The evolution of the 12-PAK’s development and successful deployment on the AH-64 Apache has been an outstanding example of contractor teamwork and cooperation with the US Army as the direct beneficiary.

In 1979, Hughes Helicopter’s Ordnance Group (now ATK Gun Systems) and Meggitt Defense Systems (formerly Western Design) joined forces to apply Linear Linkless technology to the problem of feeding the family of lightweight 30mm ammunition to the Hughes M230 chain gun. 120 days after contract award, Meggitt Defense Systems delivered the 6-PAK. This single bay magazine, the precursor of the 12-PAK, stored 600 light-weight 30mm rounds in a vertical orientation and handed them off to the AH-64’s carrier system, which interfaced with the M230 chain gun. Test stand operation of the first 6-PAK proved the system’s capability by exceeding the 30mm chain gun’s required failure rate by a factor of 4 with no failures. The US Army/Hughes Helicopter AH-64 qualification program was successfully completed with that 6-PAK.

Meggitt Defense Systems continued the Linear Linkless evolutionary progression and fielded the 12-PAK the following year. Through the use of 2 bays, versus the single bay 6-PAK, round capacity was increased to meet the US Army’s requirement of 1200 rounds. Meggitt Defense Systems’ 12-PAK with its patented acceleration device and merger unit meets all of the US Army’s requirements and specifications while beating the required weight limit by 29 lbs. Meggitt Defense Systems’ production of the 12-PAK system for the ‘now’ US Army/Boeing AH-64 Apache has been ongoing since 1983.

Meggitt Defense Systems’ commitment to this program was amply rewarded through the outstanding operational success of the Apache area weapon system during the Desert Shield & Storm operations. We take great pride in having a small but important role in that success. Meggitt Defense Systems continues the evolution story of ammunition handling for the AH-64 Apache by supplying the Combo-PAK, which was first delivered to the US Army in 2001. This consists of a reduced capacity magazine, which is combined with an additional internal fuel cell. 300 rounds of ammunition will be carried on the AH-64D, along with an additional 100 gallons of fuel, allowing longer airtime for the aircraft. This package is available for optional use in the field, where it can be exchanged for the traditional 12-PAK in less then 30 minutes. This option now gives the field commander greater flexibility with his Apache helicopters.

### Key features

- Ammunition capacity
  1,200 rounds lightweight 30mm
- Apache firing rate - 600+25
- Uploading rate - 100 RPM (Rounds Per Minute)
- Operating reliability - > 50,000 MRBF
- 2 Crew required for reloading
Specifications

- **Ammunition capacity**: lightweight 30mm 1200 rounds
- **Apache firing rate**: 600+25
- **Uploading rate**: 100 Rounds Per Minute (RPM)
- **Crew required for loading**: 2
- **Power requirements**: electrical 28 DC hydraulic 3,000 psi @ .6 GPM
- **Total system weight empty**: 181 lbs

Contact

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Specification subject to change - TCO Review # 161