

Lionel Sosa/U.S. Army

Air Recon

With its distinctive bubble canopy and exposed tail framework, the Bell OH-13 Sioux was a light observation helicopter used by the Army for reconnaissance during the Vietnam War. In this painting, the aircraft carries an engineer commander surveying a potential construction site from the air.

The painting is the work of Army Spec. 5 Lionel Sosa of Jacksonville, Florida. Sosa was among the engineer-artists that the Army Engineer Command, Vietnam brought to Biên Hòa in 1967 to create art illustrating the command's work in the war.

Sosa, a sign painter and illustrator for the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) at Long Giao near Saigon, studied art in high school and at the University of Texas. He described the painting, which he titled "Air Recon," with these words: "Flying over dense jungle, an engineer commander reconnoiters the site for a forward air strip."

Correction: This issue's print edition Parting Shot, "Air Recon," on page 44 misidentified the helicopter depicted in Lionel Sosa's painting. The aircraft is a Bell OH-13 Sioux, not a Hughes OH-6 Cayuse ("Loach"). We regret the error and thank the readers who brought it to our attention. ◆