



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet VERTOL CH-21B WORKHORSE

Designed by helicopter pioneer Frank Piasecki, the Vertol H-21 first flew in April 1952. With two main rotors, its long fuselage could hold large numbers of people or heavy cargo loads. Later adaptations allowed the aircraft to perform rescue and assault operations under combat conditions. In addition to the pilot and copilot, the H-21 could carry either 20 fully-equipped troops or 12 litter patients and two medical attendants.

Originally called the "flying banana," the H-21 served with the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army, the French navy, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the West German Air Force. The museum obtained the CH-21B on display from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., in January 1965.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

Engine: [Wright R-1820](#) of 1,425 hp
Maximum speed: 132 mph
Range: 400 miles
Rotor diameter: 44 ft.
Fuselage length: 52 ft. 7 in.
Overall length: 86 ft. 4 in. (including rotor arcs)
Height: 15 ft. 4 in.
Weight: 10,223 lbs. loaded
Serial number: 51-15857

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DAYTON, Ohio -- Vertol CH-21B Workhorse at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)