



The first pre-production AH-64D flew its maiden flight on 29 September 1995, eleven years after the first AH-64As joined the Army fleet. The first production AH-64D Longbow Apache, serial 96-5001 (previously AH-64A serial 85-25387) was delivered on 2 April 1997.

The 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment completed training at Fort Hood, Texas in October 1998, becoming the first operational unit equipped with the AH-64D. The battalion was followed by 25 additional Longbow Apache units across the Active, Guard and Reserve components over the next 11 years.

With the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, the AH-64D's combat debut was at the tip of the spear of the American invasion. As the war in both Afghanistan and Iraq continued, AH-64Ds were continually upgraded, most significantly with the introduction of the AH-64D Block II in late 2004. The Block II upgrade redesigned the Copilot Gunner's main weapons controls and added the TADS Electronic Display and Control (TEDAC) display in the front seat as well as adding new radio capabilities. Block II would be the cutting edge throughout the major combat phases in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Additional upgrades to the D model included the addition of the Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation System (MTADS) in 2006, Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) in 2006 and the Apache Survivability Improvement (ASPI) Infra-red suppressing exhaust system starting in 2011.

All these improvements would come standard on the next generation of the AH-64 (originally designated AH-64D Block III) but it quickly became apparent that the new production block was a leap ahead, rather than just an upgrade. The new variant was redesignated AH-64E in late 2012 and officially named the Apache Guardian in a ceremony at Redstone Arsenal, AL the following January. The Echo model has several improvements and upgrades, including more powerful engines, upgraded transmission, avionics, cockpit systems, and changes in software to allow for better battlefield effectiveness. It can be fitted with the updated APG-78 Longbow fire control radar as well. The US Army plans to upgrade a total of 634 AH-64D helicopters to AH-64E standard. Another 56 helicopters will be newly built. The first 50 helicopters were delivered to the US Army in 2011.

The AH-64E is fitted with the more powerful General Electric T700-GE-701D engine, replacing the 701C engines which were installed on the previous versions. The AH-64E also has new lengthened composite rotor blades to take advantage of the power improvements. These blades are designed to withstand hits from up to 23 mm anti-aircraft guns. It also comes with new sensors, and avionics and has improved night operation capabilities with an upgraded FLIR system. Additionally, the AH-64E helicopter now has the ability to remotely control UAVs and utilize their imagery for better battlefield awareness.

On 21 February 2013, the 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord became the first U.S. Army unit to field the AH-64E Apache Guardian. The Army expects to replace all AH-64Ds with E Models by the end of 2027 and the type is expected to serve in the US Army until at least 2040.

Acknowledgements

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I'd also like to thank Dan McClinton, Jon Bernstein and Ray Wilhite for all their help in bringing some unique subjects to the project. Dan and Jon were instrumental in explaining the differences in various versions of the Apache to this old Cobra driver. Thanks gentlemen.

Product Tie-ins:

1/35th scale
35-14 UH/MH-60 Skis (also used on the AH-64)
35-34 M-261 19-Shot Rocket Pods

1/48th scale
48-05 M-261 19-Shot Rocket Pods
48-12 UH/MH-60 Skis (also used on the AH-64)
48-29 AH-64D/E ASPI Upturned Exhausts



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WW Decals 35-14 ■

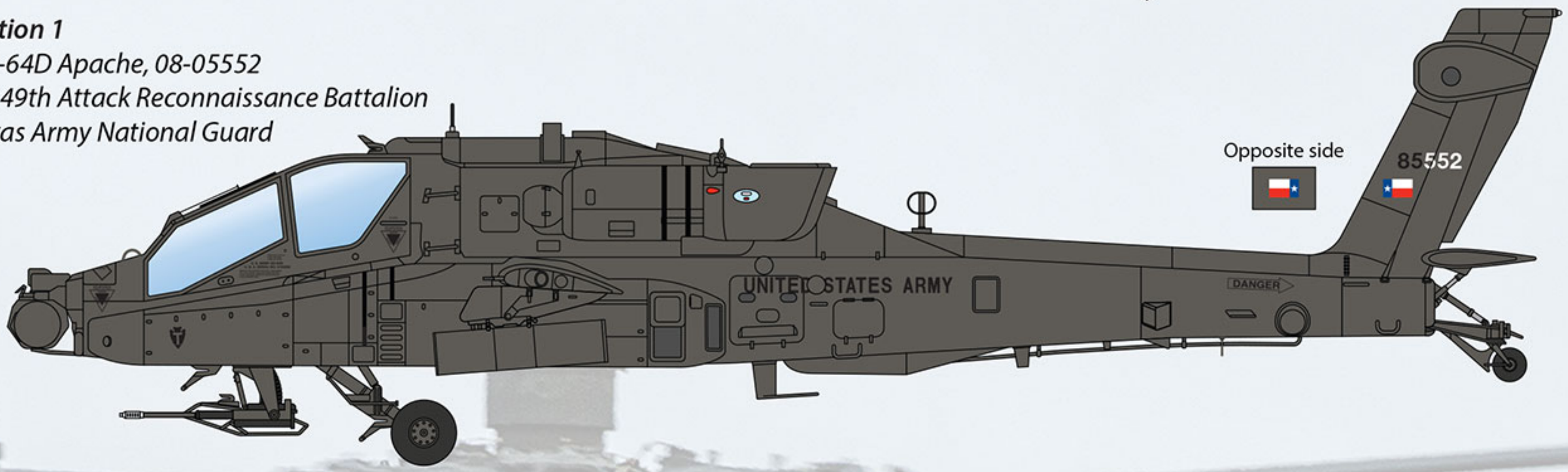
WW Decals 48-21 ■



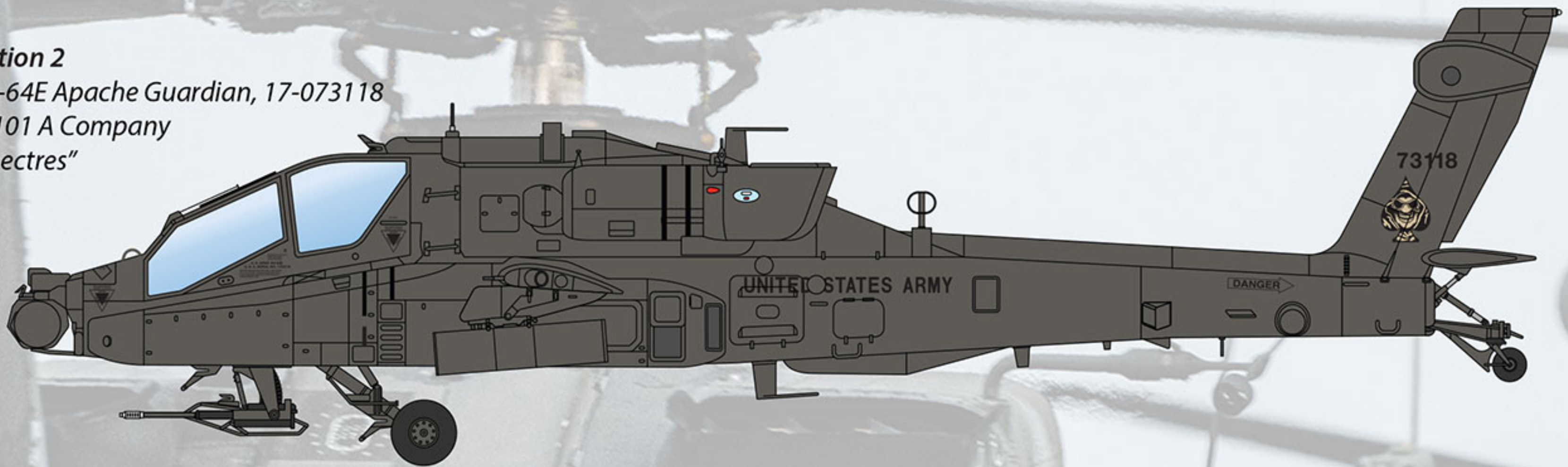
AH-64D/E Apache

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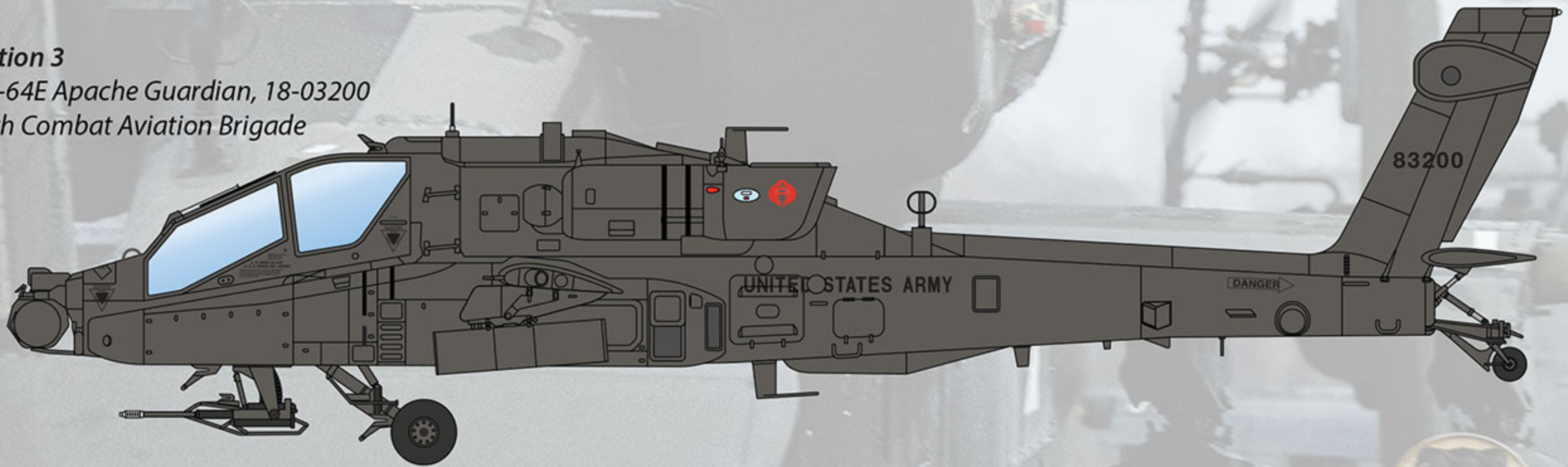
Option 1
AH-64D Apache, 08-05552
1-149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion
Texas Army National Guard



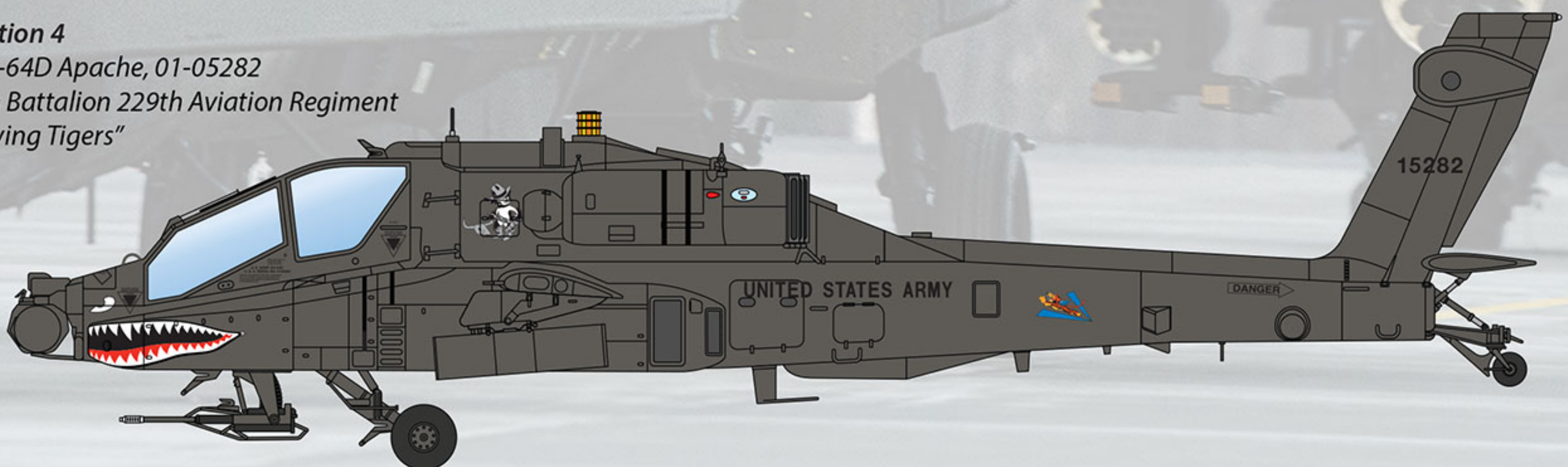
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AH-64E Apache Guardian, 17-073118
1-101 A Company
"Spectres"



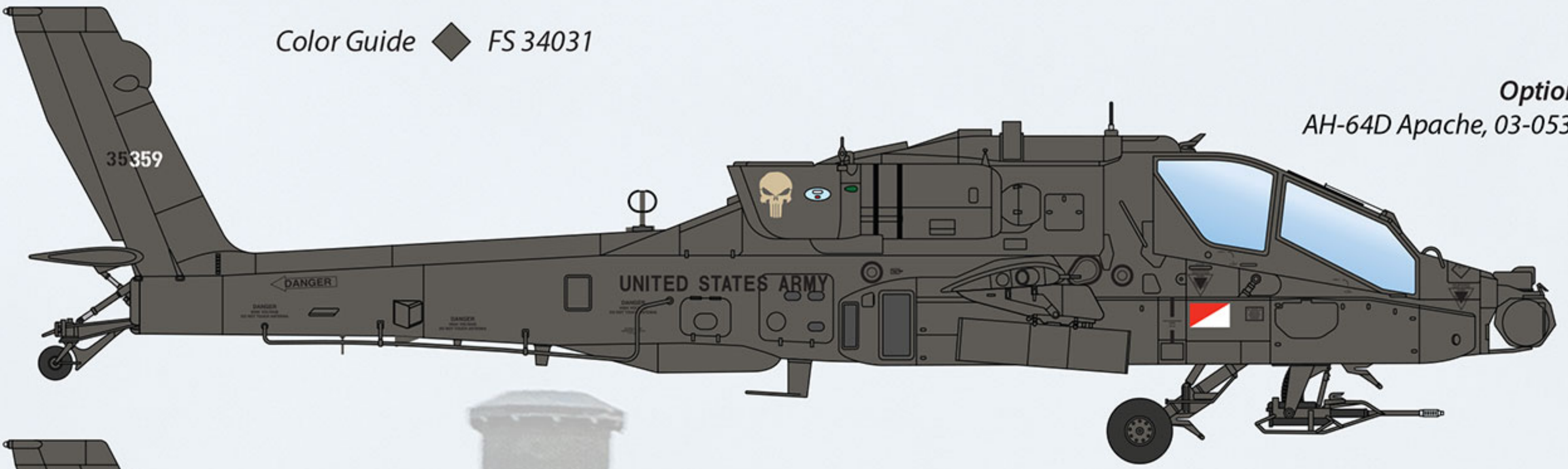
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AH-64E Apache Guardian, 18-03200
16th Combat Aviation Brigade



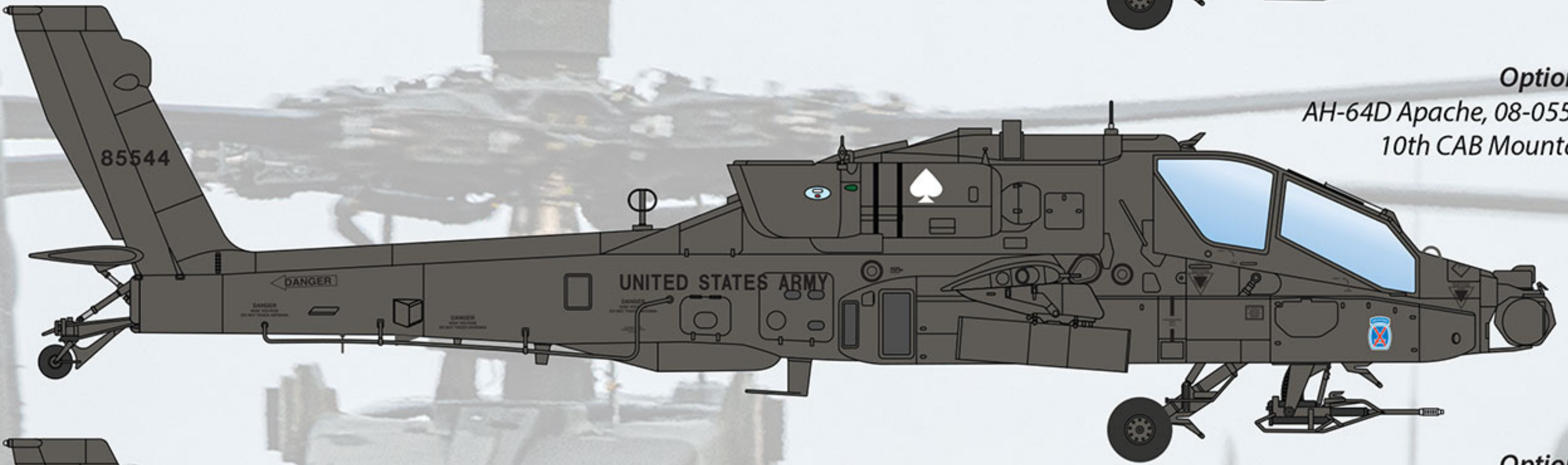
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AH-64D Apache, 01-05282
8th Battalion 229th Aviation Regiment
"Flying Tigers"



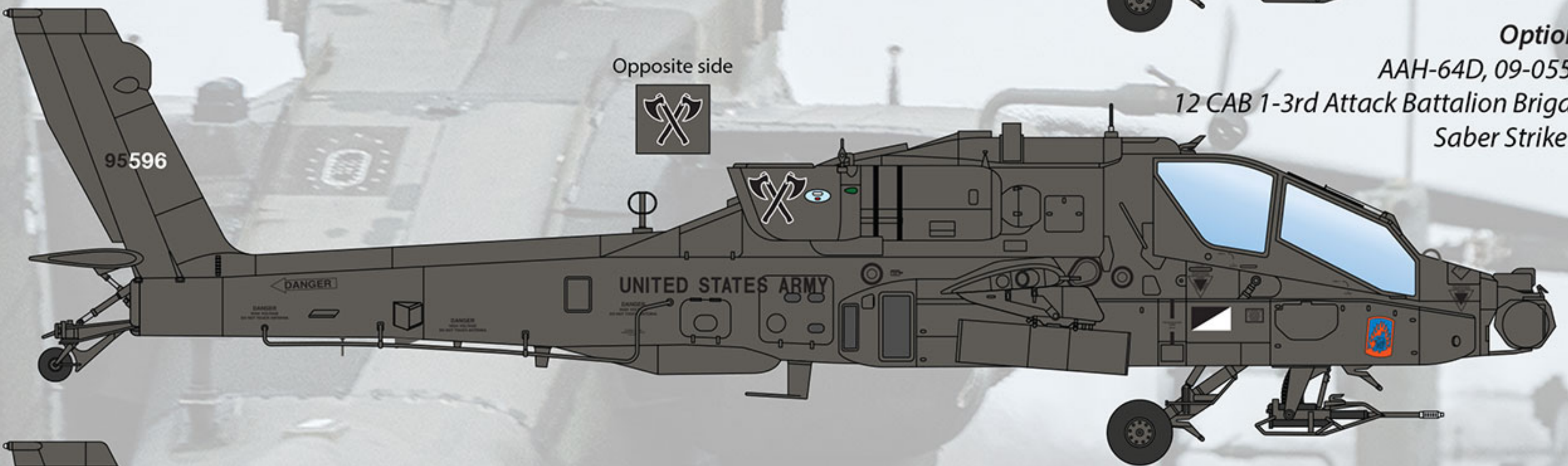
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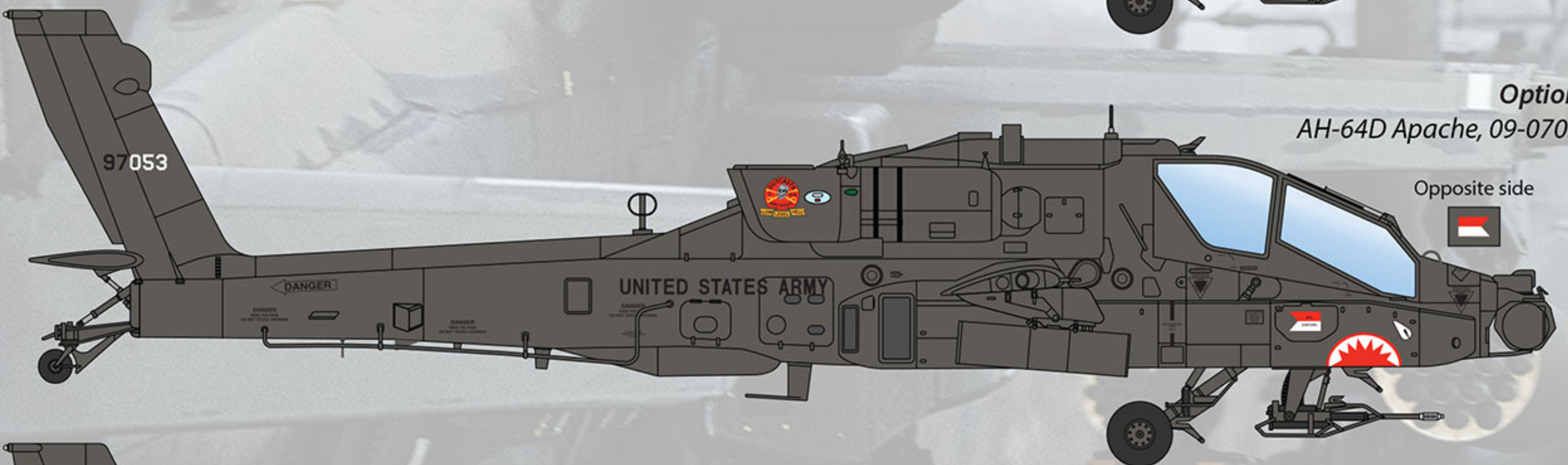
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AH-64D Apache, 03-05359



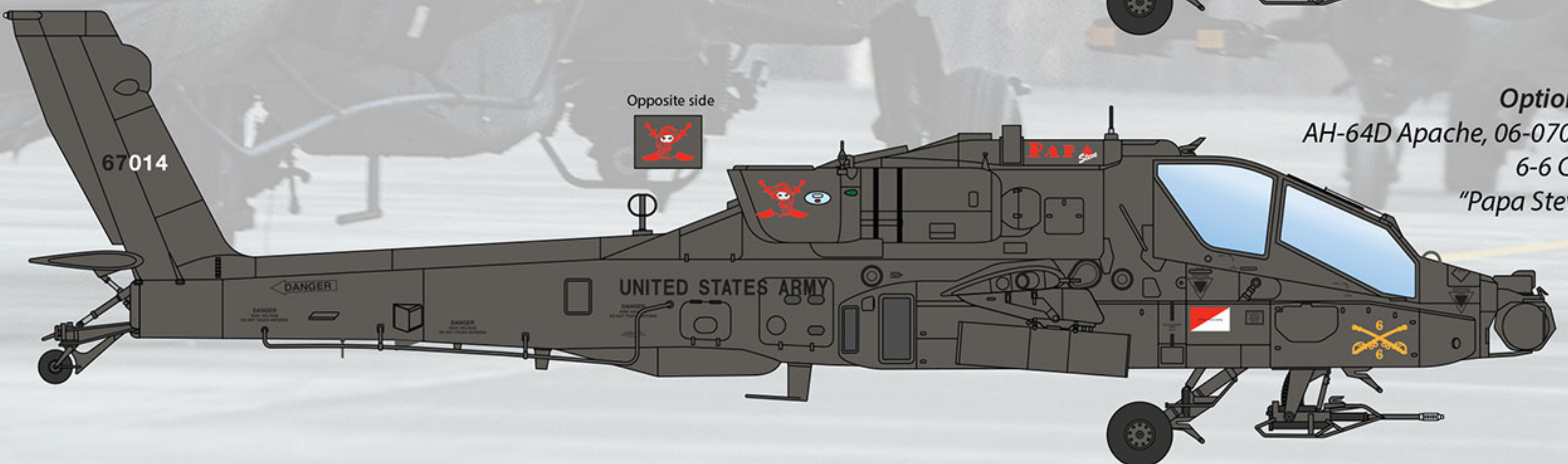
Option 6
AH-64D Apache, 08-05544
10th CAB Mountain



Option 7
AAH-64D, 09-05596
12 CAB 1-3rd Attack Battalion Brigade
Saber Strike 22

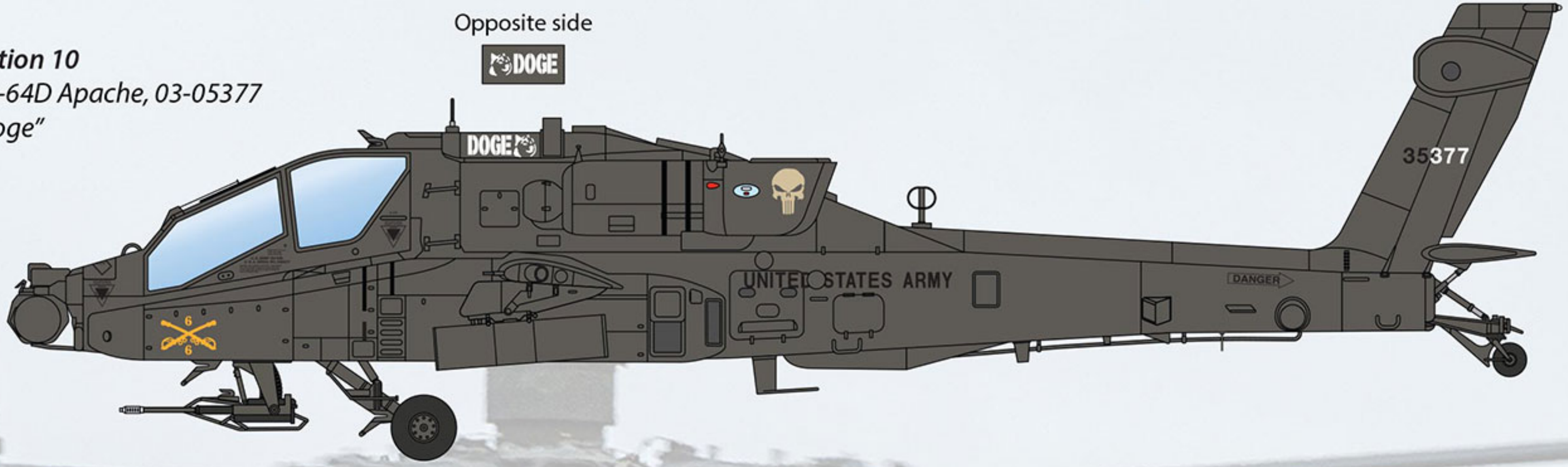


Option 8
AH-64D Apache, 09-07053

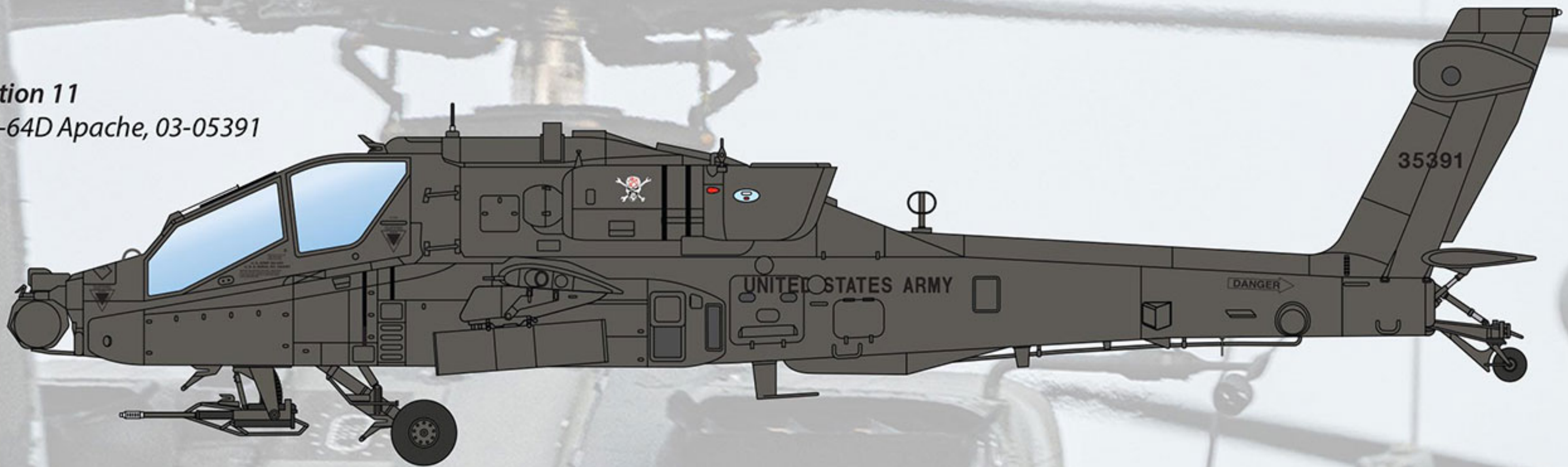


Option 9
AH-64D Apache, 06-07014
6-6 Cav
"Papa Steve"

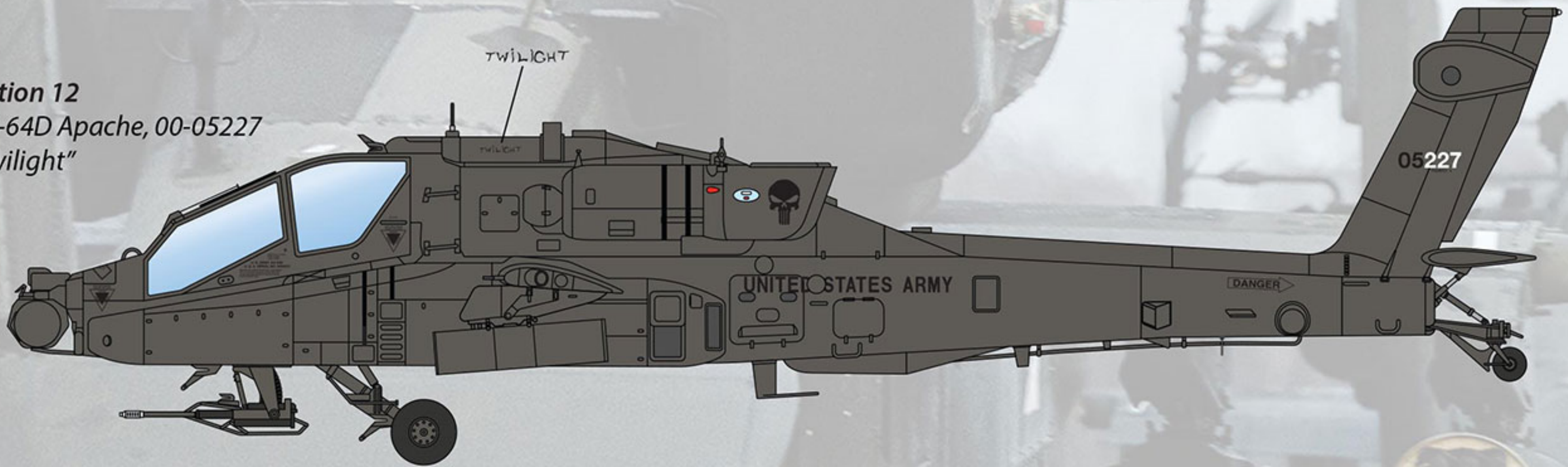
Option 10
AH-64D Apache, 03-05377
"Doge"



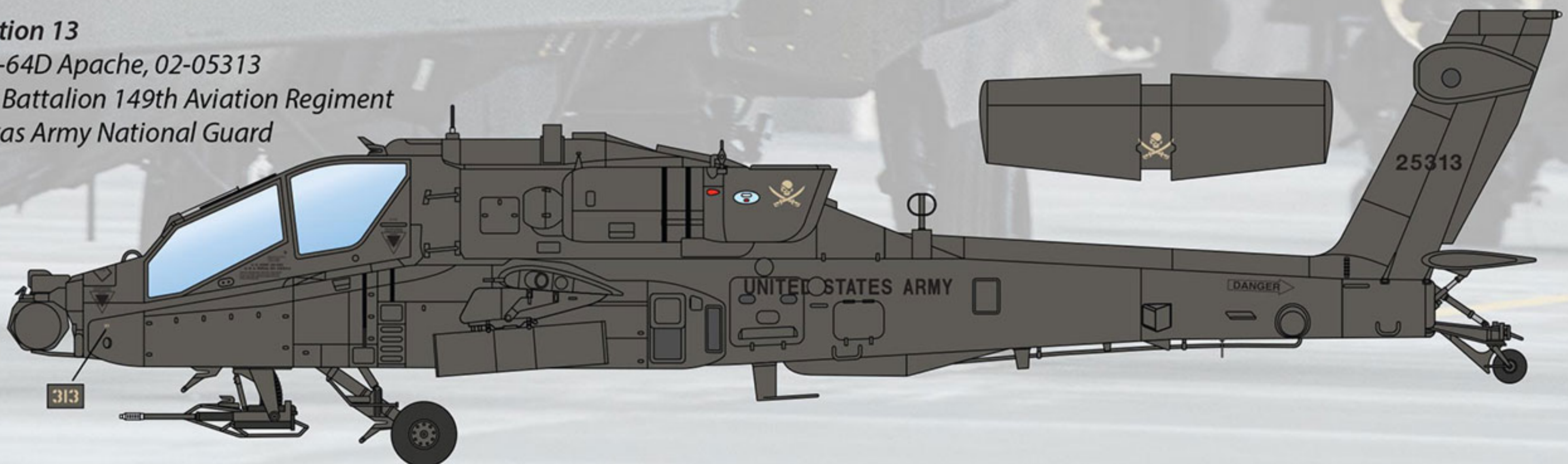
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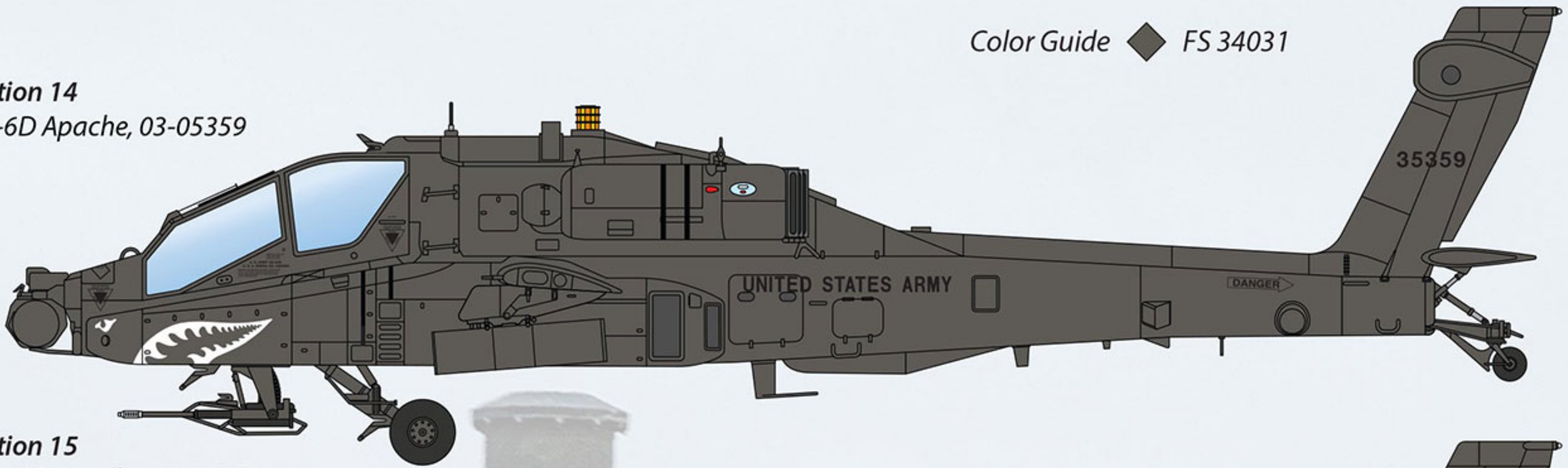
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AH-64D Apache, 00-05227
"Twilight"



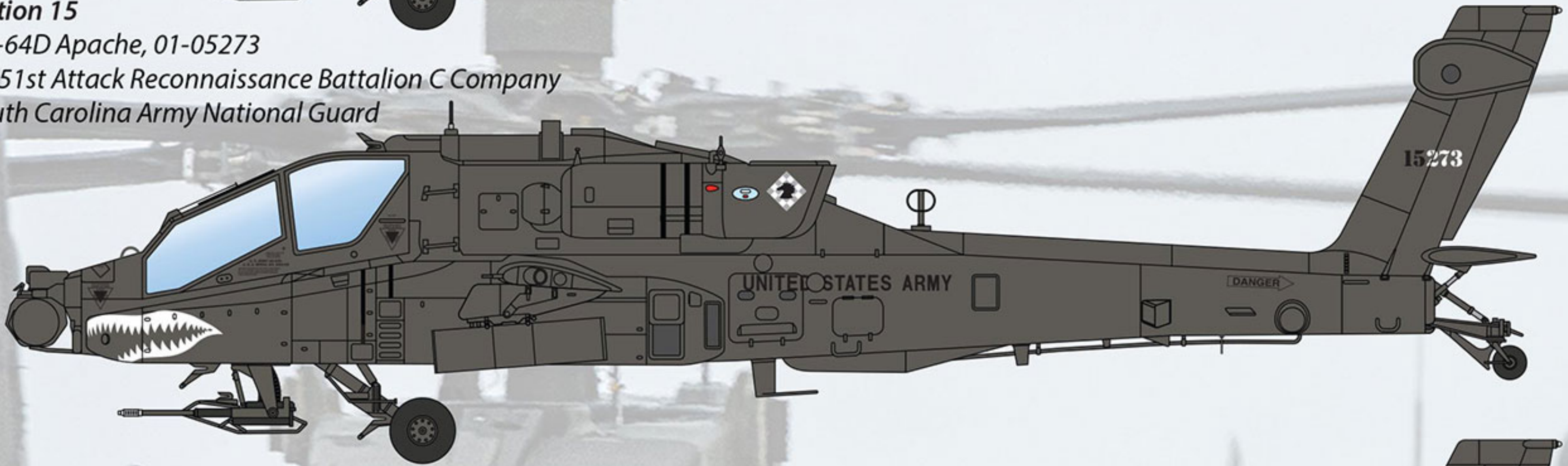
Option 13
AH-64D Apache, 02-05313
1st Battalion 149th Aviation Regiment
Texas Army National Guard



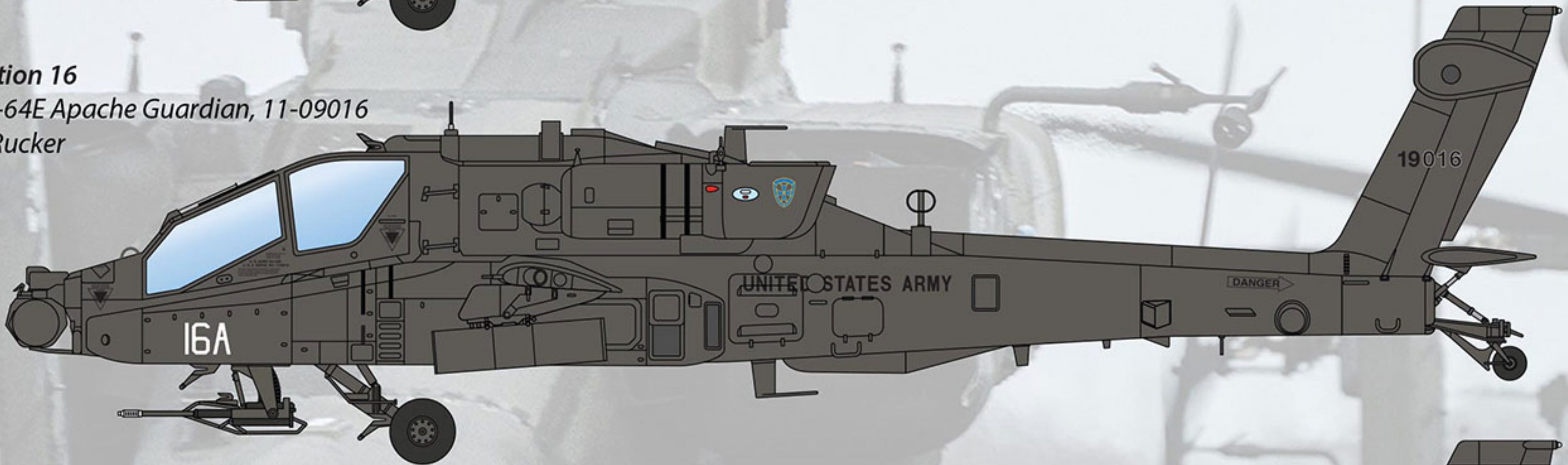
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AH-6D Apache, 03-05359



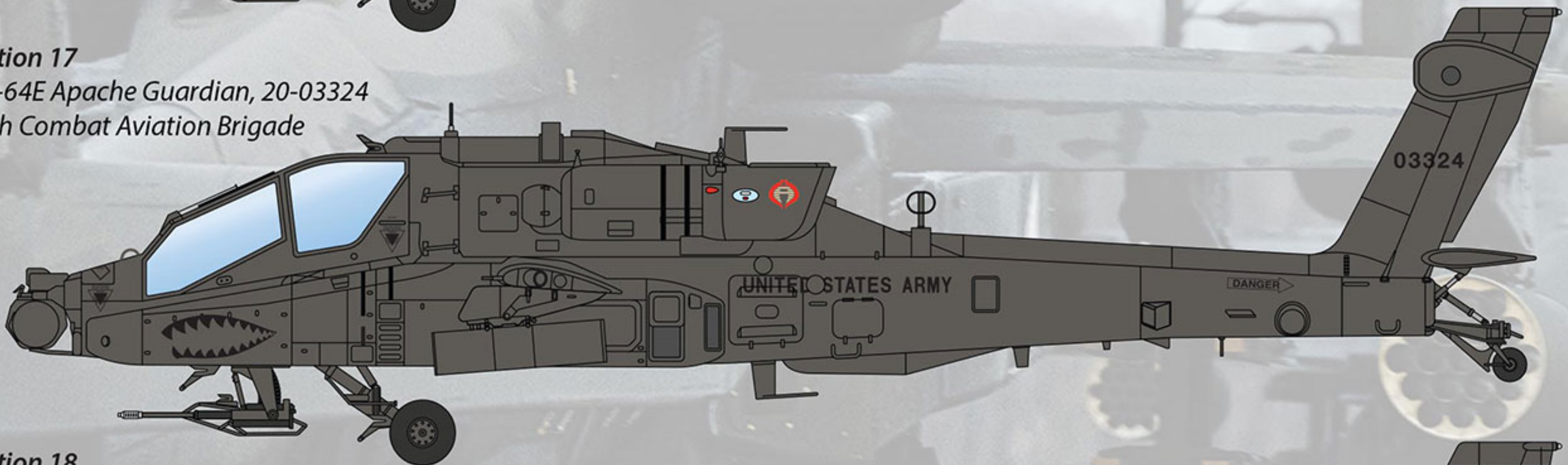
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AH-64D Apache, 01-05273
1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion C Company
South Carolina Army National Guard



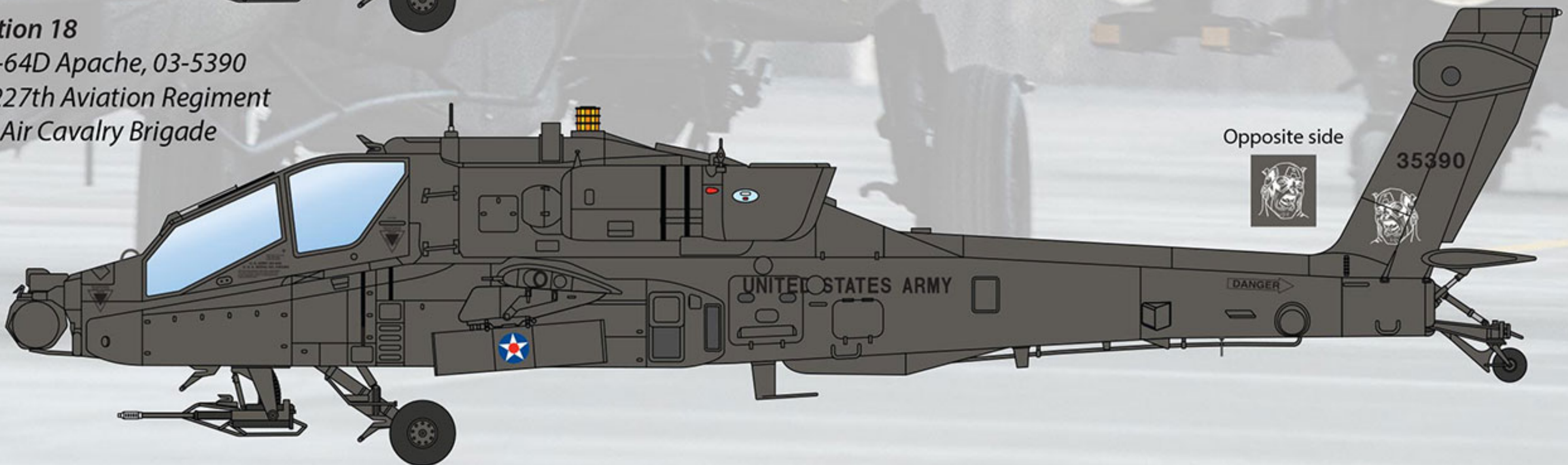
Option 16
AH-64E Apache Guardian, 11-09016
Ft Rucker



Option 17
AH-64E Apache Guardian, 20-03324
16th Combat Aviation Brigade



Option 18
AH-64D Apache, 03-5390
1- 227th Aviation Regiment
1st Air Cavalry Brigade

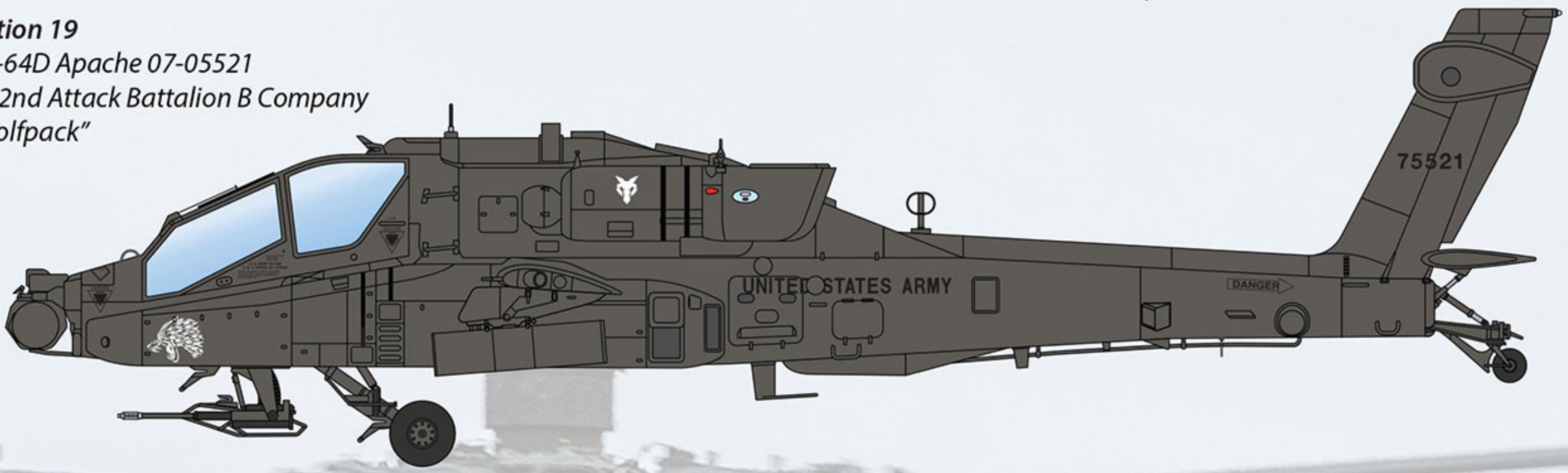


Opposite side

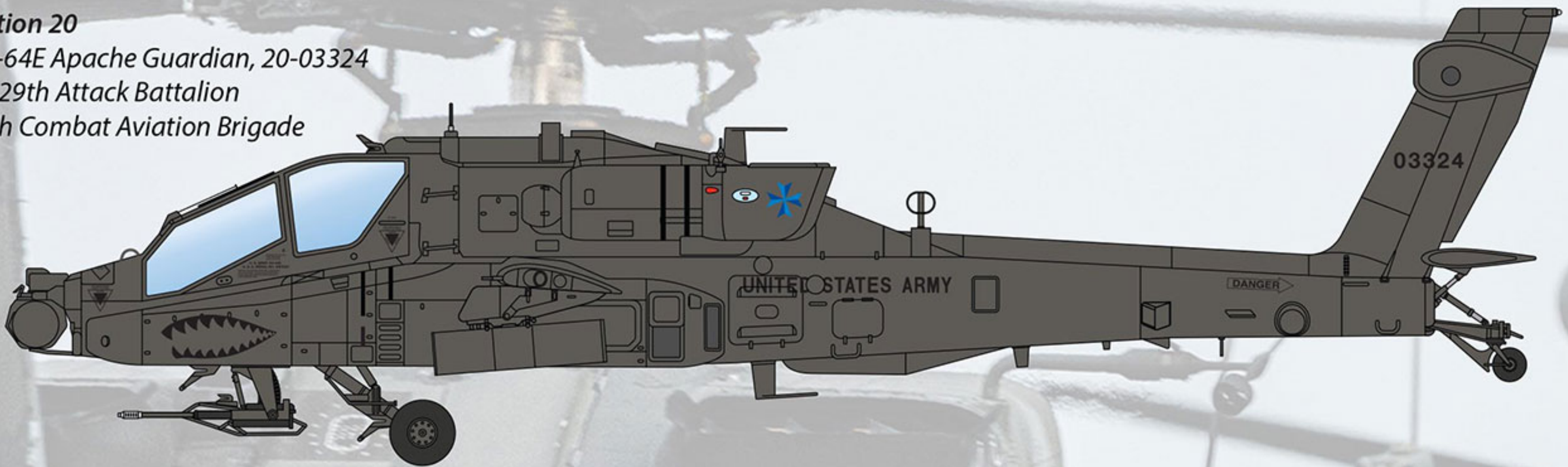


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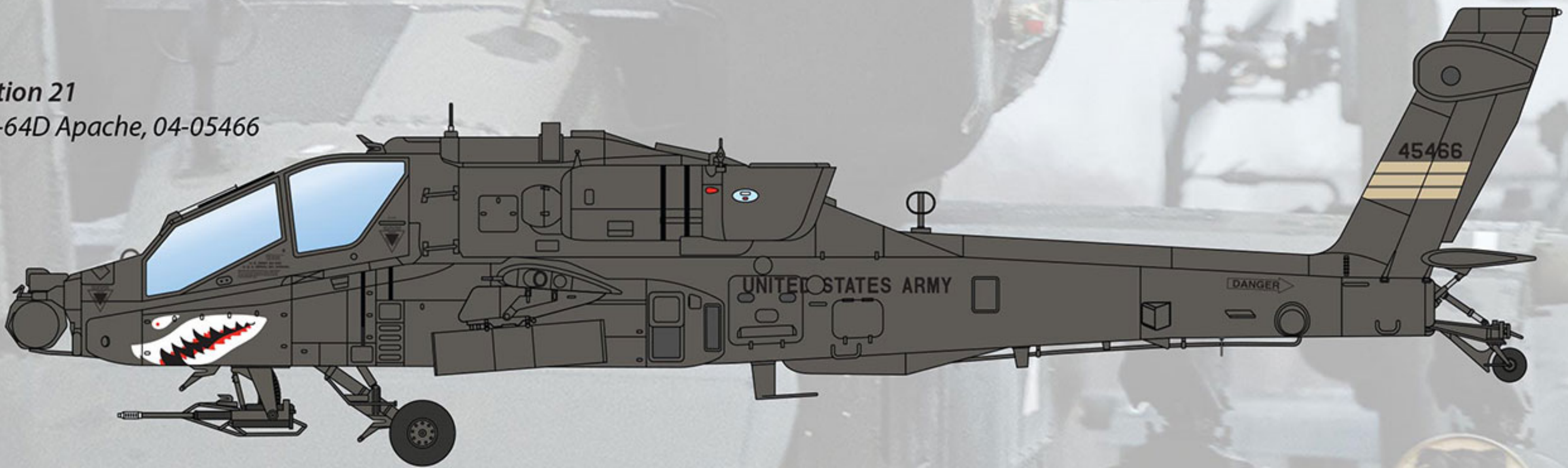
Option 19
AH-64D Apache 07-05521
1-82nd Attack Battalion B Company
"Wolfpack"



Option 20
AH-64E Apache Guardian, 20-03324
1-129th Attack Battalion
16th Combat Aviation Brigade



Option 21
AH-64D Apache, 04-05466



Option 22
AH-64D Apache, 00-05199
1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion
Pennsylvania Army National Guard

