



## U.S. Customs and Border Protection

### *Piper Cheyenne III A PA-42*

# FACT SHEET



The Cheyenne III A PA-42 is a high-endurance, all-weather, tactical turbo-prop aircraft, designed specifically for the Office of Air and Marine (OAM).

The PA-42 is a medium-range, fixed-wing aircraft used to perform missions such as aerial surveillance and security, airborne interception, and detection and monitoring. The PA-42 is equipped with fire-control radar from the U.S. Air Force F-16 Falcon and a Forward Looking Infrared Detection system. These aircraft, which fly with a crew of three (pilot, copilot, and sensor operator), can operate from remote landing strips..

**Notable Operations:** The OAM PA-42s were integral in assisting with disaster response efforts during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. PA-42s used infrared radar to track the oil spill and provide vital information to disaster relief personnel on the ground. They also provided valuable airspace deconfliction to ensure the safety of air traffic in the region surrounding the response efforts.

#### Performance and Weights:

- **Maximum Speed**  
260 knots (299 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**  
35,000 feet
- **Range**  
1,300 nautical miles (1,496 miles)
- **Endurance**  
5 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**  
13,450 pounds

#### Features:

- Forward Looking Infrared Detection System detects infrared radiation created by objects warmer or colder than ambient temperature. This helps pilots see targets of interest.
- AN/APG-66 Fire Control Radar used for detecting and tracking targets of interest.