

## squadronSignal OV-1 Mohawk

Squadron/Signal #5549 ISBN 0-89747-540-2 By Ken Neubeck



The Grumman OV-1 Mohawk was the first turboprop aircraft to enter into U.S. Army service to fill the role of visual, photo, and electronic reconnaissance. It was unique in its design, and it never received the recognition for its accomplishments in over 40 years of service. It was originally planned for both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marines, but it was used solely by the Army when the Marines pulled out early in the project.

The aircraft featured two Lycoming T53-L-3 engines mounted on top of the wings. For production, the engines would later be upgraded to the T53-L-7. The aircraft featured ejection seats for the pilot and observer, because the aircraft had large propellers and conventional bailout would not be possible. The first prototype aircraft was designated as the YAO-1 and flew in April 1959; nine YAO-1 aircraft were built by Grumman Aircraft Corp. at its Bethpage facility in New York.

