



Pilot (r.) and Flight Mechanic (l.) and their 10,000 hour Sikorsky.



Happy group! Proud group! (l. to r.): C. Knight, MTS Jim Dore, Capt. W.H. Gentry, Mechanic M.L. Centeno, and Acting Base Dave Hickler stand in front of record-breaking sky chopper.



Capt. Knight (l.) and Capt. Gentry (r.) stand by the tail of record-breaking H-15.



AAM Flight Mechanic M.L. Centeno.



Acting Base Manager D.H. "Dave" Hickler (r.) congratulates for having flown UH-34 helicopter H-15 past the 10,000 hour Mechanic M. L. Centeno is at left.



Hickler, Centeno and Gentry (l. to r.) all give thumbs up signal for well done!



Jim T. Dore MTS/UDN adds his congratulations. Capt. Knight's. Flight Mechanic Centeno is

Helicopter



AIR AMERICA MILESTONE: 10,000 Hrs.!

by: David H. Hickler, ABM/UDN

A memorable milestone was reached on 29 May 1969, when Air America's Udon-based Sikorsky helicopter H-15 chalked up a total flying time of 10,009:58 hours. H-15 is the first helicopter of this type and model ever to break the 10,000 hour mark, according to the manufacturer.

Sikorsky helicopter Model UH-34, Tail Number H-15, MSN 581497, was received by Air America, Udon, on 19 October 1962. At that time it was a new machine, having a total flying time of only 25:46 hours. Since 1962 it has been flown and maintained by Air America under contract. How many engines, rotor blades, and miscellaneous component parts have rotated in and out of the airframe is not readily available; but we can safely state — many!

The PIC of H-15 when it reached the record-shattering 10,000 hour mark was Captain Wayne H. Gentry; Flight Mechanic was M. L. Centeno.

Captain E. W. Knight, Manager of Flying Rotary Wing, is in charge of all helicopter flying for Air America — Udon.

That such a remarkable performance record could be achieved is largely due to the dedication and skill of our pilots, plus the diligence and painstaking attention to detail of our flight mechanics and ground maintenance personnel.

Air America, Udon, is rightfully proud of this significant record that no one else in the world has matched.

Sikorsky Aircraft is making up five special plaques for Air America to commemorate this momentous occasion.

Mr. Hickler was temporarily replacing Captain C. J. Abadie, Jr., a long-time UH-34 pilot, when H-15 hit 10,000 hours.

UH-34 SPECIFICATIONS:

Description and Dimensions:

Minimum Crew:	2
Number of Pax:	12
Main Rotor Diameter:	56' 0"
Length:	65' 10"
Height:	15' 10"
Cargo Door Dimensions:	48" x 52"
Cargo Volume-cubic feet:	365

Weights — lbs.:

Max. Design Take-off Weight:	13,300
Operational Empty Weight:	9,100
Useful Load (Fuel & ACL):	4,200
Max. Landing Weight:	13,300

Speeds — Knots:

Cruise, T.A.S., normal power—knots: 100



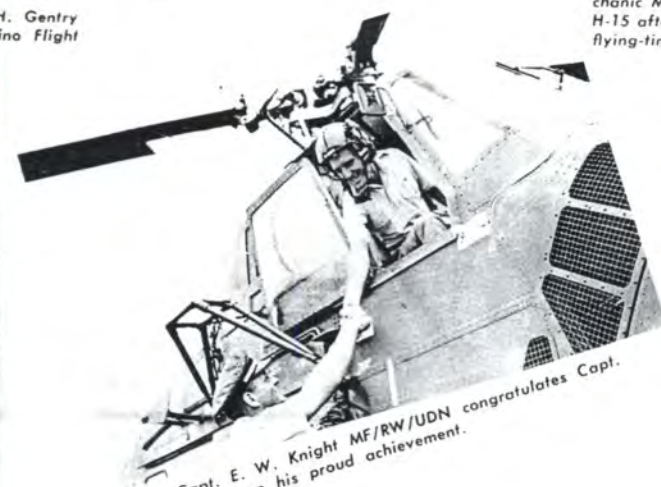
Air America's venerable bird herself. The first Sikorsky UH-34 in the world to break the 10,000 hour total-flying-time mark.



AAM Captain Wayne H. Gentry.



Capt. Wayne H. Gentry and Flight Mechanic M.L. Centeno smile proudly from H-15 after setting the 10,000 hour total-flying-time record.



Capt. E. W. Knight MF/RW/UDN congratulates Capt. Gentry on his proud achievement.