish Plans For Mammoth 96 AH-64E Apache Order Announced.*

*Apache Guardian is the formal name of the AH-64E variant.*

*“Boeing is honored the Government of Poland has selected the AH-64E Apache for the Polish Armed Forces’ new attack helicopter fleet. An Apache selection strengthens U.S-Polish military ties by enhancing interoperability and cooperation between Poland, the U.S. Army and NATO nations,” a subsequent press release from Boeing said.*

*“During the procurement process, Boeing established significant cooperative partnerships across Polish government and industry. Our partnership with the Polish Armaments Group, in particular, will continue to expand as we implement training and sustainment efforts with local industry.”*



## AH-64E Development

Apache Project Office



FY 2012 – 2015	2016 – 2017	2018 - 2026
<b>AH-64E Capability Version 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level IV Unmanned Aircraft System</li> <li>Improved Communications Suite</li> <li>Improved Electronics / Modular Open Systems Approach</li> <li>Improved Drive System</li> <li>Composite Main Rotor Blades</li> <li>New Fuselage</li> <li>Integrated Aircraft Survivability Equipment</li> <li>Modernized Signal Processor Unit – Integrated (MSPU-I)</li> <li>Training Device Concurrency</li> <li>Radar Electronics Unit (REU)</li> <li>IMC/IFR Hardware / Software</li> <li>Pure 701D Engines with Enhanced Electronic Controls</li> </ul>	<b>AH-64E Capability Version 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link-16 baseline</li> <li>Air to Air to ground video relay (AAG)</li> <li>System Level Embedded Diagnostics (SLED)</li> <li>Smart Tool for Apache Maintenance Procedure (STAMP)</li> <li>External Fuel System (Full Provisions)</li> <li><b>Version 4.5</b></li> <li>Multi-Core Mission Processor</li> </ul>	<b>AH-64E Capability Version 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased Lethality               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCR maritime &amp; UAS targeting</li> <li>FCR range extension (8 to 16 km)</li> <li>MRFI maritime threat detection</li> <li>MRFI ranging/target geo-location</li> <li>MDSA extended detection range</li> <li>MDSA HD color video for IFF</li> <li>MUMT-X extended range (30-100 km), C/L/Ku/S bands</li> </ul> </li> <li>Improved SA               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional Link-16 messages</li> <li>Data Correlation</li> <li>Cognitive Decision Aiding System</li> </ul> </li> <li>Improved Navigation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RNP/RNAV/VNAV</li> <li>TACAN</li> </ul> </li> <li>Improved Communications               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARC-231 maritime frequencies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

*A breakdown of the key features found on the V1, V4.5, and V6 configurations of the AH-64E. US Army*

*From the start, Poland has hoped that the Kruk program would provide significant opportunities for local industrial participation. However, the program, which dates back to 2016, had long made only slow progress.*

*In the meantime, the Polish Army Aviation has continued to fly its Mi-24D/V Hinds, some of which were deployed in the past on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. These helicopters have undergone some upgrades, including night-vision goggle compatibility and improved navigation equipment, to keep them viable until a replacement can be fielded.*

*There [had been rumors a decision](#) regarding this program was finally imminent, but it was expected to be disclosed at the 30th annual [International Defense Industry Exhibition \(MSPO\)](#), which wraps up tomorrow in Poland. However, if the way in which Boeing was disclosed as the winner of the Kruk competition was unexpected, Błaszczak's comments on how many Apaches Poland is now apparently looking to buy was a much bigger surprise.*

*From the start, the Polish authorities have said that the Kruk program [was seeking to acquire 32](#) new attack helicopters, essentially a one-for-one replacement for its Cold War-era Hinds.*

*Whether or not any of the additional 64 Apaches that authorities in Poland are now looking to buy might be intended to replace any other types currently in service, such as armed examples of the Mi-2 and W-3 light helicopters, is unclear. What the total price tag for the greatly expanded order might be is also not clear.*

*Australia's recent plan to buy 29 AH-64E helicopters is [expected to cost](#) around \$3.8 billion, which could put the Polish deal closer to \$12.5 billion, depending on the particulars of the complete package.*

*Boeing's offer to Poland was for "AH-64EV6, with MUM-T [manned-unmanned-teaming] capability," Adam Hodges, Capture Team Lead for Vertical Lift International Sales at Boeing Defense, Space & Security, had told reporters at MSPO", [according to Breaking Defense](#). However, "the level of interoperability will be detailed on [the] base of government to government talks, and will depend on customer requirements and US Government."*

*The V6 sub-variant of the AH-64E is one of, if not the most modern configurations of the Apache. The U.S. Army is in the process of bringing its AH-64E fleet up to this standard, which includes a raft of improvements and new capabilities, beyond the improved ability to work cooperatively with unmanned aircraft.*

*Compared to earlier AH-64Es, V6 types feature an expanded suite of sensors, as well as communications systems and data-links, which improve their ability to spot and engage targets, especially during over-water operations, as well as detect and avoid threats. You can read more about the complete V6 package [here](#).*

*Poland's future AH-64Es could potentially benefit from other efforts to expand the helicopter's capabilities beyond the V6 package. For instance, the U.S. Army is working to integrate Israel's [Spike-NLOS missile](#) onto its Apaches, which will give them added flexibility when engaging various targets.*

*The Polish military's selection of the AH-64E could possibly serve as a springboard for further Boeing rotor-craft purchases, too. The company has identified Poland as a potential customer for [the CH-47F Chinook](#) transport helicopter, to replace at least a portion of the country's Soviet-era [Mi-8T/MT](#) and [Mi-17 Hips](#).*

*The sheer number of AH-64Es that the Polish government wants to buy now underscores the country's general drive to modernize its armed forces, something that only looks to have grown in size and scope since Russia's launched its all-out invasion of Ukraine in February.*

*The employment of [heavily armored vehicles](#) and [various anti-armor capabilities](#) to counter them – the latter being one of the Apache's primary mission sets – have been central features on both sides of that conflict.*

*Even before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, authorities in Poland, which is a NATO member, had cited concerns about potential Russian aggression as part of justifications for [military modernization and increased defense spending](#).*

*The Polish government is also now faced with a new [need to outright recapitalize](#) some equipment stocks, including portions of its tank fleets, as a result of having [transferred significant amounts of equipment](#) to its Ukrainian counterparts.*

*If nothing else, if Poland's current Apache plans come to fruition, its current military modernization efforts will include becoming the second biggest user of the AH-64E anywhere on Earth.*

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