

Contact: Sandy Quinn
(714) 993-3393 ext.207

FACT SHEET

Manufacturer:

- Made by Sikorsky in 1961 at Bridgeport, Connecticut at a cost of \$1 million or \$6.3 million in today's dollars

Engines:

- Two 1500-horsepower turbine engines, nearly powerful enough to fly on its side evasively

Safety Precautions:

- Double-paned bullet-resistant glass and light armor plating to protect against small-arms fire
- Self-sealing fuel tanks

Performance:

- Maximum cruising speed of 140 miles per hour
- Range of 600 miles
- Ceiling of 14,500 feet

Length:

- 72 feet, 9 inches

Weight:

- 11,301 pounds (empty)

Rotor Diameter:

- 62 feet

Crew:

- Three: Aircraft Commander, Co-Pilot, Flight Engineer

Seating:

- Seats 16, including a seat for the military attaché who carried the "football," a suitcase containing the nation's nuclear-launch codes, and two seats for the Secret Service

Tail Number:

- 150617

-more-

Nickname:

- Developed for use by the Navy, the VH-3A is called the "Sea King"

Presidential Service:

- 1961 - 1976

Presidents Served:

- John F. Kennedy 1961 - 1963
- Lyndon B. Johnson 1963 - 1969
- Richard Nixon 1969 - 1974
- Gerald R. Ford 1974 -1976

Heads of State On-Board:

- President Anwar Sadat of Egypt
- King Hussein of Jordan
- Prime Minister Edward Heath of the United Kingdom
- Prime Minister Harold Wilson of the United Kingdom
- Chancellor Willy Brandt of West Germany
- King Faisal of Saudi Arabia
- Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka of Japan
- President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam

Missions with President Nixon On-Board:

- 181

Nixon Missions Included:

- 20 trips between Andrews Air Force Base and the White House
- 56 trips between Camp David and the White House
- 19 trips to and from the Western White House, Casa Pacifica
- President Nixon's historic mission to Egypt and the Pyramids (7/14/74)
- Landing next to the Statue of Liberty for the dedication of the American Museum of Immigration (9/26/72)
- President Nixon's triumphant return to the White House following his trip to China (2/28/72)
- President Nixon's arrival to the Miami Convention Center during the Republican National Convention (8/23/72)
- President Nixon's final flight, departing the White House for Andrews Air Force Base (8/9/74)

Points of Interest:

- During President Nixon's historic trip to Egypt, he presented President Anwar Sadat with an identical "sister" helicopter. That helicopter was used 30 years later to transport the body of Yasser Arafat from his state funeral in Cairo, to his burial place in Ramallah.
- In July of 1972, it flew former President Lyndon Johnson to San Clemente to celebrate his birthday with the Nixons shortly before his death in 1973.
- The President's helicopter carried President Nixon through the Bermuda Triangle during a trip from Key Biscayne, FL to Grand Cay in the Bahamas (5.26.73).

-more-

Final Destination:

- The Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Birthplace, where it will open to the public on in spring, 2006.

###

FOR COVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES:

Contact Sandy Quinn, Assistant Director, (714) 993-3393 ext. 207, or email sandy@nixonlibrary.org

4.6.06