

Vietnam UH-1 Huey Gunship

The Vietnam-era Huey Gunship pictured below will be on display at the Yulista picnic for the benefit of Yulista employees and their families, courtesy of the North Alabama Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (NAVHPA), Save Our Flying Heritage (SOFH), and the Huntsville Veterans Memorial Museum. The helicopter, which is approximately 90% restored by the NAVHPA & SOFH with the help of Yulista Aviation, Inc., will be manned by actual Vietnam pilots, some who flew this model helicopter in Vietnam, including one of Yulista's employees. Adults and children alike will be allowed to board the aircraft, sit in the pilot or co-pilot seat, climb in the back where the crew chief and gunner flew, and handle all the flight and radios controls. Everyone will be free to ask questions of the pilots, who may also describe some of their missions. Yulista employees who helped restore the Huey Gunship can show their family and friends the work they did.

The helicopter, a UH-1C/M "Huey," was delivered to the Army in 1966 and subsequently flew combat missions from 1968 to 1972 in Vietnam. She was damaged by enemy fire on two occasions, resulting in one wounded crewmember. After being designated as a "target aircraft" late in her life, she wound up on the range at Redstone Arsenal. In October 2009, she was transferred to and is owned by the Huntsville Veterans Memorial Museum. In October 2011, she began undergoing a restoration process as a joint project between the NAVHPA and SOFH with the assistance of Yulista Aviation, Inc. at our Meridianville facilities. Of the 12,000 helicopters that saw service in Vietnam, 5,086, or 42%, were lost. This aircraft flew over 1,400 combat hours in Vietnam. 2,197 helicopter pilots died in the war and 2,718 non-pilot crewmembers were lost.



Before Restoration



After 90% Restoration



A Huey Gunship in 1967 Vietnam



Pilot Helping Children Into Huey



Reading About the Helicopter



Pilot Describing a Combat Mission