

→ MGD ←
①

14 APR 1971

PACIFIC

STARS AND STRIPES

AN AUTHORIZED UNOFFICIAL PUBLICATION
FOR THE U.S. ARMED FORCES OF THE PACIFIC COMMAND

Vol. 27, No. 100

Sunday, April 11, 1971

Shush-h-h, That's a Whirlybird

REC'D WAS APR 21 1971

WASHINGTON (UPI) —The Hughes Tool Co. announced Thursday it has developed the world's quietest helicopter on a hush-hush basis.

The firm said military security prevented disclosure of the precise extent of the noise reduction in the modified Army OH6A light observation helicopter but said high-ranking Defense Department officials described it as "dramatic."

The chopper is a four-place, turbine-powered craft which has been used for scouting in the Indochina fighting. It was developed as a research project by the company's aircraft division in Culver City, Calif.

The announcement said the modified helicopter was scarcely audible even when flying directly overhead.

Hughes vice president Thomas R. Stuelpnagel said the quiet chopper would have civilian as well as military application.

The noise abatement was achieved by slowing down engine and rotor speeds to as little as 67 per cent of normal in-flight levels.

One blade was added to the main rotor and two blades to the tail rotor to maintain the necessary lift and thrust. In addition a muffler was installed to quiet the roar of the jet engine exhaust and the entire power plant was blanketed with sound proof material to reduce whine.

4 - 4/22/71

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 29-Apr-2009