

BELL AH-1W/ ATTACK HELICOPTER

602nd Air Cavalry Brigade Attack Battalion, ROCA, Taichung News Agency Army Aviation 602 Brigade Longxiang Camp Open Day

The idea of 'helicopter' can be traced as early as 450 years ago when the world famous scientist, philosopher, artist - Leonardo da vinci created his first draft of a rotary wing lifting machine. Da Vinci's idea had eventually turned into reality after World War II, when Anselm Franz, former Nazi jet engine engineer who was in charge of developing the Jumo 004 - first world mass-produced turbojet engine. Anselm moved to the United States after the war and later involved as part of Operation Paperclip, his knowledge on turboshaft designs had contributed significantly towards the development of the T53 and T55, which had became the power house of the famous helicopter used during Vietnam War - Huey.

The superior performance of the Bell Huey helicopter had superseded helicopters available in the US Army's inventory during Vietnam war deployment. It was the first U.S. operational armed helicopter equipped with rockets and machine guns. Meanwhile at late 1950s, Bell had developed a narrow body helicopter gunship called the D245 Combat reconnaissance helicopter, this particular design had been continually evolving in different phases to accommodate the U.S. army's requirement, until the Model 209, which featured tandem seats for pilot and gunner, its power was supplied by a Lycoming 1,100 horsepower T53-L-11 turbine engine.

The naming of Model 209 had became AH-1G when army placed their prototype orders to Bell, the abbreviation AH stood for "Attack Helicopter, Type 1, G indicated the seventh model in the Huey series". From mid 1970s onwards, many modernisation program had been implemented to the AH-1G series, which derived many other improved variations such as the Q, S, E, F models, which have been servicing in many US Allies such as Turkey, Taiwan, Japan (licensed built from Bell).







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