

# Khmer Air Force UH-1Hs

by Dr. Joe F. Leeker

## Number of UH-1Hs assigned to the Khmer Air Force according to Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly reports November 73 to June 74:

**UH-1H Gunships:** 10 (Nov.73) > 9 (Dec. 73) > 10 (Jan. 74) > 9 (May 74) > 10 (June 74)

**UH-1H Slick:** 30 (Nov. 73) > 29 (Dec. 73) > 34 (Jan. 74) > 33 (March 74) > 32 (April 74) > 29 (June 74)

According to "Meeting with Military Equipment Delivery Team – Cambodia (MEDTC), at MACV, 2 February 1971" (Texas Tech University, document no. 2920106007):

- 6 US Army Vietnam UH-1Hs hand receipted to VNAF on 3 September 1970 for support of Cambodia
- 1 of the original 6 aircraft was replaced on hand receipt on 9 January 1971 due to extensive battle damage
- 3 UH-1Hs were damaged by enemy attack on 22 January 1971; one of the 3 was subsequently repaired on location
- 2 UH-1Hs were hand receipted from US Army, Vietnam, to the Khmer Air Force on 23 January 1971 and flown to Cambodia
- 2 damaged UH-1Hs were recovered from Cambodia on 25 January 71 by the 34<sup>th</sup> GS Group

According to Sutsakhan, *The Khmer Republic at war*:

- In 1972, AVNK had 14 UH-1Hs and 0 UH-1H Gunship (Sutsakhan, p.183).
- One helicopter (supposed to be a UH-1H) carrying refugees was shot down by SA-7s near Kompong Trabek on 8 August 1972, killing 14 people (Sutsakhan, p.107).
- In 1973, AVNK had 19 UH-1Hs and 0 UH-1H Gunship (Sutsakhan, p.183).
- In 1974, AVNK had 34 UH-1Hs and 10 UH-1H Gunships (Sutsakhan, p.183).
- One UH-1G logistics helicopter was downed by enemy fire near Oudong on 16 March 74 (Sutsakhan, p.132).

According to Grandolini/Cooper/Troung, *Cambodia*, parts 1 and 2:

- the Khmer Air Force had 9 own UH-1Hs by February 1972.
- In late 1971, some 24 VNAF UH-1Hs and 8 VNAF UH-1Gs were deployed to Pochentong.
- In 1972, the VNAF deployed an average of 40 helicopters in Cambodia, mostly at Pochentong and Neak Luong, one of them being "242" (a photo of "242" can be found in Grandolini/Cooper/Troung, *Cambodia*, part 2).
- In the summer of 1973, 6 UH-1Gs were delivered to the KAF

According to Conboy / Bowra, *The war in Cambodia*, pp. 20/1:

- by the end of 1971, the Khmer Air Force had 11 UH-1Hs
- in 1972, the Khmer Air Force received 6 UH-1H gun ships
- in May 73, 6 UH-1H gunships were turned over to the Khmer Air Force (Conboy / Bowra, p.43)

The 100 hour maintenance service was done at Phi-Loi in South Vietnam (LMAT weekly report for 14-21 January 72, in: UTD/Leary/I B14F1)

**Individual aircraft histories:**

- UH-1H                    “213”  
                                  **(complete serial unknown)**  
**Service history:** a photo of “213” in Khmer Air Force colors taken in 1973 can be found at [http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article\\_412.shtml](http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article_412.shtml)  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                    “227”  
                                  **(complete serial unknown)**  
**Service history:** repairs of the bottom of the fuselage were completed in August 73 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for August 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1)  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                    “448”  
                                  **(complete serial unknown)**  
**Service history:** loose rivets were replaced at Pochentong in May 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for May 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8); pilot overhead windshield repaired at Pochentong in June 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                    “607”  
                                  **(complete serial unknown)**  
**Service history:** bullet holes were repaired at Pochentong in June 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                    “15540”  
                                  **(complete serial unknown)**  
**Service history:** the left hand pilot door was repaired in June 73 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); battle damage was repaired at Pochentong in May 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for May 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                    “67-17604”                    9802  
                                  **(serial as borne unknown)**  
**Service history:** on 21 July 73, “67-17604” crashed on take-off from Takeo, Cambodia, while operating outstation (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for July 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1).  
**Fate:** dropped from the aircraft inventory in November 73 because of that accident (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for November 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1).
- UH-1H                    “68-15641”                    10571  
                                  **(serial as borne unknown)**  
**Service history:** battle damage received in January 74 repaired at Pochentong in January 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for January 74, in:

UTD/CIA/B38F8); bullet holes were repaired in February 74 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for February 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8).

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "68-16208"                    10867  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** officially serialled "68-16208" (Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187); was shipped to Thai-Am for damage repair on 26 June 73 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); a drawing of "208" in Khmer Air Force colors which was seen in 1973 or 1974 can be found at [http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article\\_412.shtml](http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article_412.shtml) .

**Fate:** escaped to Thailand in 1975; to the Royal Thai Navy as "401".

UH-1H                    "68-16443"                    11102  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** officially serialled 68-16443 (Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187); the left hand pilot door was repaired in June 73 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); parts were replaced at Pochentong in May 74 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for May 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8).

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "68-16449"                    11108  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** officially serialled 68-16449 (Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187); was being repaired in Cambodia on 2 February 71 ("Meeting with Military Equipment Delivery Team – Cambodia (MEDTC), at MACV, 2 February 1971", Texas Tech University, document no. 2920106007); had electrical problems in May 74; repaired at Pochentong (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for May 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8).

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "69-15519"                    11807  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** see also Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; damage repair of battery compartment caused by hostile action was completed in August 73 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for August 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1).

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "69-15538"                    11826  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** ferried to Phu-Loi, South Vietnam, for maintenance in January 72 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station weekly report for 7-14 January 72, in: UTD/Leary/ I B14F1); in maintenance at Pochentong in February 72 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for February 72, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); bullet holes were repaired in February 74 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for February 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8); in May 74, the windshield was replaced at Pochentong; generator cables were damaged by enemy ground fire (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for May 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8); bullet holes repaired at Pochentong in June 74 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate: ?**

UH-1H                    “69-15542”                    11830  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** in for maintenance at Pochentong in February 72 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for February 72, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); broken friction damper support bracket repaired at Pochentong in June 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate: ?**

UH-1H                    “69-15544”                    11832  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “69-15544” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate:** written off on 25 November 1969

UH-1H                    “69-15548”                    11836  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “69-15548” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate: ?**



VNAF UH-1H “732” in Khmer Air Force service, damaged at Pochentong on 21/2 January 71 (photo no. 1-CA2-2-PB40 preserved at UTD/Abadie/B2F1)

UH-1H                    “732”                    12020                    1970                    ex VNAF “732” and US Army 69-15732

**Service history:** officially serialised “69-15732” (Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187); painted as “732” still in VNAF colors; damaged during the sapper attack on 21/2 January 71 (see photo no. 1-CA2-2-PB40 preserved at UTD/Abadie/B2F1); was being repaired in Cambodia on 2 February 71 (“Meeting with Military Equipment Delivery Team – Cambodia (MEDTC), at MACV, 2 February 1971”, Texas Tech University, document no. 2920106007); parts of the tail section were repaired in April 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for April 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate: ?**



**Service history:** also mentioned in Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; was substantially damaged during a hover take-off in June 73, while operating outstation (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1)  
**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "71-20153"                    12977  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as "71-20153" by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.  
**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "71-20154"                    12978  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as "71-20154" by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.  
**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "71-20155"                    12979  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as "71-20155" by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.  
**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "71-20238"                    13062  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as "71-20238" by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.  
**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "71-20239"                    13063  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** officially serialised "71-20239" (Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187); loose rivets were replaced by bolts at Pochentong in June 74 (Air America's Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)  
**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    "71-20243"                    13067  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as "71-20243" by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.  
**Fate:** escaped to Thailand in 1975; to the Royal Thai Army

UH-1H                    "71-20249"                    13073  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as "71-20249" by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.  
**Fate:** escaped to Thailand in 1975; returned to the US; stored at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, in August 2002

UH-1H                    "71-20250"                    13074  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20238” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; on 6 July 73, the aircraft was substantially damaged, when UH-1H “71-20266” hovered into “71-20250”; repaired at Pochentong and operational again in July 73 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for July 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); a broken windshield was temporarily repaired at Pochentong in January 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for January 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8); bullet holes received in March 74 were repaired the same month (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for March 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H “71-20265” 13089  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “71-20265” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H “71-20266” 13090  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “71-20266” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; on 6 July 73, the aircraft was substantially damaged, when it hovered into UH-1H “71-20250” (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for July 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); was ferried to Thai-Am in August 73

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H “71-20267” 13091  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “71-20266” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H “71-20268” 13092  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20266” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; received bullet holes caused by hostile ground fire in May 73; repaired at Pochentong (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for May 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1)

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H “71-20269” 13093  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “71-20269” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H “71-20273” 13097  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “71-20273” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate:** ?

- UH-1H                   “71-20274”                   13098  
(serial as borne unknown)  
**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20274” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; ferried to Thai-Am, Bangkok, for damage repair on 28 Nov.73 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for November 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1)  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                   “71-20275”                   13099  
(serial as borne unknown)  
**Service history:** mentioned as “71-20275” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                   “71-20277”                   13101  
(serial as borne unknown)  
**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20277” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; damaged by rotor wash from another UH-1H in June 73, while parked at Pochentong; repaired at Pochentong (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); in July 73, repairs were completed at 80 % (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for July 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); bullet holes repaired at Pochentong in June 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                   “71-20278”                   13102  
(serial as borne unknown)  
**Service history:** mentioned as “71-20278” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                   “71-20279”                   13103  
(serial as borne unknown)  
**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20269” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; repair of the honey comb caused by hostile action was completed in August 73 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for August 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); loose rivets were replaced by bolts at Pochentong in June 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                   “71-20282”                   13106  
(serial as borne unknown)  
**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20283” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; on 2 July 73, the aircraft was damaged, when a jeep was driven into the fuselage at Battambang Air Base, but the aircraft was repaired in July 73; repairs completed on 11 July 73 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for July 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1)  
**Fate:** ?
- UH-1H                   “71-20283”                   13107  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20283” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; honeycomb panel of the left hand fuel tank bottom was replaced at Pochentong in June 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    “71-20290”                    13114  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20290” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; battle damage received in January 74 was repaired at Pochentong in January 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for January 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    “71-20291”                    13115  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20291” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; bullet holes were repaired at Pochentong in June 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for June 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    “71-20293”                    13117  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** also mentioned as “71-20293” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; repair of the tail section caused by hostile action was completed in August 73 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for August 73, in: UTD/CIA/B39F1); the co-pilot’s door was repaired in February 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for February 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    “72-21538”                    13237  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “72-21538” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    “72-21539”                    13238  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** also mentioned as “72-21539” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187; battle damage received in January 74 was temporarily repaired at Pochentong in January 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for January 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    “72-21540”                    13239  
(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “72-21540” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H                    “72-21541”                    13240

(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “72-21541” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H “72-21608” 13307

(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** battle damage of “608” was repaired at Pochentong in May 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for May 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H “72-21609” 13308

(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** shipping damage of the right hand front tail boom section was completed at Pochentong on 22 January 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for January 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8); in April 74, bullet damage on the tail boom was repaired (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for April 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8); accident damage was repaired at Pochentong in May 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for May 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate:** ?

UH-1H “72-21612” 13311

(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** damage to the skin and to the bulkhead that occurred during shipping was repaired at Pochentong in January 74 (Air America’s Phnom Penh Station monthly report for January 74, in: UTD/CIA/B38F8)

**Fate:** escaped to Thailand in 1975; to the Royal Thai Navy as “402”

UH-1H “72-21613” 13312

(serial as borne unknown)

**Service history:** mentioned as “72-21613” by Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory*, p. 187.

**Fate:** ?

When Cambodia fell to the Khmer Rouge forces of Pol Pot on 18 April 1975, 13 UH-1Hs escaped to Thailand (Carroll, *World Air Forces Directory 1998/9*, p. 187); some 24 UH-1Hs and UH-1Gs were captured by the Khmer Rouge (Grandolini/Cooper/Troung, *Cambodia*, part 2).