



Lawrence Bell receives Air Force citation
 ... Roger Lewis, left, also presents highest civilian award (foreground)

AF's Top Civilian Award Given to Lawrence Bell

The Exceptional Service Award, highest honor the United States Air Force accords a civilian, last night was presented to Lawrence D. Bell, president of Bell Aircraft Corp.

The presentation was made by Roger Lewis, assistant secretary of the Air Force, at a dinner marking the 20th anniversary of Bell Aircraft. The dinner was held at the Park Lane.

The citation accompanying the award described Bell as "one of that small band of American pioneers who have conspicuously contributed to the development of air power."

Last night's dinner also honored 23 other Bell employees who have served the company since it was founded 20 years ago. Each 20-year employe received a service pin and watch.

Included in this group were Ray P. Whitman, first vice president of Bell, and Robert J. Woods, consulting airplane engineer.

In making last night's presentation, Asst. Secretary Lewis representing the secretary, the chief of staff of the United States Air Force, commended Bell for his "immense contribution to American aviation."

The citation accompanying the award, follows:
 "Lawrence D. Bell has distinguished himself by exceptional outstanding service to the United States Air Force throughout an

1A, the first airplane to exceed twice the speed of sound; the first jet powered vertical takeoff and landing airplane, and the GAM-63, the first long range air-launched, rocket-propelled guided missile.

"This country's leadership in the air is directly attributable to the genius of men who, like the founder of one of the world's foremost aircraft companies, have provided the aviation industry with such undisputed technical and executive ability.

"Our country is indebted to Lawrence D. Bell for his outstanding contribution to the development of the United States Air Force from its modest beginning to its present role as this nation's first line of defense."

Bell employees who received recognition for 20 years of service include: Bell; Whitman; Woods; Walter A. Yates, a director of Bell Aircraft; Atty. Ansley W. Sawyer, Bell's general counsel.

Also Walter B. Adams, Joseph English, Cecil Fallis, Julius Ferrand, Kenneth Frey, Andrew Grojean, Mrs. Irene B. Hogue, Davis Marshall, Marvin M. McEuen, Richard H. McKee, Ray Peterson, Arnold Proefrock, Ger-

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The citation accompanying the award, follows:

"Lawrence D. Bell has distinguished himself by exceptional outstanding service to the United States Air Force throughout an eminent career embracing more than 43 years of selfless dedication to military and peacetime aeronautical progress.

"As one of that small band of American pioneers who have conspicuously contributed to the development of air power, the name of Lawrence D. Bell is characterized by indefatigable efforts to assure America's continued air superiority.

"From July 10, 1935, to July 10, 1955, through the inspirational guidance of its founder, Bell Aircraft Corp. has strengthened our nation in peace and war by its notable achievements in producing the Airacuda; the P-39 Airacobra; the P-63 Kingcobra, the P-59 Airacomet, America's first jet propelled airplane; the X-1, the first supersonic airplane; the X-2 and the X-5.

"Also the HSL-1, the first helicopter specifically designed for anti-submarine warfare; the Model 47, the world's first commercial helicopter; the X-

1A, the first airplane to exceed twice the speed of sound; the first jet powered vertical takeoff and landing airplane, and the GAM-63, the first long range air-launched, rocket-propelled guided missile.

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