

# 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, civilian line became MD Helicopters (MDHI) Inc.  
with the AH-6 series retained by Boeing)

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

*Designations:* H-6; HO-6

*Names:* Cayuse, Little Bird

*First official flight:* YOH-6A 27 Feb 1963  
Model 500 13 Sep 1966

*Factory production period:* 1962 – present

*Primary service period:* 1966 – present

*Last official flight:* - -

## OH-6 / MODEL 500 VARIANTS

### OH-6 Cayuse

1963	<b>Model 369</b>	<b>YOH-6A</b>	10	
1965	<b>Model 369A</b>	<b>OH-6A</b>	1438	<b>Total: 1448</b>

### Model 500

1966	<b>Model 369</b>	<b>Model 500</b> Series	3230	<b>Total: 3230</b>
				<b><u>Total: 4678</u></b>

### A/MH-6 Little Bird

1981	<b>Model 369D</b>	<b>EH-6E</b>	3	
1981	<b>Model 369D</b>	<b>MH-6E</b>	15	
1984	<b>Model MD 500E</b>	<b>AH-6F</b>	9	
1984	<b>Model MD 500E</b>	<b>AH-6G</b>	4	
1988	<b>Model MD 530F</b>	<b>MH-6H</b>	3	
1989	<b>Model MD 530F</b>	<b>AH-6J</b>	20	
1991	<b>Model MD 530F</b>	<b>MH-6J</b>	1	
-	<b>Model MD 540F</b>	<b>AH-6M</b>	0	
-	<b>Model MD 540F</b>	<b>MH-6M</b>	5	
-	<b>Model MD 540F</b>	<b>AH-6i</b>	24	<b>Total: 0084</b>

## 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           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 at least 2 delivered (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)**

1966, initial civil version. Most used as civil demonstrators.

civil reg. 0001 / 0005 5

**Model 369HM (Model 500M)**

1968, Hughes Military version for export. First 4 as demonstrators.

civil reg. 0001 / 0004  
 mil reg. 0005M / 0054M  
 mil reg. 0201M / 0293M 151

**Model 369HS (Model 500C)**

1968, Hughes Standard, engine upgrade.

civil reg. 0001S, 0002S  
 civil / mil reg. 0101S / 0130S  
 civil / mil reg. 0201S / 0874S 706

**Model 369HE (Model 500C)**

1969, Hughes Executive version.

civil reg. 0101E / 0110E  
 civil reg. 0201E / 0215E 25

**Model 369D (Model 500D)**

1975, engine upgrade, 5-bladed rotor, T-tail.

civil / mil reg. 0001D / 1381D 1381

- 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**.

- 160 (c/n: 1222D / 1381D) built in South Korea.

**Model 369E (Model 500E, MD 500E)**

1982, as 369D, redesigned nose.

civil / mil reg. 0001E / 0625E  
 civil reg. BT890001 626

Military versions are the **500E/TOW**;

**500MG, 520MG Defender** and **520MK**

**Black Tiger**.

**Model 369F, 369FF (Model 530F Lifter, MD 530F Plus)**

1982, as 369E, engine upgrade. 50 369F built, most later to 369FF with upgraded drive system.

civil / mil reg. 0001FF / 0074FF  
 civil / mil reg. 0076FF / 0084FF  
 civil / mil reg. 0086FF / 0164FF  
 civil / mil reg. 0172FF / 0343FF 336 **Total: 3230**

7 (c/n: 0165FF / 0171FF) not built.

1 369D and 29 369E upgraded with new c/n: 0075FF, 0085FF, 0600FF / 0607FF, 0700FF / 719FF.

Military versions are the **530MF, 530MG**

**Defender** (6 to Colombia with US s/n:

86-0382 / 86-0387), **530F, 530F+ Cayuse**

**Warrior** and **530G Scout Attack**.

**Total: 4678**

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**

*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	-	
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**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

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**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	-	
-25377	-	
04-25378	-	

**5 Total: 0005**

**AH-6i**

*As AH-6M, version for Saudi Arabia.*

*produced*

MDHI Mesa, Arizona

14-61001 / 14-61024	0227FF / 0250FF	
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**24 Total: 0024**

*All delivered as:*

(Saudi Arabia) 61001 / 61024

**OH-6 / MODEL 500 CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS****US Army**

OH-6A HHC	1	OH-6A (68-17230), 1982, prototype for Higher-Harmonic-Control vibration reduction.
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OH-6A NOTAR		
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	1	OH-6A (65-12917), 1981, prototype NO-TAIL-Rotor (NOTAR) conversion.
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### NOH-6A *The Quiet One*

	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.
<b>OH-6D <i>Super Cayuse</i></b>		
	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 540A / F** (N540HH) 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) (N7032C), **A/MH-6X**, **AH-6S Phoenix**, **AH-6i** (N106HX) and **H-6U**.*