

UH-1D (HUEY) SPECIFICATIONS

- Tallest point 14'5"
- Rotor length 48'
- Weight empty just over 5,000 pounds
- Maximum take off weight 9,500 pounds
- Range approximately 300 miles
- Crew = 2 pilots, door gunner, crew chief
- Seating capacity = 8-10 troops or 6 stretchers and 1 med tech



• THE ROLE OF THE HUEY

It was during the Vietnam War helicopters evolved into an essential asset on the battlefield. Due to their mobility, Hueys took the place of the traditional cavalry. Their missions included troop transport, air assault and medical evacuation. Medevac made it possible for wounded soldiers to be in a hospital within one hour dramatically increasing survival rates

After repairs, 64-13670 returned to Vietnam and was assigned the 118th AHC. After nine months, the aircraft was returned to the United States. It was stored until 1976 when the New Mexico National Guard acquired it.



Hours of Operation

Visitor Center & Gift Shop 9-5 Daily
Closed Tues & Wed November through April
Chapel & Grounds Always Open

Thank you for visiting Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park. We hope your visit is interesting, educational, memorable and healing.



Researched, written and created by Kate German, Park Manager

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VIKING SURPRISE 64-13670



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Angel Fire, New Mexico

VIKING SURPRISE

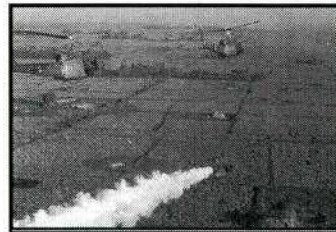
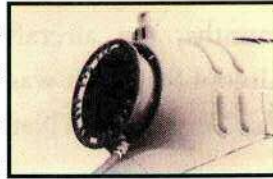


The Bell Iroquois UH-1 is the most widely used helicopter in the world and its service in Vietnam makes it the most recognized. This aircraft was brought to Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park by the New Mexico National Guard in May 1999. Current and retired Guardsmen maintain it to this day.



64-13670

Remarkable advances in aviation took place during the Vietnam Era. Pilots pushed the envelope and developed amazing flying skills. On March 19, 1967, while our Huey was assigned to the 121st Assault Helicopter Company (AHC), an experimental smoke apparatus was installed and the aircraft was given the name "Viking Surprise". Smoke was produced from a ring of nozzles around the turbine exhaust using a reservoir of oil. This was one of the first of many Hueys to be outfitted as a smokeship.



Smokeships were used to provide cover for ground operations. When troops were inserted, they went in first and lay down a layer of smoke around the landing zone. The smokeship was followed by a pair of gunships firing to clear the area. Finally Hueys carrying troops would drop in. If the wind was light the smoke would stay close to the ground for as long as five minutes giving the troops time to unload.

MARCH 26, 1967

THE BATTLE OF EASTER SUNDAY

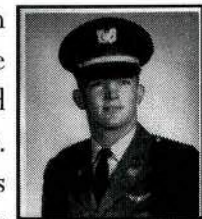
Only six days after the smoke generator was installed, Viking Surprise assisted in a rescue operation. At Landing Zone (LZ) Alpha, two battalions were ambushed and a Huey was shot down. Two Hueys that attempted rescue were also shot down. Two companies sent in to secure the LZ were pinned down and all troops needed immediate evacuation.



Jerry Daly

Viking Surprise put smoke down and four rescue ships were able to safely land. The smoke kept drifting away so pilots, Jerry Daly and Larry McDonald, made multiple passes flying as low as 50 feet to lay down additional cover smoke.

In the battle thirteen helicopters were damaged and one crashed on the way back to base. Viking Surprise was damaged so badly it was rebuilt on the USNS Corpus Christi Bay. 135 bullet holes were counted, six of which had gone through the pilot's compartment.



Larry McDonald