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## Aussie Pilot Excels in Apache Instructor Training in Alabama

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Australian Army pilot Captain Jonathan Hogan has completed rigorous training to become an instructor for the AH-64E Apache attack helicopter at Fort Novosel, Alabama, preparing to guide Australia's transition to this advanced platform.

Captain Jonathan Hogan, an Australian Army pilot, has taken a significant step in his career by training as an instructor for the AH-64E Apache attack helicopter at the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) in Fort Novosel, Alabama. Arriving in 2023 alongside Major Matthew Stubbs and Captain Alexander Paranthoiene, Hogan transitioned

from the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) Tiger to the Apache, completing both the AH-64E Aviator Qualification Course and the Instructor Pilot Course by early 2024. His work at Hanchey Army Heliport, the hub of Apache training, involves teaching United States Army cadets while contributing to Australia's adoption of the Apache, set to enter service in 2026, according to Mirage News.

Hogan, who earned his pilot wings in 2015, described the Apache's capabilities as a "generational shift" for the Australian Army Aviation (AAA). Unlike the lighter, more agile ARH Tiger, the Apache, weighing approximately 10 tonnes, boasts advanced sensors, Link 16 connectivity, and the capacity for 16 Hellfire missiles, doubling the Tiger's firepower. "The Apache requires precise handling due to its weight and momentum," Hogan told Defence Australia, emphasizing its role in multi-domain operations. He and his team are developing airworthiness policies and training frameworks to ensure a smooth integration into Australian service.

The training environment in Alabama, a far cry from Hogan's familiar Darwin, presented unique challenges. Hogan noted the Southern hospitality and quirky local culture, including peanut farming and boll weevil statues in Enterprise, Alabama, which he found reminiscent of Australia's regional spirit. "The pace of life here feels like home, just with catfish instead of crocs," he shared with Mirage News. His family has embraced the experience, adapting to Alabama's humid climate and community traditions.

As Australia prepares to receive 29 AH-64E Apaches, Hogan's expertise will be crucial. His role in shaping operational procedures and mentoring pilots underscores the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) commitment to building a robust, combat-ready aviation capability, ensuring national security in an evolving strategic landscape.