

Grumman OV-1D “Mohawk”

The Hickory Aviation Museum’s OV-1D Mohawk, Serial 62-5874 is owned and on loan from Warbirds Restoration LLC. Thanks Michael Deacon and Matthew Hefner.



Role	Light Attack and Observation Aircraft
Manufacturer	Grumman
First flight	14 April 1959
Primary users	United States Army Argentine Army Air
Introduced	1959
Retired	United States Army 1996 Argentina Army Air 2015
Number Produced	380 (All Variants)

The Grumman OV-1 Mohawk is an armed military observation and attack aircraft that was designed for battlefield surveillance and light strike capabilities. It has a twin turboprop configuration, and carries two crew members in side-by-side seating. The Mohawk was intended to operate from short, unimproved runways in support of United States Army maneuver forces.

General characteristics

Crew: Two
Length: 41 ft (12.51 m)
Wingspan: 48 ft (14.63 m)
Height: 12 ft 8 in (3.86 m)
Wing area: 360 sq ft (33 m²)
Empty weight: 12,054 lbs (5,468 kg)
Loaded weight: 15,554 lbs (7,051 kg)
Max. takeoff weight: 18,109 lbs (8,214 kg)
Powerplant: 2 × Lycoming T53-L-701 turboprops, 1,400 shaft horsepower (1,000 kw)

Performance

Maximum speed: 305 mph (265 knots, 491 km/h) at sea level
Cruise speed: 207 mph (180 knots, 333 km/h)
Range: 944 mi (820 nmi, 1,519 km)
Service ceiling: 25,000 ft (7600 m)
Rate of climb: 3,466 ft/min (17.61 m/s)

Armament

2.75 FFAR (Folding Fin Aerial Rocket) pods, MK80 bombs, Zuni Rockets, MK40 Grenade Launcher, .50 Cal and 30 mm Gun Pods.

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Design and development

The Mohawk began as a joint Army-Marine program through the then-Navy Bureau of Aeronautics (BuAer), for an observation/attack plane that would outperform the Cessna L-19 Bird Dog. In June 1956, the Army issued Type Specification TS145, which called for the development and procurement of a two-seat, twin turboprop aircraft designed to operate from small, unimproved fields under all weather conditions. It would be faster, with greater firepower, and heavier armor than the Bird Dog, which had proved vulnerable during the Korean War. The Mohawk's mission would include observation, artillery spotting, air control, emergency resupply, naval target spotting, liaison, and radiological monitoring. The Navy specified that the aircraft must be capable of operating from small "jeep" escort class carriers (CVEs). The DoD selected Grumman Aircraft Corporation's G-134 design as the winner of the competition in 1957. Marine requirements contributed an unusual feature to the design. As originally proposed, the OF-1 could be fitted with water skis that would allow the aircraft to land at sea and taxi to island beaches at 20 knots. Since the Marines were authorized to operate fixed-wing aircraft in the close air support (CAS) role, the mockup also featured under-wing pylons for rockets, bombs, and other stores.

The Air Force did not like the armament capability of the Mohawk and tried to get it removed, while the Marines did not want the Army's sophisticated sensors. However the Navy then opted to spend the allocated budget on a fleet oil tanker instead, so the Marines had to drop out of the program in September 1957. The Army continued with armed Mohawks and developed cargo pods that could be dropped from under-wing hard points to resupply troops in emergencies.

Operational History

United States Army

The Mohawk saw extensive use during the Vietnam War, and there were 65 aircraft lost to accidents, ground fire, and one shot down by a North Vietnamese fighter. In early 1968, while flying an OV-1 over South Vietnam, U.S. Army Captain Ken Lee shot down a MiG-17 “Fresco” fighter jet with his XM14 .50 in. (12.7 mm) caliber gun pods as well as two M159 unguided rocket pods, becoming the only Army Aviator to ever down a MiG. Due to the Key West Agreement, the Army tried to keep the shoot-down a secret for fear that it would allow the USAF to transfer Mohawks to its inventory. Lee's kill was finally formally recognized by the Army in 2007. The Army also used the aircraft during Operation Desert Storm, and also they were based in Germany for 4 decades.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grumman_OV-1_Mohawk