

The Huey

By [Charlie Ostick](#)

Have you ever wondered how the HU-1 later the UH-1 series helicopters got the nickname Huey? Well, here's your answer.

GI's have been giving things nicknames forever. Here are few examples...

1. **GI** for government issue service members.
2. **Jeep** for the truck utility, ¼ ton.
3. **Banana** for the H-21.
4. **Grunt, Gravel Agitator, and Ground-Pounder** for the Infantry.
5. **Fly Boy** for Aviators.
6. **Chow** for GI food.
7. **Huey** for the Bell Helicopter UH-1 Iroquois series.

Back in late '62 and early '63 the UH-1's were known as HU-1's (the US Army name change had not gotten to us yet). In the UTT (Utility Tactical Transport Helicopter Company), we had both HU-1A's and HU-1B's. One night while sitting over a few beers (maybe more than a few) some UTT pilots (including me) were pondering how to pronounce the abbreviation HU-1A. We started out... "ho-we-ah", "hu-we-ah", "h-u-one-aaa", "hu-wi-ahh", "hu-ie-ah", "hu-ie-ah", "hu-ie-ah", "huey", "huey", "huey". After that night, the HU-1A was known as the Huey in the UTT. I do not know how the name "Huey" got spread Army-wide.



HU-1A (Huey) with UTT installed M-38, 30 cal. MG, and 2.75 inch rockets.