

**1/32 Scale Bell AH-1G
Cobras in Vietnam**

68-15189 Wretched Mildred

D Troop, 3rd Brigade, 4th Calvary
Chu Chi airfield, Vietnam, 1971

Initially, overall 34088 with the signature sharkmouth, 4th calvary pennon on the tail, and a centaur on the rotor mast cover.
In 1972, the pilot "ran out of left pedal" while backing out of the revetment, severely damaging the tail boom.



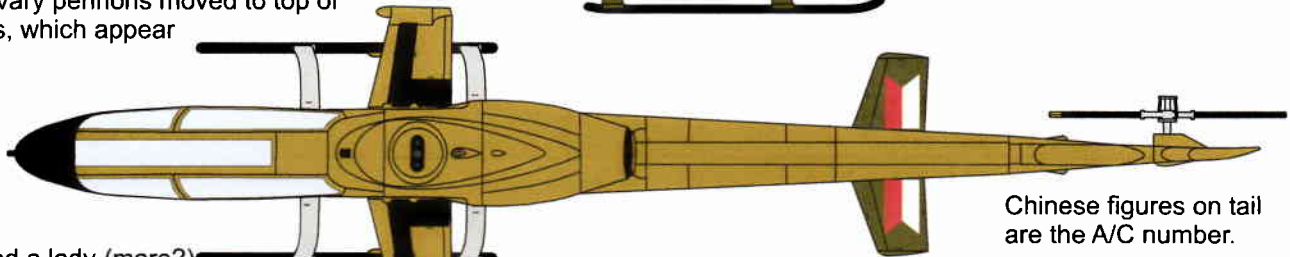
Armament: XM-134 7.62 minigun and XM129 40mm grenade launcher in M28 chin turret

2x M158 open tube 7-shot 2.75" rocket launcher (outboard pylons), 2x XM200 enclosed 19-shot 2.75" rocket launcher (inboard pylons).

Note left side tail rotor

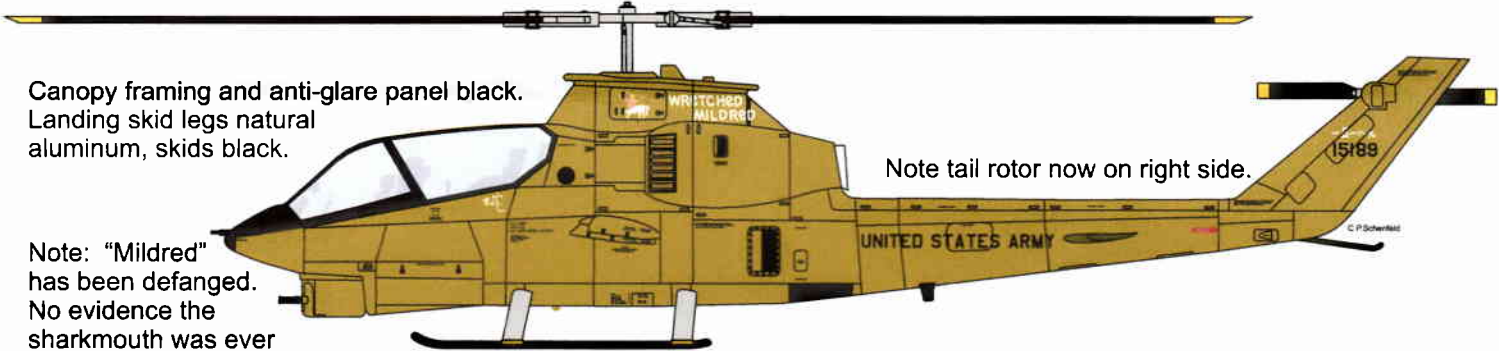
NOTE: SET THIS PIECE BEFORE APPLYING SHARKTEETH

After repairs, 189 was repainted, probably 33105. 4th Calvary pennons moved to top of horiz. stabilizers, which appear to be 34088 .



Chinese figures on tail are the A/C number.

189 also received a lady (mare?) centaur, "snake" in Chinese under pilot canopy.



Canopy framing and anti-glare panel black. Landing skid legs natural aluminum, skids black.

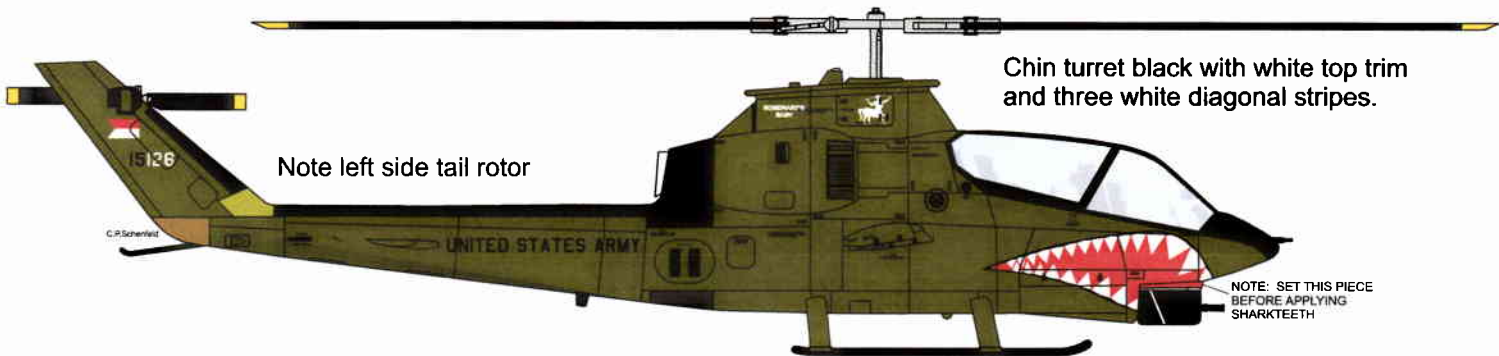
Note tail rotor now on right side.

Note: "Mildred" has been defanged. No evidence the sharkmouth was ever repainted.

68-15126 Rosemary's Baby

D Troop, 3rd Brigade, 4th Calvary
Chu Chi airfield, Vietnam, 1971

34088 overall, with rear of engine housing and forward portion of tail black. Armament similar to 189 above.



Note left side tail rotor

Chin turret black with white top trim and three white diagonal stripes.

NOTE: SET THIS PIECE BEFORE APPLYING SHARKTEETH



1/32 Scale Bell AH-1G
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68-15546 Mississippi Queen
D Troop, 3rd Brigade, 4th Calvary
Chu Chi airfield, Vietnam, 1971

Overall 34088 with the signature sharkmouth. 4th calvary pennon on top tail of horizontal stabilizer; and, provisionally, H (left) and 46 (right) on bottom.

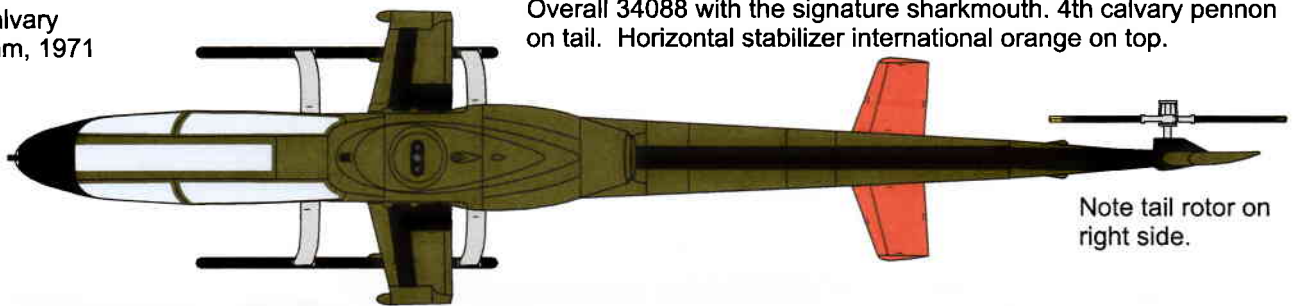
Armament: XM-134 7.62 minigun and XM129 40mm grenade launcher in M28 chin turret.
2x M158 open tube 7-shot 2.75" rocket launcher (outboard pylons),
2x XM200 enclosed 19-shot 2.75" rocket launcher (inboard pylons).



Note right side tail rotor.

68-15140
F Troop, 4th Calvary
Phu Bai, Vietnam, 1971

Overall 34088 with the signature sharkmouth. 4th calvary pennon on tail. Horizontal stabilizer international orange on top.



Note tail rotor on right side.

Armament: XM-134 7.62 minigun and XM129 40mm grenade launcher in M28 chin turret.
2x M158 open tube 7-shot 2.75" rocket launcher (outboard pylons),
2x XM200 enclosed 19-shot 2.75" rocket launcher (inboard pylons).

Note F/4 markings applied over A/77ARA markings on fuselage. Tail boom marking appear fresh.

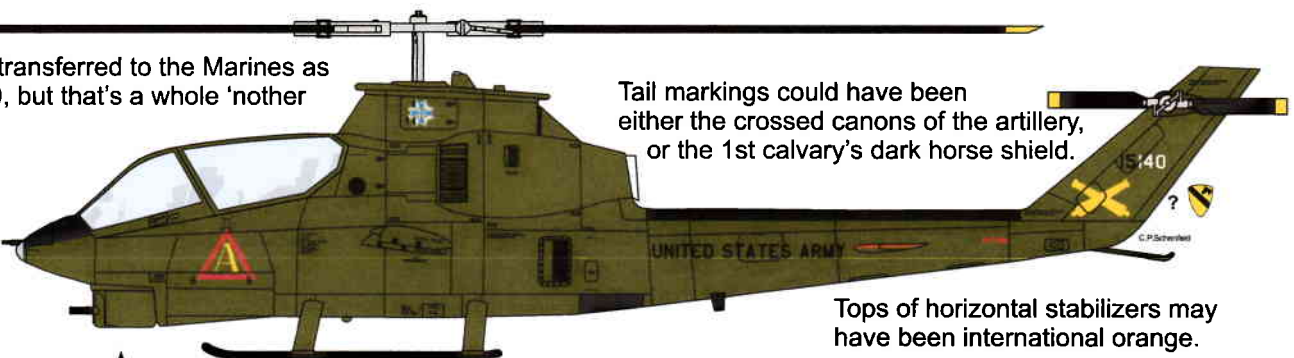


Tail boom appears to have been modified for right side tail rotor

140 is something of a mystery, since the markings for A Battery of the 77th Aerial Rocket Artillery unit are visible under the Centaur F Troop markings. Below is a probable reconstruction of the original markings. Tail rotor may have been of the original left side "pusher" style. Armament configuration is unknown.

140 eventually transferred to the Marines as Bu. No. 157220, but that's a whole 'nother story.

Tail markings could have been either the crossed canons of the artillery, or the 1st calvary's dark horse shield.



Tops of horizontal stabilizers may have been international orange.



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Cobras in Vietnam

69-16420 Callsign "Cobra 33"

Cobra Platoon, Delta Aviation Battalion
114th Assault Helicopter Co.
Vinh Long airfield, Vietnam, 1972

Overall 34031 with delta brigade's white triangle on the tail boom.
Horizontal stabilizer international orange on top.



Note left side tail rotor.

Armament: XM-134 7.62 minigun and
XM129 40mm grenade launcher
in M28 chin turret.
4x M158 open tube 7-shot
2.75" rocket launcher

Coiled cobra painted under cockpit, and
M&H Racemaster decal on rotor mast
cover on both sides. Callsign "33" on
both sides of vertical tail, and last
three (420) on front of mast cover.

Note applique
armor under cockpit,
and sponsons above
landing gear.



General Notes:

1. AH-1Gs went to Vietnam painted matt olive drab (34088) overall, with markings in semi-gloss black. Approximately 1968, some airframes were painted matt field drab 33105 as they went through depot-level maintenance. In the field, repairs were painted with stocks on hand, which could include matt or gloss helo drab (n4031). I
2. Main rotor mast and pitch control mechanism light gray. Blades semi-gloss black, and were usually painted yellow¹² at tip. Occasionally, white patches added along the length of the blade. Individual pitch control components marked with daubs of blue or white; one color per blade system. Tail rotor blades semi-gloss black with 6" yellow tips.
3. Landing skids originally body color, later semi-gloss black. In the field, leg fairings often stripped to reveal weathered natural aluminum color.
4. Interior matt interior gray (36231). Control panels black. Seat coverings and seatbelts various shades of OD.
5. Exposed portions of the M129 grenade launcher and M134 minigun blued steel (gloss black, actually). While the turret covers were originally body color, they were often overpainted black or decorated *en suite* with sharkmouth artwork.
6. Stencils and placards were often damaged, removed and/or overpainted. Not all aircraft carried all prescribed markings at all times.
7. Some Cobras received the anti-strella (heat-seeking-missile) conversion: engine exhaust rerouted upward thru an elbow stack, with additional cooling scoops for the engine compartment.

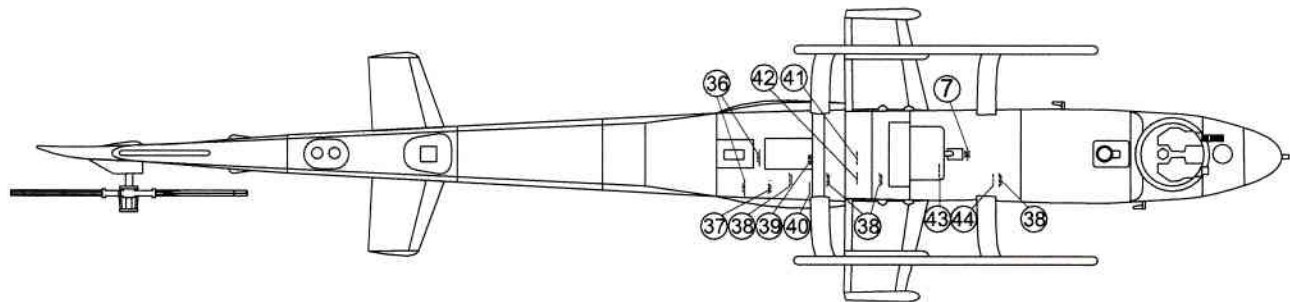
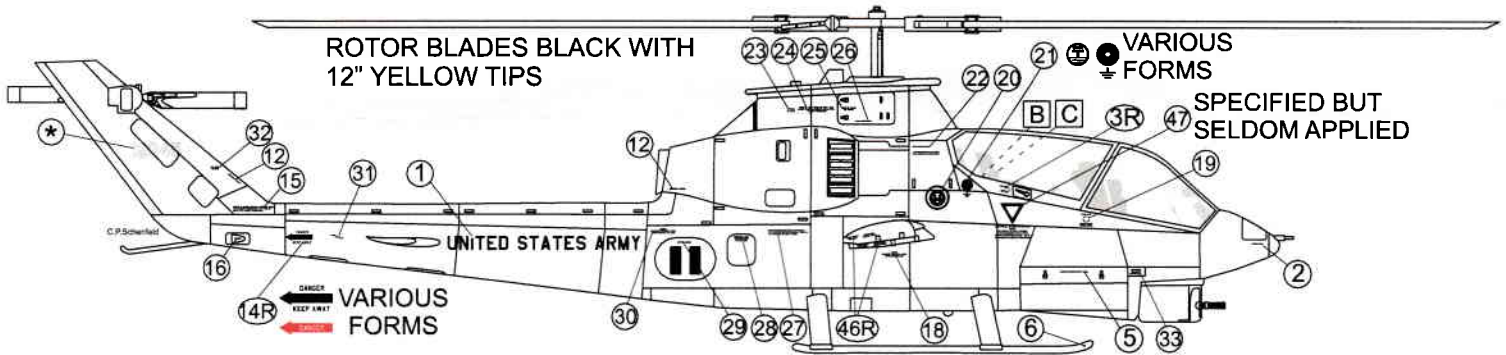
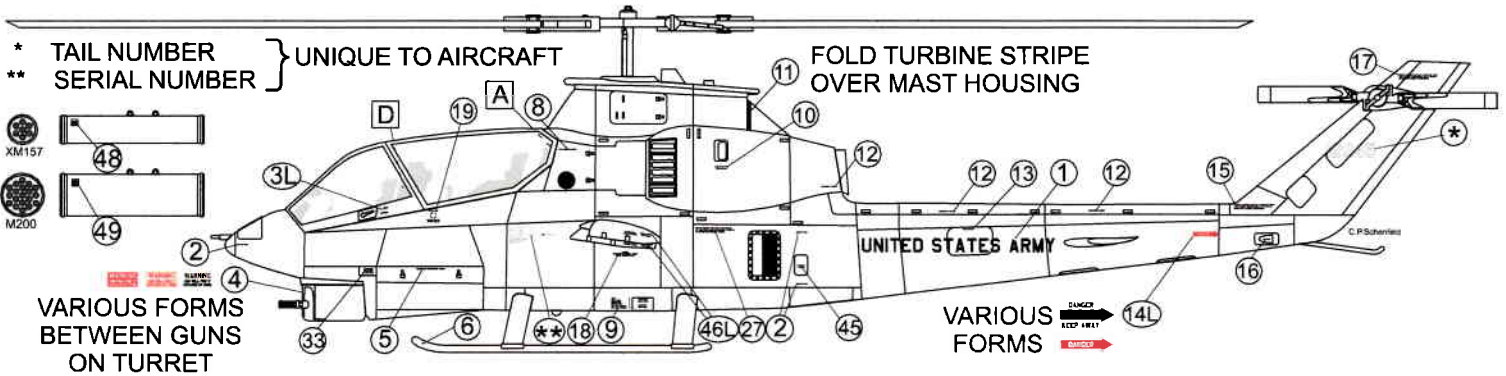
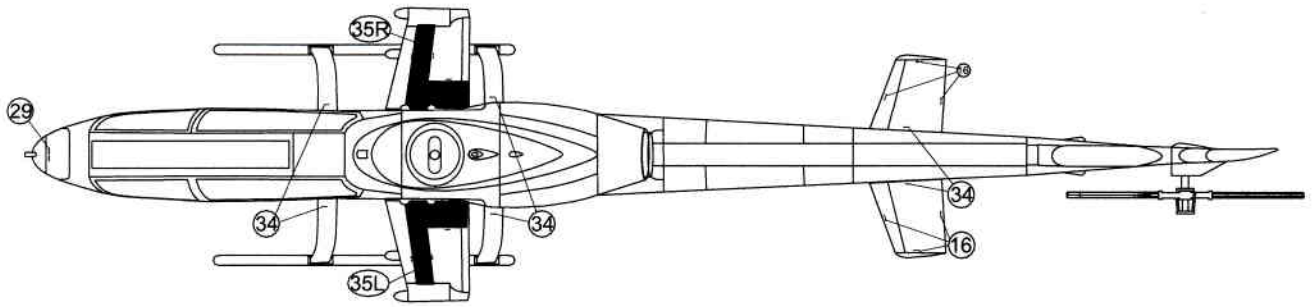
8. When applying the sharkmouth, apply the horseshoe-shaped piece to the turret ring first. Use setting solution to settle the decal over the complex surface. When completely dry, apply the main pieces such that they meet under the nose, and at the vertical surface behind the turret.
9. The tail boom received the direct blast of the jet exhaust. The tail rotor driveshaft cover was usually painted black, as were portions of the vertical tail. Additionally, the tail boom was usually darkened from exhaust staining.
10. 2.75" FFARs are notoriously dirty. Stub wings, pylons and rocket launchers were usually darkened (some might say blackened) by the rocket exhaust.

NOTE: Markings, colors and shapes are, at best, educated guesses using the best references available, combined with common practices for the era in question. For the Huey Cobra, in particular, photographers tended to concentrate on the elaborate nose art, relegating such information as aircraft serial numbers, crew names and even the unit(s) to the dustbin of history.

REFERENCES:
TM 55-1500-345-23
MIL-C-46168D
<https://museum.vhpa.org/>
<http://www.centaursinvietnam.org/index.html>
<https://www.aircav.com/aircav.html>



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|--|--|---|---|--|---|
|  30118 FIELD DRAB |  33105 HELO FIELD DRAB |  34031 HELO AIRCRAFT GREEN |  34088 OLIVE DRAB |  36231 INTERIOR GRAY |  37038 AIRCRAFT BLACK |
|  31136 INSIGNIA RED |  33538 INSIGNIA YELLOW |  32246 INTERNATIONAL ORANGE | | | |

