

HUGHES OH-6 CAYUSE / MODEL 500

OH-6 / MODEL 500 SERVICE

Manufacturer: Hughes Tool Co., Aircraft Division, Culver City, California, USA
(In 1972, became Hughes Helicopter Division, Summa Corp.)
(In 1981, became Hughes Helicopters Inc., Hughes Corp.)
(In 1984, became McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Co.,
McDonnell Douglas Corp., Mesa, Arizona, USA)
(In 1997, became Boeing Helicopter Co., The Boeing Co.)
(In 1999, became MD Helicopters Inc.)

Models: 369; 500 (Renamed Model MD 500 in 1984)

Designations: H-6; HO-6

Names: Cayuse, Little Bird

First official flight: YOH-6A 27/02/1963
Model 500 13/09/1966

Factory production period: 1962 – present

Primary service period: 1966 – present

Last official flight: - -

OH-6 / MODEL 500 VARIANTS

OH-6 Cayuse

1963	Model 369	YOH-6A	10	
1965	Model 369A	OH-6A	1438	Total: 1448

Model 500

1966	Model 369	Model 500 Series	3222	Total: 3222
				<u>Total: 4670</u>

A/MH-6 Little Bird

1981	Model 369D	EH-6E	3	
1981	Model 369D	MH-6E	15	
1984	Model MD 500E	AH-6F	9	
1984	Model MD 500E	AH-6G	4	
1988	Model MD 530F	MH-6H	3	
1989	Model MD 530F	AH-6J	20	
1991	Model MD 530F	MH-6J	1	
-	Model MD 540F	AH-6M	0	
-	Model MD 540F	MH-6M	4	Total: 0059

OH-6 / MODEL 500 PRODUCTION

OH-6 Cayuse

YOH-6A

*Prototype, single-engined, 4-bladed rotor, observation helicopter for US Army. 4 civil airframes for testing also in army colors. Original designation was **YHO-6**.*

produced 1962 – 1964

Hughes Culver City, California (HU)

Static Test Airframe 0001

N9696F / N9699F (*civil reg.*) 0002 / 0005

- N9698F to s/n: 62-12624.

- N9699F to s/n: 62-4216.

62-4211 / 62-4215 0011 / 0015

- 62-4211 to USAF.

- 62-4212, 62-4216 to US Navy.

10 Total: 0010

OH-6A

As YOH-6A, minor changes.

produced 1965 – 1970

Hughes Culver City, California (HU)

65-12916 / 65-13003 0001 / 0088

66-7775 / 66-7942 0089 / 0256

66-14376 / 66-14419 0257 / 0300

66-17750 / 66-17833 0301 / 0384

67-16000 / 67-16686 0385 / 1071

68-17140 / 68-17369 1100 / 1329

69-15960 / 69-16075 1330 / 1445

Additional Deliveries 1079 / 1099

- 6 to Dominican Republic as 3011 / 3016.

- 5 to Nicaragua as 513 / 517.

- 10 deliveries unknown.

7 later rebuilt (new c/n: 1072 / 1078) with 5 to Taiwan, 2 to Nicaragua as 511, 512.

166 (66-17834 / 66-17999) cancelled but 2 were assigned (66-17905, 66-17918), likely being rebuilds.

4 (69-16076 / 69-16079) additional airframes cancelled.

1417

21 Total: 1438

OH-6B – Proposed OH-6A development, cancelled.

Designation later used for OH-6A rebuilds in 1988.

Model 500

Model 500 Series

As OH-6A, civil / military export version. McDonnell Douglas shifted production to Mesa, Arizona in 1984.

produced 1966 – present

Hughes Culver City, California

Model 369H (Model 500)		
<i>1966, initial civil version. Most used as civil demonstrators.</i>		
civil reg.	0001 / 0005	5
Model 369HM (Model 500M)		
<i>1968, Hughes Military version for export. First 4 as demonstrators.</i>		
civil reg.	0001 / 0004	
mil reg.	0005M / 0054M	
mil reg.	0201M / 0293M	151
Model 369HS (Model 500C)		
<i>1968, Hughes Standard, engine upgrade.</i>		
civil reg.	0001S, 0002S	
civil / mil reg.	0101S / 0130S	
civil / mil reg.	0201S / 0874S	706
Model 369HE (Model 500C)		
<i>1969, Hughes Executive version.</i>		
civil reg.	0101E / 0110E	
civil reg.	0201E / 0215E	25
Model 369D (Model 500D)		
<i>1975, engine upgrade, 5-bladed rotor, T-tail.</i>		
civil / mil reg.	0001D / 1381D	1381
<i>- Military versions are the 1976 500MD Defender, 1976 500MD Scout Defender, 1977 500MD/TOW, 1979 500MD/ASW, 1981 500MD/MMS-TOW and 1985 500MD Defender II.</i>		
<i>- 160 (c/n: 1222D / 1381D) built in South Korea.</i>		
Model 369E (Model 500E, MD 500E)		
<i>1982, as 369D, redesigned nose.</i>		
civil / mil reg.	0001E / 0624E	
civil reg.	BT890001	625
<i>Military versions are the 500MG and 520MG Defender – 6 to Colombia with USAF s/n: 86-0382 / 86-0387.</i>		
Model 369F, 369FF (Model 530F, MD 530F Plus)		
<i>1982, as 369E, engine upgrade. 369FF with upgraded drive system. 25 369E upgraded with new c/n: 0075FF, 0600FF / 0605FF, 0700FF / 717FF.</i>		
civil / mil reg.	0001F / 0040F	
civil / mil reg.	0041FF / 0074FF	
civil / mil reg.	0076FF / 0330FF	329
<i>Military versions are the 530MG Defender, 530F Cayuse Warrior and 530G Scout Attack.</i>		
		Total: 3222

Total: 4670

*License built in Argentina by Representaciones Aero Comerciales Argentinas SA (RACA) from 1973; Italy by Breda-Nardi Costruzioni Aeronautiche SpA from 1969 as the **NH-500**; Japan by Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. from 1969 as the*

OH-6J (JGSDF: 31001 / 31117, JMSDF: 8761 / 8763), **OH-6D** (JGSDF: 31121 / 31313, JMSDF: 8764 / 8777), imported **OH-6DA** (JMSDF: 8778 / 8782), civil **500C / D** and South Korea by Korean Airlines Co. Ltd. from 1976 – 1987.

A/MH-6 Little Bird

EH-6E

*As Model 500MD, ELINT version
for US Army Special Forces.*

produced

Hughes Culver City, California (HU)

81-23654 / 81-23656 0926D, -, -

3 Total: 0003

MH-6E

*As Model 500MD, multi-mission
version for US Army Special Forces.*

produced

Hughes Culver City, California (HU)

81-23629 / 81-23637 -

81-23648 / 81-23653 -

15 Total: 0015

AH-6F

*As Model 500E, attack version
for US Army Special Forces.*

produced

McDonnell Douglas Mesa, Arizona

84-24319 0937D

- Originally as **AH-6C**.

84-24677, 84-24681 0124E, 0132E

84-24683, 84-24684 0138E, 0139E

85-25346 / 85-25348 0162E / 0164E

86-0141 -

9 Total: 0009

- For USAF evaluation.

AH-6G

*As Model 530MG, attack version
for US Army Special Forces.*

produced

McDonnell Douglas Mesa, Arizona

84-24678 / 84-24680 0125E, 0130E, 0131E

84-24682 0137E

4 Total: 0004

MH-6H

*As AH-6G, multi-mission version
for US Army Special Forces.*

produced

McDonnell Douglas Mesa, Arizona

88-25349, 88-25350 -

90-25361 -

3 Total: 0003

AH-6J Little Bird Guns

*As AH-6G, Mission Enhanced Little
Bird (MELB) avionics upgrade. Most
previous AH-6 variants upgraded to
this standard.*

produced

McDonnell Douglas Mesa, Arizona

89-25351 / 89-25356 -

90-25357 / 90-25360	-	
90-25362, 90-25363	0078FF, -	
91-25364, 91-25365	-	
95-25367 / 95-25372	-	20 Total: 0020

MH-6J

*As AH-6J, multi-mission version.
Most previous MH-6 variants
upgraded to this standard.
produced
McDonnell Douglas Mesa, Arizona
91-25366*

1 **Total: 0001**

AH-6M

*As AH-6J, Mission Enhanced Little
Bird (MELB) engine / avionics upgrade,
6-bladed rotor. Most previous AH-6J
upgraded to this standard.
produced
MDHI Mesa, Arizona*

0 **Total: 0000**

MH-6M

*As AH-6M, multi-mission version.
Most previous MH-6J upgraded to
this standard.
produced
MDHI Mesa, Arizona
98-25374 / 98-25376
04-25378*

4 **Total: 0004**

OH-6 / MODEL 500 CONVERSIONS

US Army

OH-6A HHC	1	OH-6A (68-17230), 1982, prototype for Higher-Harmonic-Control vibration reduction.
OH-6A NOTAR	1	OH-6A (65-12917), 1981, prototype NO-Tail-Rotor (NOTAR) conversion.
NOH-6A <i>The Quiet One</i>	1	OH-6A (65-12968), 1969, prototype for noise reduction tests, modified 5-bladed rotor, muffled engine area and exhaust.
EH-6B	4	OH-6A, 1982, Special Forces ELINT conversions, engine / IR suppression upgrade.
MH-6B	26	24 OH-6A / 2 EH-6B, 1980, Special Forces multi-mission conversions, engine / avionics / weapons upgrade.
OH-6B	8	OH-6A, 1988, rebuilds with engine / avionics upgrade for ANG service. Program cancelled after 8 of 250 converted.
OH-6C	5	2 OH-6A / 3 500C, 1971, prototype for Advanced Scout Program with engine upgrade, 5-bladed rotor, T-tail, led to civil Model 500D. Prototype was OH-6A s/n: 65-12951.
AH-6C	18	11 OH-6A / 1 EH-6B / 5 MH-6B, 1980, armed, Special Forces conversions with OH-6C upgrades. Plus 1 new built, s/n: 84-24319.
MH-6C	3	MH-6B, 1981, OH-6C upgrades for Special Forces multi-missions.

OH-6D *Super Cayuse*

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| | 1 | Civil Model 500D, 1981, prototype for major upgrade program but Bell OH-58D selected instead, engine upgrade, mast-mounted-sight. Civil reg.: N8336F. Designation later used for JGSDF OH-6D. |
| NOH-6P | 4 | 2 OH-6A / 1 OH-6C (65-12951) as prototype, 1971-1972, conversion based on " <i>Quiet One</i> " prototype for counter-insurgency duties. Operated by Air America inc. with civil reg.: N351X (68-17297), N352X (68-17288). Also designated as Model 500P. 1 OH-6A (66-17825) also later converted. |

US Navy

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| TH-6B | 6 | OH-1B, 1991-2009, trainers for US Navy Test Pilots School. US Army s/n retained as non-standard 6-digit codes: 652967, 687333, 696040, 696041, 696044, 696061. |
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FOREIGN MILITARY / CIVILIAN SERVICE

- *Military Model 500 helicopters in service with many air forces worldwide in the observation, light attack and multi-mission roles.*
- *Many ex-OH-6A used by Government agencies such as US Border Patrol, FBI and NASA for various tests.*
- *Many ex-OH-6A helicopters sold on the civil market.*
- *MDHI Inc. developing the **MD 540F** with major upgrades and 6-bladed rotor, military versions are the **A/MH-6M** and **MD 540MG**.*
- *Boeing Rotocraft Systems developing the **Unmanned Little Bird (ULB)**, **A/MH-6X**, **AH-6S Phoenix**, **AH-6i (N106HX)** and **H-6U**.*