



THIS WAS TAKEN AT TSN (COURTESY OF SID NANSON)

Have been doing a bit more research on the VNAF's use of the H-19's.

According to my records, the VNAF were given two lots of H-19B's. The first lot of 5 were handed over after they had been in use with the French Indo Chinese forces in 1958. Originally the French Indo Chinese forces were given 6 ex USMC HRS's, delivered to them in 1951, plus 19 H-19B's which came direct off the production line in 1952. Looking at the survivors of these H-19B's, of which there were 5, they were all returned to USAF control in 1958. Which is exactly the timeframe that 5 H-19B's were procured by the USAF for the fledgling VNAF, so it would be a fair bet that these were the first 5 for the VNAF.

The serials were 52-7590, 7594, 7598, 7599 and 7600. I think we have photo proof of 7594 with the VNAF.

The second batch delivered to the VNAF was for 9 machines. These were declared as "EXCESS" to the USAF and as such were supplied at zero cost. Some serials I have of this second batch, show from my records that they were transferred in September 1960, yet others show they were transferred in 1963, which is strange, to say the least. I read in your documentation that the VNAF had 8 on charge when the programme started, 3 active and 5 in storage.

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