

**Air Power**

# AH-1Z VIPER

MEGAN COOLEY PETERSON



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## The Viper's First

# FLIGHT

It was a cool morning in December 2000. An AH-1Z Viper attack helicopter sat on the runway. Then its engines roared. The chopper lifted off the ground.





## A Success

The Viper took off into the air. It zoomed toward the ground. Just before it hit the ground, the chopper pulled up. It **hovered** above the runway. The Viper's first test flight was a success.

The chopper's  
first flight lasted  
15 minutes.

# HISTORY

## of the AH-1Z Viper

In the 1960s, the U.S. military built the Cobra attack helicopter. Soldiers used it during the **Vietnam War**. U.S. Marines began using the Cobra in 1969. They added improvements to the chopper over the years. But by the 1990s, the chopper needed big updates.

