



U.S. Coast Guard Aviation History

Sikorsky HUS-1G (HH-34) Seahorse



Manufacturer	Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation
Designation	HUS-1G
Other Designations:	S-58; HH-34
Aircraft Type	Utility helicopter
Cost	
Rotor Diameter	56'
Blade Area	2,460 sq. ft.
Height	14' 4"
Length	65'
Top Speed	122 mph
Cruising Speed	97 mph
Sea Level Climb	1,100 fpm
Range	550 miles
Empty Weight	7,900 lbs.
Gross Weight	12,590 lbs.
Crew/passengers	2 crew; 12-18 passengers or 8 litters; 5,100 lb.

	payload
Service Ceiling	9,500 ft.
Engine	Wright R-1820-84

Historical Information:

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation's Model S-58 first flew on 8 March 1954. The Coast Guard acquired six HUS-1Gs from Sikorsky in 1959 as a replacement for the HO4S-1G. The HUS-1G had greater range, in part due to a droppable fuel tank, and payload capacity than the older HO4S as well as the latest electronics, automatic stabilization equipment, and a 600-pound capacity hoist. This was the first helicopter acquired by the Coast Guard that had complete instrument capability, making flying at night and in poor weather possible for the first time. A Coast Guard press release, dated 23 September 1959, noted that the HUS-1G was:

"A medium range utility helicopter, its primary mission in the Coast Guard is search and rescue work. It is also suited for transporting personnel and cargo, reconnaissance, and general utility. It has a single four-bladed main motor with a single four-bladed anti-torque rotor. The main rotor blades and the tail rotor pylon are collapsible to facilitate storage. The main cabin is located directly beneath the main rotor with pilots' compartment above and forward of cabin. A Wright engine located in the nose is accessible by clamshell doors. Interior accommodations include side-by-side seating for pilot and co-pilot and 10 seats for passengers in the cabin. Design features include a 600-lb. rescue hoist, automatic stabilization system, towing apparatus, provisions for instruments and night flying, a droppable fuel tank on port side for range extension, and dual control systems. Cargo may be carried in the cabin or by means of an external sling under the fuselage. The HUS-1G is also equipped with modern electronics devices."

Under a DoD directive dated 6 July 1962, the services' standardized all helicopter designations and the HUS-1G became the HH-34F. Coast Guard Air Detachment New Orleans received three of the new helicopters and garnered considerable press coverage over their SAR exploits. The Detachment consisted of six officers and 15 enlisted men. The United Press nicknamed them the "Guardian Angels." During 1959, the Detachment flew 510 helicopter SAR missions with the HH-19G and HUS-1G, covering a total of 53,943 miles.

The service history of the Coast Guard's HUS-12Gs was marred by tragedy. Two HUS-1Gs were lost in Tampa Bay within an hour of attempting to go to the assistance of an Air Force B-47 Stratojet that had ditched in the Gulf of Mexico. A third was lost on 29 November 1962 when HH-34F CG-1336, based at AIRSTA St. Petersburg, crashed in the Gulf of Mexico while hovering near a fishing vessel in distress -- the helicopter's rotor blades may have struck the fishing vessel's rigging. All but one of the crew survived.

The Coast Guard elected not to purchase any further HH-34s after Sikorsky's new turbine-powered HH-52s became available. For the next two decades, the service's future helicopter fleet was made up of strictly HH-52 Seaguards.



"New U.S. Coast Guard HUS-1G helicopter with droppable fuel tank, visiting Naval Air Station at Anacostia before proceeding to its assigned homeport at Coast Guard Air Detach. in New Orleans (in old yellow paint scheme)."; photo is dated 3 May 1960 but handwritten notation on the negative sleeve states: "taken in Sept. 1960 after acceptance"; CG Photo No. CPI-09-03-60; photo by CPHOT J. E. Watson, USCG.



USCG HUS-1G; No caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown.



"COUNTRY DOCTOR -- AIR AGE STYLE. Once a month the Coast Guard's Sikorsky S-58 helicopter flies a doctor around the Louisiana bayous country for calls on enlisted men and their dependents living at isolated light and boat stations. Here Lt. Lowell T. York, assistant medical officer and flight surgeon for the Naval Air Station at New Orleans, La., visits Head of Passes, a critical light station at the mouth of the Mississippi River. He is talking with Petty Officer and Mrs. James W. Figueira and their two-year-old daughter, Jean. The Figueiras, who are from Beaumont, Tex., are one of three families on the island. The S-58 lands in their yard. The copter crew stands at the left."; RELEASE - SUNDAY, January 31, 1960; Photo by Sikorsky Aircraft; Frank J. Delear, Public Relations Manager.



The U.S. Coast Guard HUS-1G helicopter over New Orleans."; 9 April 1960; CG Photo No. 8CGD-040960-01; photographer unknown.

Sources:

Arthur Percy, *U.S. Coast Guard Aircraft Since 1916* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1991), pp. 232-233.

