

## BELL HELICOPTER HIGHLIGHTS

### Year 1935

July 10      Lawrence D. Bell founds Bell Aircraft Corporation with 56 employees.

### Year 1941

November 1      Development work begun by Bell on first helicopter.

### Year 1942

May 1      Building in Gardenville, N.Y., near Buffalo, leased for Bell helicopter project.

### Year 1943

July 29      First formal flight of Bell helicopter, at Gardenville, N.Y.

### Year 1944

May 10      Aviation history is made when Bell helicopter is flown inside 65th Regiment Armory, Buffalo, N.Y., first U.S. indoor flight.

### Year 1945

January 5      Bell helicopter flies doctor to injured pilot, who had bailed out of an airplane and became snowbound in Western New York farmhouse.

### Year 1946

March 8      Bell Model 47B granted world's first commercial helicopter license.

May 8      Bell receives Helicopter Type Certificate No. 1, first granted by Civil Aeronautics Administration.

December 31      First production line Bell helicopter delivered to U.S. Army.

Year 1947

- January 6 First two YH-13A helicopters built for Army Air Force leave plant in C-82 for Alaska.
- April 11 Delivery of 13 helicopters for Army Air Force and Navy represents largest single delivery of rotary-wing aircraft to date.

Year 1948

- February 1 Floyd Carlson rescues, by Bell helicopter, three fishermen marooned on Lake Erie ice.
- September 27 Air Force announces two-place liaison XH-15 helicopter is being built by Bell.

Year 1949

- March 18 Bell helicopter sets altitude record of 18,550 feet.
- March 28 Bell helicopter sets speed record of 133.9 miles per hour.
- April 1 Bell announces Model 47D-1 utility helicopter, capable of carrying three passengers or 500-pound payload.
- May 13 Bell Aircraft Supply Corporation formed to fly helicopter oil surveys in South and Southwest and to service helicopter operations on West Coast.

Year 1950

- September 21 Bell 47D-1 becomes first helicopter to fly over the Alps.
- October 21 Bell Model 48 announced.
- November 10 Eight H-13D helicopters, first of new Army order, sent to Korea.

Year 1951

- January 30 55-acre site at Hurst selected for Bell Aircraft Corporation's helicopter division.
- February 12 Navy's Bell XHSL-1 announced.
- February 15 Globe Plant north of Fort Worth occupied and extensive Texas hiring started.
- May 21 Ground-breaking for Hurst plant.
- December 3 Personnel begin occupying Hurst plant.

Year 1952

September 17 Bell Pilot Elton J. Smith set world's record for helicopter distance flight in straight line without payload. Smith flew a Bell 47D-1 non-stop from Hurst, Texas, to Buffalo, N.Y. -- 1,217.137 miles.

Year 1953

March 3 HSL's first flight.  
April 10 1,000th model rolls off assembly line.  
July 1 First Army order (21 ships) for H-13H.

Year 1954

January 26 First delivery to Navy of HSL-1.  
April 5 Last B-36 pod delivered to Convair.  
June 17 HSL-1 completes 1,465-mile flight from Fort Worth to Patuxent River, Md.  
October 20 First flight of XH-13F turbine helicopter.

Year 1955

February 10 XV-3 convertiplane rollout.  
February 23 Bell wins industry competition for Army's first production line turbine-powered utility helicopter (Bell 204/Army UH-1 model), first all-Texas designed and developed model.  
August 11 First flight of XV-3 convertiplane.  
August 12 First order of 10 ships for Navy HUL-1 helicopters.

Year 1956

September 3 Army pilots at National Air Show, Oklahoma City, set unofficial world's record for helicopter endurance flight by keeping H-13H aloft for 57 hours, 50 minutes.  
September 4 Pilot Joe Mashman and Service Rep Joe Beebe leave Hurst in 47J on 83-day introductory tour of the new model through Central and South America.  
October 20 Lawrence D. Bell dies.

Year 1957

- January 1 Bell Helicopter Corporation founded as wholly-owned subsidiary of Bell Aircraft Corporation.
- January 18 Navy announced order for HTL-7 helicopters.
- March 29 Two H-13J helicopters delivered to Air Force for presidential use.
- July 12 President Eisenhower rides in H-13J from White House lawn to command post as part of civil defense exercise.
- December 11 2,000th Model 47 rolls off assembly line, with Lyndon B. Johnson witnessing ceremony.

Year 1958

- September 5 Brazilian president receives one of four 47J Rangers bought by that country.
- December 18 XV-3 makes aviation history with first 100 per cent conversion of tilting prop-rotor aircraft.

Year 1959

- March 13 Bell receives order for Army HU-1A helicopters.
- April 17 XV-3 convertiplane becomes first VTOL craft to shift gears in flight.
- July 10 Bell announces Navy contract for turbine-powered HUL-1M.

Year 1960

- April 27 First flight of HU-1B system.
- May 26 Ten HU-1A Army medical evacuation helicopters air lifted to Chile for Operation Amigo relief mission.
- July 5 Textron Inc. of Providence, R.I., purchases defense activities of Bell Aircraft Corp. and sets up Bell Aerospace Corp. as wholly-owned subsidiary with three operating divisions: Bell Helicopter Co., Bell Aerosystems Co., and Hydraulic Research and Manufacturing Co.
- July 19-26 Army pilots fly HU-1 to seven world helicopter records.



Year 1961

January 10 Initial flight of Navy's HUL-1M, first aircraft to be powered by 250 shp, T-63 turbine engine.

January 31 Al Averill, flying 47J-2, sets world helicopter record in Class E-1.c for 100-kilometer speed in closed circuit. His speed 107.081 mph, breaking Russian-held mark.

January 31 Lou Hartwig, flying 47J-2, sets world helicopter record in Class E-1.b for 100-kilometer speed in closed circuit. His speed 104.613 mph, breaking Czechoslovakian-held mark.

February 2 Lou Hartwig, flying 47G, sets three Class E-1.b world records on one flight. One is non-stop distance in closed circuit, 631.436 miles. Second is 500-kilometer speed in closed circuit, 73.985 mph. Third is 1,000-kilometer speed in closed circuit, 73.351 mph. All three marks are first records to be set in these categories and weight class.

February 8 Al Averill, flying 47G, sets world helicopter record in Class E-1.b for non-stop distance in straight line without payload, 731.22 miles. New record for this category.

February 8 Dr. Dora Dougherty, flying Bell 47G-3, sets feminine world helicopter record for altitude without payload, 19,385 feet. Old record held by Russia.

February 10 Dr. Dora Dougherty, flying Bell 47G-3, sets feminine world helicopter record for non-stop distance in straight line without payload, 405.83 miles. Old record held by Russia.

April 17 Bell receives \$4,000,000 order for eight Model 204B/HU-1 helicopters for Royal Australian Air Force.

April 19 Bell announces whole new range of high-altitude capabilities for helicopter operations opened by new turbo-supercharged 47G-3B in Pikes Peak test.

April 27 Vice President Lyndon Johnson and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer arrive at Austin, Texas in HU-1A.

May 19 Bell HO-4 announced as one of three LOH design winners.

June 9 HTL-6 sets unofficial world record for helicopter flight endurance of 72 hours and two minutes at Navy's Ellyson Field, Pensacola, Fla.

November 13 Bell receives \$6,000,000 contract for procurement of five HO-4 light observation helicopter prototypes.

December 8 Bell announces receipt of \$70,000,000 worth of new government business, including HO-4, RAAF contracts and follow production of the HU-1B and HU-1D Army helicopters.

Year 1962

January 20 Mitsui & Co., Ltd. licensed to manufacture Bell commercial model 204 in Japan.

March 3 Bell's UH-1E wins competition for production contract for U.S. Marine Corps' ASH (assault support helicopter)

April 13 U.S. Army's Capt. Boyce B. Buckner sets world record in Bell YHU-1D by climbing to 6,000 meters (19,686 ft.) in 5 minutes 51 seconds.

April 14 U.S. Army's Lt. Col. Leland Wilhelm sets world record in Bell YHU-1D by climbing to 3,000 meters (9,843 ft.) in 2 minutes 17 seconds.

April 20 U.S. Army's Capt. W. F. Gurley sets world class record in Bell YHU-1D by flying 1,000 kilometers in closed circuit at average speed of 134.9 miles per hour.

May 2 Bell President E. J. Ducayet elected president of American Helicopter Society.

Year 1963

January 7 Harvey Gaylord, president of Bell Aerospace Corporation is elected executive vice president of Textron Inc.

February Bell UH-1B carries 32 flood refugees and crew of four in one flight in Morocco.

March High-performance UH-1B flies more than 170 miles per hour

April 15 FAA certifies Bell Model 204B.

May 31 U.S. Army accepts first Bell UH-1D.

June 7 Bell wins competition to build UH-1F for the U.S. Air Force.

October 29 Bell plant cognizance changes from U.S. Navy to U.S. Army; noted in elaborate ceremonies at Hurst plant.

In same program, \$108,320,407 contract for UH-1B and UH-1D ships announced by Congressman Jim Wright.



Year 1964

January 6 Bell receives \$7,662,257 production contract from U.S. Marines for UH-1E helicopters.

February 15 New Engineering and Research facility occupied at plant.

February 20 Bell delivers 850th UH-1; first flight of UH-1F series; and, first delivery of UH-1E made to operational Marine unit.

March 20 British Army orders 150 47G-3B-1 helicopters.

May 25 YUH-1B flies 222 mph in unofficial new world record.

June 18 \$5,762,850 contract for 103 47G-3B-1's modified to trainer configuration for Army.

September 24 First operational UH-1F delivered to Air Force.

November 6 Ten world flight records set by UH-1D.

December 7 Four bladed rigid rotor flown in high speed flight.

December 17 Eleven more world records claimed by UH-1D making total of 21 for the Iroquois model and a total of 27 records held by Bell helicopters.

December 24 Bell receives \$98,517,345 contract for 720 UH-1B's and UH-1D's.

Year 1965

January 5 204B sling-lifts and assembles the first oil well cementing unit built for helicopter transport for remote drilling operations. (Halliburton Company, Duncan, Oklahoma.

January 27 First delivery of U.S. Army's Instrument Trainer, TH-13.

March 2 Bell wins industry-wide competition to produce turbine-powered UH-1Es for U.S. Marine Corps.

March 2 Production record believed to be unprecedented in aerospace industry with 100 consecutive months of on-schedule deliveries to U.S. Government.

March 19 New V/STOL design--Trailing Rotor Machine.

April 5 West German Parliamentary Committee in Bonn approves selection of UH-1D with order of 406 helicopters costing approximately \$125 million.

April 29 Development and first flight of helicopter with Twin-Turbine power plant (UH-1D).

1965 - continued

- July 14 Bell receives additional U.S. Army order for 720 helicopters (255 UH-1Bs and 465 UH-1Ds). Bell also received a 720-ship order for UH-1 models in December 1964, the largest number of UH-1 models ever purchased in a single order. This follow-up procurement is approximately \$100 million.
- September 20 Bell announces development of HueyCobra, a modified version of UH-1B. It features streamlined fuselage configuration for maximum speed, armament payload and crew effectiveness.
- October 12 Bell unveils new 5 place high-speed JetRanger for addition to its 1966 commercial line. It will fly at speeds in excess of 140 miles per hour and carry a 1500-pound useful load.
- October 25 HueyCobra records sustained level flight cruise speed of 200 miles per hour. Official world speed for its weight class is 180.1 miles per hour.
- November 17 A \$297,000 contract for preliminary design study for new research VTOL (vertical take off and landing) rotary-wing composite aircraft awarded to Bell.

Year 1966

- January 10 Roll-out of JetRanger, new 5-place utility ship, at Fort Worth facility. Ship immediately enters flight test program.
- April 13 U.S. Army awards Bell production order for 110 HueyCobra
- May 20 A three-bladed spacecraft recovery rotor system that could allow astronauts to safely land their capsules at low speeds is successfully tested.
- June 28 Bell receives largest contract in its history and the largest ever awarded by U.S. Army Aviation Materiel Command, totalling \$249,457,443 for 2,115 UH-1 Iroquois helicopters.
- August 25 Halvorson-Lent's Transcanyon Pipeline Project nears completion at Grand Canyon. It is one of the greatest construction challenges in history, using helicopters exclusively to lay water pipe in floor of canyon.
- September 1 U.S. Army awards Bell \$44,377,858 letter contract for 708 UH-1D helicopters.
- September 21 A unique radar antenna built into the blade of a helicopter is successfully tested.



1966 - continued

- October 17      Delivery of three UH-1D helicopters completes order for 11 ships constituting New Zealand's first armed forces rotary-wing fleet.
- November 30     Army continues helicopter buildup by placing \$21,795,000 order for 210 more HueyCobras.

Year 1967

- January 13      First two deliveries of production 206A JetRanger made at HAA convention to Hollymatic Corp. of Park Forest, Ill. and to National Helicopter Service & Engineering Co. of Van Nuys, Calif.
- February 15     Dominion Helicopters Ltd. and Pegasus Airlifts, Canadian operators, establish joint air taxi service using four JetRangers and four 47J-2's at the Canadian International Exposition of 1967 (Expo '67).
- March 10        The Brazilian Air Force purchases its first UH-1D's, acquiring six aircraft to supplement 47G and 47J fleet.
- March 14        First export delivery of production model 206A made to Helicopter Sales (Aust) Pty. Ltd., Bell dealer in Australia.
- March 14        Los Angeles County Fire Department becomes first municipality to purchase 204B.
- March 16        Army officially accepts AH-1G name of "HueyCobra".
- June 15         First delivery of a production AH-1G is made to Army.
- June 22         Army contract is awarded for 141 TH-13T instrument trainers.
- August 1        German Army accepts first UH-1D assembled in Germany under coproduction contract between Bell and Dornier, GmbH. for 380 helicopters.
- August 14       The UH-1D is selected as the first helicopter to be used in the all-around ground support operations of the Canadian Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force). Ten aircraft are ordered.
- October 4        Bell announces a new 15-place commercial model, the 205A, to be available in 1968. It is the largest commercial model ever manufactured by Bell.
- October 7        Army announces it has deployed the HueyCobra in Vietnam. First combat kill is credited to Maj. Gen. George P. Seneff, commander of First Aviation Brigade, who destroyed a sampan with four Viet Cong aboard.

Year 1968

January 31 U.S. Navy selects JetRanger as its light turbine trainer orders 40 for delivery by end of 1968.

February 8 Bell announces it will open Overhaul & Modification Center at Amarillo, Texas, in buildings being phased out by U.S. Air Force. William Humphrey named general manager of facility, which will repair and refurbish battle-damaged Army helicopters.

March 6 Brazilian Air Force orders seven JetRangers and six more UH-1D's to update and expand its helicopter forces.

March 8 JetRanger named winner of the U.S. Army's re-opened light observation helicopter (LOH) competition. Bell awarded \$123,000,000 contract for 2,200 aircraft, with deliveries scheduled between 1969 and 1972.

April 24 Canadian Government approves development of a twin-engine UH-1 powered by United Aircraft of Canada Pratt & Whitney PT6T-3 turbine. The contract is expected to lead to Canada's equipping its armed forces with the new aircraft.

May 14 Bell delivers its 10,000th helicopter, a JetRanger, to Petroleum Helicopters, Inc., world's largest operator.

May 16 Navy picks Huey as its advanced rotary-wing trainer, orders 45 TH-1L's, plus eight UH-1L utility aircraft.

May 29 U.S. Marines order 49 HueyCobras, becoming second branch of armed forces to buy high-speed gunship.

August 5 Army awards Bell contract for 900 UH-1H's, second largest order ever received for Hueys.

September 17 New York City Police Department, pioneer in use of helicopters by law enforcement agencies, marks 20th anniversary of purchase of first Bell. NYCPD has all-Bell fleet.

October 8 Bell announces that its Model 212, nation's first twin-engine, medium-size commercial helicopter, will be ready for delivery early in 1970.

December 11 Atlantic Aviation Corporation, headquartered at Wilmington, Del., named to the first Bell Helicopter dealership in U.S., serving the populous eastern seaboard area.



Year 1969

April 15 Bell compound research helicopter attains speed of 316 MPH in level flight--an unofficial record which still stands today.

April 17 U.S. Air Force awards Bell contract to define design characteristics of folding proprotor aircraft.

May 1 Bell announces that its Twin Two-Twelve flight testing is well underway. Certification expected in 1970 to touch off full-scale production.

May 23 U.S. Army accepts first OH-58A light observation helicopter from Bell. Aircraft is designated as Kiowa.

August 19 Republic of China and Bell Helicopter sign license agreement for co-production of Model 205 helicopter.

August 28 Navy and Marines join Air Force in ordering the new twin-engine Huey helicopter, designated UH-1N. Order for 62 includes 40 for Navy, 22 for Marines. Air Force previously had ordered 79.

September 19 Canadian Government orders 50 twin-engine Bell helicopters designated CUH-1N, for its armed forces.

October 10 U.S. Marines' AH-1J SeaCobra, a twin-engine version of the HueyCobra, unveiled by Bell before a gathering of armed forces representatives. Marines have ordered 49.

November 3 U.S. Navy accepts first UH-1L utility helicopter from Bell for deployment to Pacific Fleet.

December 8 Army announces first deployment of OH-58A Kiowa helicopter to battle units in Vietnam has taken place.

Year 1970

January 30 U.S. Army awards contract for 170 additional HueyCobras with \$5 million initial funding.

March 20 Army orders 289 UH-1H's with \$20 million initial funding.

April 30 Canadian Government selects OH-58A as LOH for Canadian Forces, orders 74.

July 24 Bell opens factory-operated sales and service center in Van Nuys, California.

September 30 PHI reaches millionth flight hour.

October 2 Air Force formally accepts first UH-1N Twin Huey at Eglin AFB.

1970 - continued

October 30 Bell's 212 Twin gets FAA type certificate.

November 24 Bell acquires its Australian dealership and will operate it as separate corporation.

December 22 First 212 Twin logbook is presented to Mack Trucks Inc., during delivery ceremony.

Year 1971

January 8 U.S. Army contracts for 300 UH-1H helicopters, funded at \$37.5 million.

February 24 Bell Helicopter and Government of Australia announce co-production program for 191 military and civil helicopters during next eight years.

April 15 U.S. Marine Corps takes delivery on first UH-1N Twin Huey of quantity order.

April 22 Bell JetRanger-II receives FAA Type Certification. Powered by Allison C-20 engine.

April 30 Canadian Armed Forces accepts first of 50 twin-engine Bell CUH-1N helicopters.

May 21 Fort Worth mayor proclaims Bell Week in honor of Bell's 20th year in Texas.

May 25 First production model of Bell's JetRanger-II delivered to Okanagan Helicopters Ltd. of Canada.

July 1 Bell 212-Twin receives FAA Category A Certification.

September 23 1963 experimental Sioux Scout helicopter presented to U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

September 23 KingCobra premieres for U.S. Military. KingCobra's role: performing anti-armor missions in adverse weather, terrain and threat environments.

December 13 E. J. Ducayet named chairman and James F. Atkins elevate to president of Bell.

December 16 First of 74 COH-58A light observation helicopters delivered to Canadian Armed Forces.



Year 1972

January	Prototype #2 KingCobra enters total systems integration phase of its development program.
February	Commercial and International Marketing break all-time records with firm orders for 105 helicopters valued at \$23,000,000.00 during month.
March 6	Bell receives \$24,732,793 contract for U.S. Army as prin systems integrator of the Improved Cobra Armament Progra (ICAP). Contract called for integration of TOW system into eight Bell/Army AH-1G HueyCobras.
April 24	U.S. Army Mobility R & D Lab, Ft. Eustis, awards Bell \$600,000 contract for investigation of new flexbeam (rigid) rotor system.
May 19	Bell Chairman E. J. Ducayet receives the Alexander Klemi award from the American Helicopter Society for "notable achievement in the advancement of rotary wing aeronautic
July 28	Bell and Agusta (Costruzione Aeronautiche Giovanni Agust mark 20 years of manufacturing under licensing agreement
August 2	Twenty-four UH-1H's added to co-production contract between Bell and Republic of China.
August 21	U.S. Air Force takes delivery of first two of 30-Bell HH-1H local base rescue helicopters.
October 24	Bell selected winner of 1972 James S. Cogswell award for outstanding security performance on classified defense contracts.
November 11	First HueyCobra (N209J prototype) is donated to George S Patton Museum at Fort Knox during dedication of museum.
November 16	Petroleum Helicopters Inc. orders 33 new Bell helicopter valued at \$5 million--largest single commercial order in history.
November 30	Bell announces breakthrough in elimination of helicopter vibration by suspending fuselage from "nodalized" beam.
December 6	Four Bell UH-1's assigned to launch site recovery force team during last programmed Apollo lunar mission--the first night launch from Kennedy Space Center.
December 22	Congressman Wright announces sale of 287 new Bell 214A's and 202 Model AH-1J's to Iran through the U.S. Governmen Total value of purchase exceeds \$500 million.

Year 1973

January 12 U.S. Army orders 74 additional Bell OH-58A helicopters. Contract valued at \$6.5 million.

February Bell Helicopter International Inc. formed as separate division of Textron to conduct business in Iran. Maj. Gen. Delk M. Oden, U.S. Army, ret., named president.

February 28 U.S. Marines order 20 additional AH-1J SeaCobras. Contract valued at \$5 million.

March 15 U.S. Army orders 180 UH-1H helicopters. Contract set at \$27.4 million.

March 20 U.S. Army orders 16 additional UH-1H helicopters under **March 15 option. Contract valued at \$2.6 million.**

March **1,000th JetRanger delivered.**

April 2 U.S. Navy orders 24 additional UH-1N helicopters. Nine-and-one-half million dollar contract.

April 13 Bell awarded NASA/U.S. Army contract to build and test two tilt-rotor research aircraft. Estimated cost of the four-year program to be \$28 million.

April 18 Bell announces \$6-million capital investment program. Includes \$1.7 million for test and evaluation lab.

May Bell President James F. Atkins named president of American Helicopter Society. Jan Drees, Bell chief of flight technology, awarded AHS' Grover Bell Award for developing nodal support system.

June 22 U.S. Army awards Bell \$44.7 million contract to initiate development of Advanced Attack Helicopter system. Total development funds could reach \$120 million. Three-year program to design and fabricate two flying prototypes and one ground test vehicle. Army will select production contractor for estimated \$500 million run in three to five years.

June All-time, single-month record of 70 commercial deliveries established during June.

September Development of new Model seven-place, light-turbine 206L Long Ranger announced. Initial deliveries targeted for 1975.



Year 1974

January 17	Construction of a \$2 million Paint Facility is approved for Bell's Hurst Plant.
January 31	Bell receives a \$59.2 million U.S. Army contract to modify 101 of the Army's existing AH-1G Huey Cobras into AH-1Q TOW/Cobras.
February 14	Bell dedicates new \$1.7 million Engineering Test & Evaluation Center.
March 1	A Bell Helicopter Supply Center is established at Schiphol East Airport, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
March 22	Iranian Model 214A makes initial flight.
April 19	Model 222, the first U.S.-built commercial light twin helicopter, receives a total development go-ahead.
April 23	A ceremony at the Hurst Plant commemorates the delivery of the 20,000th Bell helicopter.
April 30	Bell's integrated YAH-63 Advanced Attack Helicopter mockup is unveiled for inspection by the U.S. Army at the Fort Worth facility.
June 20	The first AH-1J Sea Cobra arrives in Iran.
September 10-12	Bell's new 214B "Big Lifter" makes its performance debut at a symposium for U.S. & Canadian representatives from logging, electrical utility & petroleum industries.
September 11	Bell's new Model 206L LongRanger makes its initial flight.
October 1	U. S. Army awards Bell modifications to two existing contracts, calling for 54 additional UH-1H utility helicopters. Value of the awards is nearly \$12 million.
December 16	An additional 189 Bell HueyCobra helicopters will be modified to AH-1Q TOW/Cobra configuration for the U. S. Army under a \$54 million contract.
December 20	Bell announces the establishment of a Marketing Services & Supply Center in Ottawa.

Year 1975

January 31 Bell's YAH-63 Advanced Attack Helicopter Ground Test Vehicle is rolled out at a brief ceremony at the Fort Worth facility.

February 8 Plans for a 200,000 square foot addition to the company's transmission and gear facility (Plant 5) in Grand Prairie are announced.

April 29 An Iranian Model 214A helicopter sets five world records in altitude and time-to-climb categories.

June 10 Delivery of the first of 290 production Model AH-1Q TOW/Cobra helicopters is made to the U.S. Army at Bell.

June Development of Bell's Model 222, the first U.S.-built light twin turbine commercial helicopter, moves from design phase to manufacturing of prototypes.

September 22 Bell's Model 206L LongRanger, the new seven-place, light-turbine helicopter, receives FAA certification.

October 1 Bell's YAH-63 Advanced Attack Helicopter prototype makes its first flight.

October 8 A major technological breakthrough is achieved by Bell when the main transmission of a Model 214A helicopter runs for one and one-half hours without oil.

October Bell's first XV-15 tilt-rotor research aircraft goes into final assembly.

October 29 Bell and Collins Radio Group announce the development of an IFR system for the JetRanger and the LongRanger.

November 21 The Government of Iran names Bell as its partner in a joint venture that will be organized to establish a modern helicopter industry in Iran. The program includes co-production of 400 Model 214 transport aircraft.

December 18 The U.S. Army awards Bell a \$37 million production contract for 44 units of the AH-1S, an improved version of the AH-1G HueyCobra.



Year 1976

January Bell Operations Corporation is formed to carry out Bell's long term co-production and joint venture agreement with the Government of Iran.

January Company adopts new name, Bell Helicopter Textron.

January 27 Bell's new Model 214B BigLifter receives FAA certification.

May 21 Ceremonies at the main plant mark the company's 25th Anniversary in Texas.

June The AH-1T, an improved version of the U.S. Marines AH-1J SeaCobra, makes its initial flight.

June Delivery of the first of 198 AH-1S, modifications of existing Army aircraft, is made to the U.S. Army at Bell's Amarillo facility.

July The 2,000th Fort Worth-built JetRanger is delivered to McDonald's Corporation.

August 13 Bell's 222, America's first light twin turbine commercial helicopter, makes its initial flight.

October The U.S. Army awards Bell a production contract for 22 additional units of the AH-1S, an advanced version of the HueyCobra, increasing the total on order to 66.

October 22 First NASA/Army tilt-rotor XV-15 is rolled out at the Arlington Flight Research Center.

October 27 Dedication ceremonies of Bell's Machining Center are held at Grand Prairie.

November 11 Bell is awarded a contract for 82 additional AH-1S improved HueyCobra helicopters.

December 17 The first of 38 Model 214C advanced utility helicopters for the Imperial Iranian Air Force is delivered to the U.S. Army.

Dec. 31 90 commercial helicopters delivered during December sets one-month delivery record.

YEAR 1977

- February 6 Bell's Model 222, America's first commercial mid-size turbine helicopter, makes its initial public flight at the Helicopter Association of America's annual meeting.
- February Bell announces the development of a JetRanger-III, a more powerful version of the world's most popular helicopter.
- March 16 The U.S. Army formally accepts the initial production model of the AH-1S, its most modern anti-armor helicopter.
- May 3 Bell's XV-15 tilt-rotor research aircraft makes first hover flight at the company's Arlington Flight Research Center.
- July JetRanger-III began deliveries to customers all over the world.
- July 28 U.S. Marines order 22 additional twin-engine AH-1T improved SeaCobras.
- August Petroleum Helicopters, Inc., records 1,100,000 flight hours on its Bell Model 47's--a mark unequalled in commercial rotary wing operations.
- September Bell announces the development of the 214ST, a 19-place twin-engine, stretched version of the Model 214 utility helicopter.
- September 27 Plans for production of a new model, the LongRanger-II, are announced at the annual National Business Aircraft Association convention.
- October 15 U.S. Marines formally accept the first production model of Bell's AH-1T twin-engine armed helicopter.
- December 21 U.S. Army exercises option to purchase 83 additional units of Bell's AH-1S improved Cobras.

YEAR 1978

January 19 Construction begins on the two-story, 135,000 square foot Bell Technical Center at the Main (Hurst) Plant.

January 30 A single pilot IFR system designed for the new seven-place LongRanger-II is announced. The system was developed by Bell and Collins Avionics.

March 23 Bell's XV-15 tilt-rotor research Aircraft No. 1 is shipped to NASA-Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif. for extensive wind tunnel tests.

April 10 U.S. Marines order additional AH-1T improved SeaCobra helicopters.

May 19 Bell's LongRanger-II receives FAA type certification. First customer deliveries to take place in June.

July 24 FAA certifies the first American-made fiberglass helicopter main rotor blade. The all-composite blade was developed by Bell for the Model 214 helicopter.

August Bell's XV-15 Aircraft No. 2 commences ground run tests at the company's Arlington Flight Research Center.

September President James F. Atkins announces development of the Model 412, an advanced technology four-bladed variant of the 15-place, twin-turbine Bell 212.

September 22 Bell increases production commitments on new Model 222 for 1979-80 and 1981.

November 1 The U.S. Army orders 66 more production units of the AH-1S Cobra.

November 27 Bell selects FlightSafety International to provide crew training for operators of the new Model 222 mid-size, twin-turbine helicopter. In 1979 FlightSafety will build a 13,000 square foot learning center adjacent to Bell's Training & Delivery Center in Fort Worth.

December 20 The LongRanger-II receives FAA certification for single pilot IFR.



YEAR 1979

February 20	Bell receives order for eight of its commercial Model 212's from the People's Republic of China. The sale is the first by a U.S. helicopter manufacturer to the PRC.
April	The first Model 214B helicopter equipped with fiberglass main rotor blades is delivered to Paramount Helicopters Inc., Bend, Oregon.
April 23	XV-15 Aircraft No. 2 tilt rotor research aircraft makes first flight in the helicopter mode.
July 21	Bell's 19-place Model 214ST Super Transport makes initial flight.
July 24	The first in-flight conversion from helicopter to the airplane mode is made by the XV-15 tilt rotor research aircraft (Aircraft No. 2).
August 3	Model 412 makes first flight. It's destined to become Bell's first four-bladed production helicopter.
August 16	Bell's Model 222, in pre-production configuration, receives FAA type certification.
November	Construction begins on a 270,000 square foot \$10 million manufacturing building at Bell's main Hurst complex.
November 14-16	During Bell sponsored program called ImaginEighties, orders are received for more than 200 commercial aircraft valued at \$200 million. Included are \$150 million in customer commitments for the 214ST.
December 20	Production Model 222 receives FAA approval for Visual Flight Rules Operation.
December 21	Bell closes year with record setting delivery of 585 commercial helicopters to domestic and foreign customers.



YEAR 1980

- February 1 First production Model 222 is delivered to Petroleum Helicopters. Schiavone Construction, New Jersey, receives first 222 in executive configuration.
- February 7 L. Knight & Co. Ltd., a Canadian manufacturing firm, is the first customer to take delivery of a JetRanger-III equipped with the new Collins VFR flight control system.
- February 10 Ron Erhart and Dorman Cannon, XV-15 project pilots, receive the Frederick L. Feinberg Award from the American Helicopter Society. The honor is presented for the most outstanding piloting achievement during the preceding year.
- May 15 Bell's Model 222 twin-turbine helicopter receives FAA approval for single-pilot IFR operation.
- June 17 The XV-15 tilt rotor research aircraft exceeds an unofficial world's speed record for rotorcraft by achieving a true airspeed of 301 knots (346 mph). The flight was made at the company's Flight Research Center in Arlington, Texas.
- August 6 Bell awards contracts to FlightSafety International to provide crew training for operators of the new Model 412 and 214ST SuperTransport helicopters.
- August 13 Bell completes contractor portion of XV-15 flight tests. Aircraft No. 2 is shipped to NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center for additional envelope expansion and proof of concept flight tests.
- September 8 A seven-place LongRanger-II helicopter completes a 5,100 mile flight from Dallas, Texas to Bern, Switzerland. The historic flight by German Pilots Karl Wagner and Warner Roschlau, is believed to be the first trans-Atlantic crossing by a light helicopter.
- October Bell announces development of the TexasRanger, a multi-mission 206L, capable of rapid in-the-field conversion to anti-tank configuration.
- October 1 XV-15 Project Pilots Ronald Erhart and Dorman Cannon are named test pilots of the year by the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.
- December 31 Bell delivers record 783 commercial helicopters in 1980, a 30 per cent increase over the previous year.

Year 1981

January 18	Delivery of the 25,000th Bell helicopter--a Model 222 is made to Omniflight Helicopters.
January 18	ERA Helicopters accepts the first Model 412 at the Helicopter Association International convention.
February 23	Bell forms a new Customer Support and Service Division.
March 31	Bell is selected as a contractor for the U.S. Army's Advanced Composite Airframe Program (ACAP).
April 10	The first AH-1S Modernized Cobra/TOW helicopter produced for the Army National Guard is delivered.
May 20	Bell is named a co-recipient of the American Helicopter Society Grover P. Bell Award for outstanding tilt rotor technology in developing the XV-15.
June 4	The XV-15 makes its first international flight demonstrations at the Paris Air Show.
August 20	Bell pilots John Williams and Morton Meng flying a LongRanger-II, help the U.S. win the World Helicopter Championship in Poland.
September 18	Bell receives a contract for \$56 million to convert 70 Model AH-1G's to AH-1S Modernized Cobras.
September 21	U.S. Army names Bell winner of its Army Helicopter Improvement Program (AHIP) competition.
September 28	Maj. Gen. Story Stevens becomes the first non-test pilot to fly the XV-15. Stevens is Commanding General of the U.S. Army Aviation Research & Development Command.
October 27	XV-15 completes its longest cross-country flight (1,600 miles) from NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif. to the Arlington Municipal Airport.
October 30	Sen. Barry Goldwater, R.-Ariz. pilots the XV-15 at Bell's Flight Research Center in Arlington.
December	The first Model 412 delivered to the Middle East is accepted by the State of Bahrain's Public Security Flying Wing.



Year 1982

January 4 Bell is awarded a \$35 million contract by the Department of the Navy for 55 Model TH-57 Advanced Instrument Trainers.

February 14 Bell President James F. Atkins announces 1982 availability of the Model 222B, an improved version of the series.

February 19 The Model 214ST SuperTransport receives FAA Type Certification for VFR and IFR operations.

May 28 Bell and Mitsui & Co., sign a contract to co-produce AH-1S Modernized Cobras for the Ground Self Defense Forces of the Japanese Defense Agency.

June 7 Bell and Boeing Vertol Co., announce teaming agreement to participate in the Joint Services Vertical Lift Aircraft Program (JVX) competition.

July 29 The improved 222B becomes first transport category helicopter to be certified by FAA for single pilot IFR without stability augmentation.

August Australian pilot Dick Smith departs from Bell on Aug. 5 in a JetRanger-III, the first leg of an attempt to make the first helicopter solo flight around the world. On Aug. 19 he lands in U.K. to mark the world's first solo helicopter crossing of the Atlantic.

August 5 The XV-15 Tilt Rotor Research Aircraft successfully completes three days of seaboard trials on the U.S.S. Tripoli, assault carrier. Earlier, it had undergone Special Electronics Mission Aircraft (SEMA) evaluation at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

September 24 Bell receives \$113 million contracts for helicopter sales to Jordan, Pakistan and Turkey.

September 30 Ross Perot Jr. and Jay Coburn become the first pilots to make an around-the-world helicopter flight. The pair departed from Dallas in a Long-Ranger-II, dubbed the 'Spirit of Texas' on Sept. 1.

October The Army exercises option for Bell to manufacture and test three composite airframes in the second phase of its Advanced Composite Airframe Program (ACAP). Contract value is \$21 million.

November The Nurtanio Indonesian Aircraft Industry and Bell sign a license agreement to co-produce at least 100 Model 412 helicopters.

November 16 U.S. Navy accepts first Model TH-57 Advanced Instrument Trainer during formal ceremonies at Bell.



Year 1983

February	Development of the Model 400 TwinRanger is announced at HAI's annual meeting (Feb. 13-16).
March	Flight testing begins in a modified LongRanger to evaluate Model 406 dynamics that will be used in the aircraft that Bell will manufacture for the U.S. Army Helicopter Improvement Program (AHIP). The components are also being developed for the new Model 400 TwinRanger.
April	The Naval Air Systems Command awards a contract to Bell & Boeing Vertol Company for the preliminary design phase of the Joint Services Advanced Vertical Lift Aircraft (JVX) program.
May	The 222UT receives FAA Type Certification and is also approved for single-pilot IFR operation without additional stabilization.
May 21	Harvey Gaylord, Bell Helicopter's first president, dies after a lengthy illness.
July 20	Textron Inc. appoints James F. Atkins as BHT chairman. Leonard M. (Jack) Horner succeeds Atkins as president of Bell Helicopter Textron.
July 22	Australian adventurer Dick Smith becomes the first pilot to complete a solo flight around-the-world by helicopter. When his JetRanger-III touched down here at Bell he had flown 35,258 miles.
October 7	The Canadian Federal Government selects Bell to establish a helicopter industry in Canada. First product aircraft of a new helicopter family will be the Model 400 TwinRanger.
October	An AHIP prototype makes its first flight contractual flight and completes initial tests with a full-up Main Mounted Sight (MMS).
October 26	Bell Helicopter Asia (Pte.) Ltd. is established, with headquarters in Singapore, to coordinate Southeast Asian operations.
November 16	The AH-1T+ SuperCobra makes its first flight at Bell Flight Research Center in Arlington.
December	Jim P. Schwalbe is named president of Bell's new division of Textron Canada Ltd.

Year 1984

January	A definitive contract is executed between Bell Canada and the Government of Canada to establish a helicopter industry in Canada.
February	William A. Anders is named executive vice president-Aerospace at Textron Inc.
March	Bell receives a \$58.5 million contract for long lead items and related ground support equipment for 16 aircraft in the Army Helicopter Improvement Program (AHIP).
April 9	Floyd W. Carlson, Bell Helicopter pioneer whose aviation career spanned more than 40 years, dies after a lengthy illness.
May 3	Bell receives initial funding for 22 U.S. Marine AH-1T+ SuperCobras. Total amount of the contract is \$105 million.
May 21	Development of the Model 406 Combat Scout, a new four-bladed light combat helicopter with a quick change weapons system, is announced.
June	The Naval Air Systems Command awards the Bell-Boeing team a \$23.4 million contract addition for the second stage of the JVX program's preliminary design effort.
July 4	A prototype model 400 successfully completes the Canadian Government's flight requirements.
July 7	The first of five OH-58D (AHIP) advanced scout helicopters is delivered to the U.S. Army.
August	Increases of 300 lbs. in gross weight and 50 shp in takeoff horsepower increase the capabilities of the Model 412.
September	Bell signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Dornier GmbH of Germany to explore several joint advanced technology projects, including improvement proposals on UH-1 helicopters.
October 5	The XV-15 tilt rotor aircraft completes a four-week, 3,500 mile demonstration and evaluation tour of the Eastern United States.
November	Paul Powers, director of Safety and Certification, is recipient of the Aviation Week and Space Technology Flight Safety Service Award for 1984.
November	Donald L. Bloom, senior experimental test pilot, receives the Iven C. Kinchelol award as "Test Pilot of the Year" from the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

Year 1985

- January** The OH-58D, being developed for the U.S. Army Helicopter Improvement Program (AHIP) exceeds or meets all performance and specification requirements during development tests.
- January** Bell introduces the Model 412SP (Special Performance) helicopter, an improved version of the four-bladed 412, at the HAI Convention in New Orleans.
- February** A research aircraft (a four-bladed Bell Cobra) performs a series of tactical maneuvers without hand control manipulation by the pilot. The tests are applicable to the Army's Advanced Technology Integration (ARTI) program.
- April** Bell receives \$49.1 million in additional funding for 22 Model AH-1T+ (redesignated AH-1W) SuperCobras.
- June** Dornier GmbH and Bell announce plans to develop an advanced rotor, a higher thrust version of the Model 680 bearingless rotor.
- June** The Government of Brazil orders 16 JetRanger-III aircraft to upgrade Navy pilot training.
- July** The People's Republic of China orders six JetRanger-IIIs for pilot training by the Civil Aviation Administration of China.
- August 30** The Model D292, being developed for the Army's Advanced Composite Airframe Program (ACAP) by Bell, makes its initial hover flight.
- September** The Department of the Navy orders 36 additional Bell Model TH-57B primary trainers. This will raise the Navy's T-57 inventory to 140.
- October** Bell receives a definitized contract in the amount of \$223 million for additional production and support of the Army Helicopter Improvement Program (AHIP).
- November** The Honduras Air Force orders five Model 412SP helicopters with an option to acquire five additional aircraft.



Year 1986

- January** The Republic of Honduras orders five additional 412SP helicopters. An initial order was received in 1985 for five aircraft.
- March 25** The U.S. Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, Ala., takes delivery of the first production OH-58D Advanced Scout.
- March 27** The Marines take delivery of the first production AH-1W SuperCobra during ceremonies here.
- April 9** Bell and McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Co. announce an agreement in principle to form a team to develop the U.S. Army's LHX (Light Helicopter Experimental) aircraft.
- May 2** Bell-Boeing V-22 tilt rotor team wins a \$1.714 billion fixed-price incentive award from the Navy for a seven-year, full-scale development program.
- June** Bell introduces armed version of the Model 412SP helicopter.
- June** Plans are announced for an 80,000-square-foot expansion to the Flight Research Center for ground and air testing of the V-22 Osprey.
- July** A new agreement is signed with the government of Canada to restructure its aircraft production plans at Bell's Mirabel, Quebec plant. Plans call for assembly of the JetRanger and LongRanger.
- July** Bell, Samsung Industries Co. Ltd. and the newly founded Korea Bell Helicopter Co. in Seoul announce a memorandum of understanding to co-produce helicopters in the Republic of Korea.
- September** Bell completes transfer of JetRanger production line to the Canadian facility.
- October** Company receives contract awards from the U.S. Army in the amount of \$89.2 million for spare parts to support the Model UH-1, AH-1 and OH-58.
- December 18** Bell Helicopter Canada makes the first delivery of a JetRanger-III assembled at the Mirabel facility. Accepting the aircraft is Turbo West of Broomfield, Colo.
- December 18** The Department of Defense approves the full scale development program for the V-22 Osprey.

**Year 1987**

- February** Bell, Sperry Commercial Flight Systems and Helidyne Systems announce the formation of a team to design and certify a Search & Rescue package for the Model 214ST.
- April 1** The first wing structure is completed on the V-22 Osprey. The structure will be used on the ground test article.
- April 3** The Norwegian Air Force accepts its first Model 412SP. The program calls for 18 aircraft to be co-assembled by Helikopter Services in Norway.
- April** A second-generation 680 rotor, being flight tested on a Model 222, meets or exceeds design goals set by the LHX team of Bell and McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Company.
- April 29** Bell and Boeing announce development of the world's first tilt-rotor unmanned air vehicle (UAV), known as the Pointer.
- June** Workers begin loading components into an assembly fixture for construction on the wing for the V-22 Osprey that will make the first flight in 1988.
- June 11** Twelve OH-58Ds were loaded aboard a giant Air Force C-5A at Bell's Amarillo facility. The shipment represented the first delivery of Advanced Scouts to units in U.S. Army Europe.
- July 17** Quick action by two UH-1H Hueys operated by the 50th Medical Company (Air Ambulance Unit) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas saves 33 lives during the Guadalupe River flood.
- August 27** A full scale ACAP airframe crash test demonstrates that the all-composite airframe is capable of meeting stringent military crash survivability requirements.
- August 30** Bell's XV-15 completes demonstrations in the Washington, D.C. area and Chicago that shows the feasibility of using tilt rotor applications in civil aviation.
- September** E.H. Industries of Canada is selected as the winner of a competition to replace the Navy's older CH-124 Sea King with the new EH101 helicopter. BHT Canada will be responsible for the assembly and flight testing of the aircraft.
- December** Bell Helicopter Services, a subsidiary of Textron Inc., purchases the holdings of Inchcape Aviation Corp., to assume total ownership of Bell Helicopter Asia (Pte) Ltd.

Year 1988

- January 21** Boeing V-22 fuselage for Aircraft No. 1 arrives at Bell's Flight Research Center to be mated with Bell's first flyable wing.
- January** The Bell Boeing Pointer, the world's first tilt-rotor unmanned vehicle (UAV) completes drive system tests at the Fort Worth facility.
- February** Commercial production of the JetRanger reaches 4,000th mark.
- February** Working in concert with Fuji Heavy Industries, Bell announces a modification program to update the Huey.
- March** Bell reveals that eleven armed OH-58D's were modified to light attack helicopters in response to a request by the U.S. Army.
- April 26** The 100th OH-58D (AHIP) produced by Bell is delivered to the U.S. Army at the company's facility in Amarillo, Texas.
- May 23** The Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey is unveiled at rollout ceremonies at the Flight Research Center.
- August** Bell receives \$146 million contract in funding for 30 Model AH-1W SuperCobras for the U.S. Marines.
- August** Company is awarded \$22 million contract covering long lead time items for 15 Model 406CS Combat Scouts for Saudi Arabia.
- August 15** Initial ground run tests are completed on V-22 Aircraft No. 1.
- September 1** Bell delivers 100th helicopter built at Canadian facility during ceremonies at the Mirabel, Quebec plant.
- September** Bell and McDonnell Douglas Corp. submit joint proposal to the U.S. Army to develop and build the LHX (Light Helicopter Experimental) aircraft.
- October 27** First powered operation of the Bell Boeing V-22 Ground Test Article equipped with proprotors begins.
- November 21** The Bell Boeing Pointer makes its first flight at Bell's Globe Plant in Saginaw, Texas.
- December 28** The V-22 enters critical ground run tests in preparation for the first flight.