

Bell 206/406/407/427
(TH-57 OH-58 TH-67 ARH-70)
series



The legendary Bell 206B JetRanger III is simply the most successful commercial helicopter ever built. Flying in every type of climate from the arctic to the jungles, to the hottest deserts of the world. The 206 has accepted, accomplished more missions, has flown more hours and has set (and broken) more industry records than any other aircraft in the world.



The Bell Model 206 was originally designed to meet the needs of the US Army LOH (*Light Observation Helicopter*) 1962 competition as the [YOH-4](#). The 206 was defeated by the [Hughes OH-6](#) but a much-modified derivative, the **Bell 206A** was commercially successful and later adopted by the US Navy as the TH-57 Sea Ranger for training purposes. In 1968, the 206A was selected as the "LOH 2nd Edition" winner and entered the US Army inventory as the OH-58A Kiowa.

Several variants were introduced to the civilian market including the standard **Bell 206B3** five-seat model and the **Bell 206L4 LongRanger**, a stretched seven-seat version adding two rear-facing seats in between the front and rear seats. The two-engine **Bell 206LT TwinRanger** made its first flight in 1990.

After these successes, Bell introduced in 1994 the **Bell 407** a new light four-bladed single engine helicopter and the **Bell 427**, the twin engine variant, in 1995.

The US Army had continuously improved the Kiowa through the OH-58C to the **AHIP** (Advanced Helicopter Improvement Program) OH-58D Kiowa Warrior capable of firing Hellfire missiles.

In 1993, the US Army awarded Bell an \$85 million contract to build 102 new modified 206B-3, as the **TH-67 Creek** training helicopter to replace the [TH-1 Huey](#).

After the [RAH-66 Comanche](#) cancellation, on July 29, 2005 Bell was awarded with a US Army contract to build 368 **ARH** based on the Bell 407/427 and to be known as the **ARH-70**.

The Bell Ranger was built also by Agusta in Italy as the *AB.206*

July 22, 1994: Speed flight record around the world. American Ron Bower on a Bell 206B JetRanger III flew the course taking 24½ days to attain an average speed of 65.97 km/h

US Army's OH-58A Kiowa

Copyrighted by Richard Marshall



[OH-58A cockpit](#)

US Navy's TH-57 Sea Ranger



Bell 206 Jet Ranger



US Army's OH-58D Kiowa Warrior (Bell 406 AHIP)



OH-58D loading on USAF C-5 Galaxy



Bell TH-67 Creek US Army trainer



Bell 407



Bell 427



Bell ARH **ARH-70**



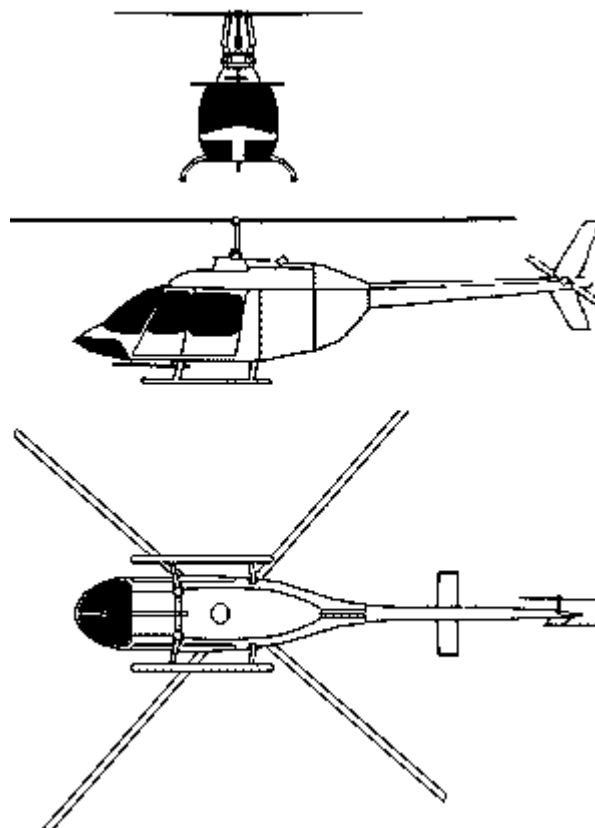
Functions: Utility / Observation / Trainer / VIP

First Flights :

Bell 206 **LOH** *YOH-4* : 1963
Bell 206A *JetRanger* : Jan 10, 1966
TH-57 / OH-58A : 1968
OH-58C : 1975
Bell 406 **AHIP** *OH-58D* : 1981
Bell *TH-67 Creek* : 1992
Bell 407 : 1994
Bell 427 : 1995
Bell **ARH** *ARH-70* : 2005

Crew / Load: 2 / 4

OH-58C :
Engines: 1 * 420 hp Allison T-63-A-720
Top Speed: 220 km/h
Range: Max.: 490 km
Ceiling: 5.760 m
Weight: Empty: 719 kg -- Max: 1451
Rotor Span: 10.77 m
Length: 12.49 m
Height: 2.91 m
Disc Area: 91.09 m²



Contribution: *Aviation Animation Site*

Related News:

Related News
click here

- [Mexico buys 24 helicopters for Anti-Drug war](#) *Oct 21, 1999*
- [RAF and US Army Training Fleet Add 17 More TH-67](#) *Jul 22, 2002*
- [Bell 407 Used to Re-Supply Navy Ships at Sea](#) *Sep 13, 2002*
- [Useful Load on Bell 206B3 Jet Ranger Increased](#) *Jan 16, 2004*
- [Bell Helicopter Sells 600th 407 Helicopter](#) *Mar 14, 2004*
- [Bell Submits Bid for Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter](#) *Jun 24, 2005*
- [Bell awarded Army contract to build 368 ARH](#) *Jul 29, 2005*