



Stewart Burgess, chief instructor for Aviation Training International Limited, gives an onboard lesson from the pilot's seat of the Apache Full Mission Simulator at Middle Wallop, U.K. ATIL is a 50-50 joint-venture company formed between Boeing and AgustaWestland.

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Behind the action

British Apache success begins in the classroom

By HAL KLOPPER

A part of them is there with soldiers in the field and pilots in the air. That's the feeling of the Aviation Training International Limited (ATIL) instructors who train pilots and ground crews for the British Army's Apache AH MK1 attack helicopter—declared by the Ministry of Defence to be one its most significant weapon systems.

"Since they began their training here in our training center, it's as if a part of me is with them," said Stewart Burgess, chief instructor at ATIL's Middle Wallop facility.

ATIL—a 50-50 joint venture company formed in 1998 between Boeing and AgustaWestland—offers a range of courses designed to provide aircraft, avionics and armament engineering staff with the skills to keep the Apache flying.

The Apache's sophisticated systems are represented by a range of equipment, simulators and trainers, based on full-size aircraft systems. The equipment's high level of fidelity provides realistic tactile and visual cues, greatly reducing the need to use operational aircraft.

Also, many of ATIL's instructors have

extensive operational experience—meaning the students' training is not just theory, but based on first-hand experience.

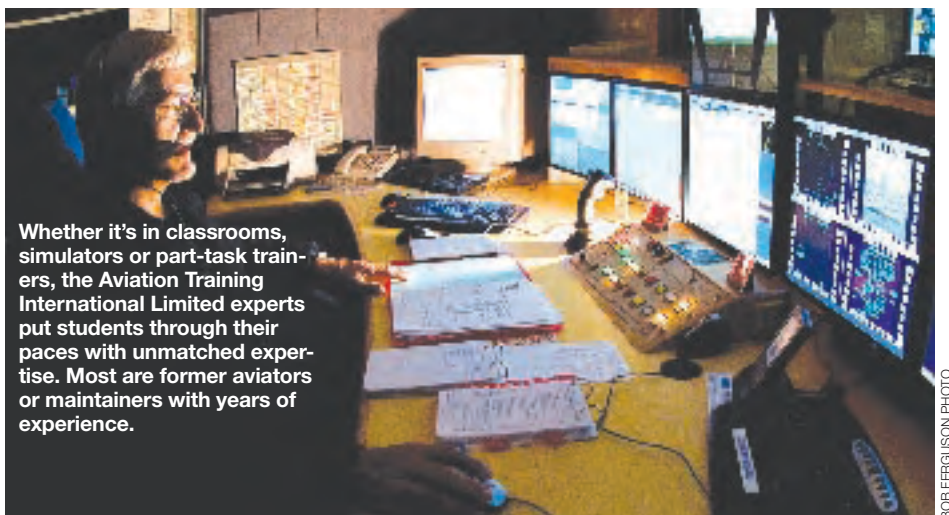
"We use a combination of advanced instructor-led classroom media, computer-based training, a full emulation of the aircraft and a range of sophisticated maintenance training devices," said Burgess.

Engineering training is conducted at ATIL's Maintenance Training Center at Arborfield, U.K. But all training elements, less the use of the maintenance training devices, can be delivered at ATIL's other U.K. Training Centers.

Each device allows maintainers to familiarize themselves with some of the most advanced technology in the world. They are trained to carry out a range of functional tests, diagnostic routines and removal and replacement tasks in a realistic maintenance environment.

Constant investment by ATIL in technology insertions ensures the training system remains one of the most up-to-date in the world—ensuring that flight and ground crews are successful whenever British Army Apaches lift off or land. ■

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Whether it's in classrooms, simulators or part-task trainers, the Aviation Training International Limited experts put students through their paces with unmatched expertise. Most are former aviators or maintainers with years of experience.

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