

Hughes OH-6A "Silver Eagles" U.S. Army demonstration team

for any Hughes OH-6A Cayuse kit depending on preferred scale

The decals can be custom printed in various scales.

Most common plastic OH-6A models are:

- In 1/32 scale: Hobbycraft, Revell
- In 1/35 scale: Dragon, Italeri
- In 1/48 scale: Micromir, Hasegawa (modify)
- In 1/72 scale: AZ Model, Italeri (Tamiya)

INTRODUCTION

After the Second World War the helicopter became more common in aviation including the military. Various air forces and army flying services had aerial demonstration teams for promotion to the public.

Beginning 1972, the U.S. Department of the Army wanted to promote their helicopters at the Transpo'72 event and a display team was formed and 9 Hughes OH-6A Cayuse and 9 OH-58 Kiowa helicopters were assigned. The team was kept and pilots selected choose the name "Silver Eagles". After a short period the Kiowa's went to the army unit and only the OH-6A was used by the team in olive drab and white colours.

Starting in 1974 a new colour scheme was applied with blue and with light grey cheatlines trim:

decals are for this last scheme.

The helicopters of the team had different roles in the display. One of the OH-6A had a clown outfit called Bozo as solo performer. The whole team had about 35 staff and support personnel and even a DHC-4 Caribou support aircraft painted in their colours. The team flew their latest show November 1976 after performances at over 200 air shows in the USA and a few in Canada.

DECALS SYSTEM

The laser printed decal sheet has ONE continuous print film, so EACH decal needs to be cut out with fine scissors. No other prior decal preparation is needed.

Each cut out decal can be applied as usual after soaking it a short while in water. Decals are EXTREMELY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on the model surface. Do not use tweezers! They will fold doubled!

After decalling, finish the model with your preferred final gloss coat. This will also protect the decals.

MODELS AND PAINT SCHEME

The colours appear to be about blue Fed.Std FS15050 and white. The thin trim lines are medium grey-silver. Masking is needed for the main colours. The colours are also on the skids and tail stabilizer. The trim lines are decals and seen on fuselage, rotor mast fairing, tail boom and there is a narrow white boundary between trim lines and the blue areas. The scheme is symmetrical port and starboard but team badge on doors is "not" mirrored. Choice of 2 codes. The white ARMY title is on the belly (shown grey in drawing). Main rotor probably black with yellow tips. Tail rotor white with red stripes.

REFERENCES:

Dancing Rotors, Harry (Ned) Gilliland jr, distributed by Aerofax, 1994

Web:
<https://aerobaticteams.net/en/teams/i157/Silver-Eagles.html>

On internet photos can be easily found.



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