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\* TB 1-1500-200-20-29

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TECHNICAL BULLETIN

### RECOMMENDED DESERT OPERATION PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR ARMY MODELS AH-1, AH-64, CH-47, OH-58, UH-1 and UH-60 HELICOPTERS

Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 21 January 1992

Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

### NOTE

# THIS PUBLICATION IS EFFECTIVE UNTIL 21 JANUARY 1993, UNLESS SOONER RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.

1. **Purpose. The** purpose of this TB is to advise units of the minimum recommended desert operation preventive maintenance in addition to the instructions and guidance in TM 55-1 500-204-25/1 and FM 1-202.

2. Prior to each flight:

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a. Use care not to scratch exposed piston shafts or damage seals; wipe sand or dust from hydraulic actuators, shock struts and dampers, etc.

b. Clean sand or dust from rod end bearings, swashplate and rotor heads. A squirt bottle with water maybe helpful.

c. Assure sand or dust is vacuumed from avionics bays, storage bays and other enclosed compartments. Pay particular attention to air inlets, compartments for APU, radiators and heat exchanger.

d. Clean weight on wheels (squat) switch plunger and cheek operation.

\*This TB supersedes TB 1-1500-200-20-29, 1 October 1990.

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**3.** Application. Category of Maintenance — AVUM.

### 4. After each flight:

- a Protect switches, radios, etc., by covering consoles with plastic sheet. Secure with tape.
- b. Cover cyclic and collective grips with small plastic bags and secure with tape.
- c. Assure engine inlet and exhaust are covered.
- d. Cover any access, such as avionic bay cooling air inlet or fan, that might allow sand or dust to filter in.
- e. Cover cockpit windows to reduce heat when parked. Cover aircraft whenever possible or park in shaded area.
- f. Assure weapons are stowed and covered.

### 5. Other Considerations:

a. Oil and hydraulic filters may clog (button pops) more frequently. Assure adequate supply of filters and system fluids for flushing.

b. Adhere strictly to the ground run cooling schedule for engine, hydraulic pump, avionics equipment and stores as called out in the applicable aircraft or equipment maintenance manuals.

c. When reservicing hydraulic systems:

Wipe refill area clean of sand, enclose area with large clear plastic bag with quart make-up fluid can and opener enclosed. Open refill cap and can under these conditions.

Discard unused fluid in quart can.

Assure that quart hydraulic fluid cans are available.

d. Service battery frequently due to accelerated loss of electrolyte from high temperature.

e. Use care to avoid contamination when servicing transmission and gear boxes. Do not take fluid from previously opened containers.

f. Anntennas. If the external coating on the antennas has worn down excessively, repaint the antennas in accordance with TM 55-1500-345-23, para 6-17. This will prevent further damage or erosion to the antennas. CARC paint may also be used to paint antennas.

TB 1-1500-200-20-29

GORDON R. SULLIVAN General, United States Army Chief of Staff

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DISTRIBUTION:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-31-E, block no. 3019, AVUM maintenance requirements for TB 1-1500-200-20-29.

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