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From Historic Firsts to the Future of Flight

A legacy of innovation shaping the next era of aviation

Over the decades, Bell has shown that helicopters are lifelines, providers of security, explorers and pioneers in the sky. Bell aircraft have taken part in some of the most notable flights in history. Here are some of the top historic flights flown by a Bell aircraft.

The First Commercial Certification



In 1946, the Bell 47 became the first commercially certified helicopter. With its distinctive bubble canopy and skeletal frame, the platform took rotorcraft from experiment to reality. Industries that had never utilized aviation before, agriculture, law enforcement, media and more, had a new perspective on the world, where helicopters would become an essential part of everyday life.

The Leader of MEDVAC



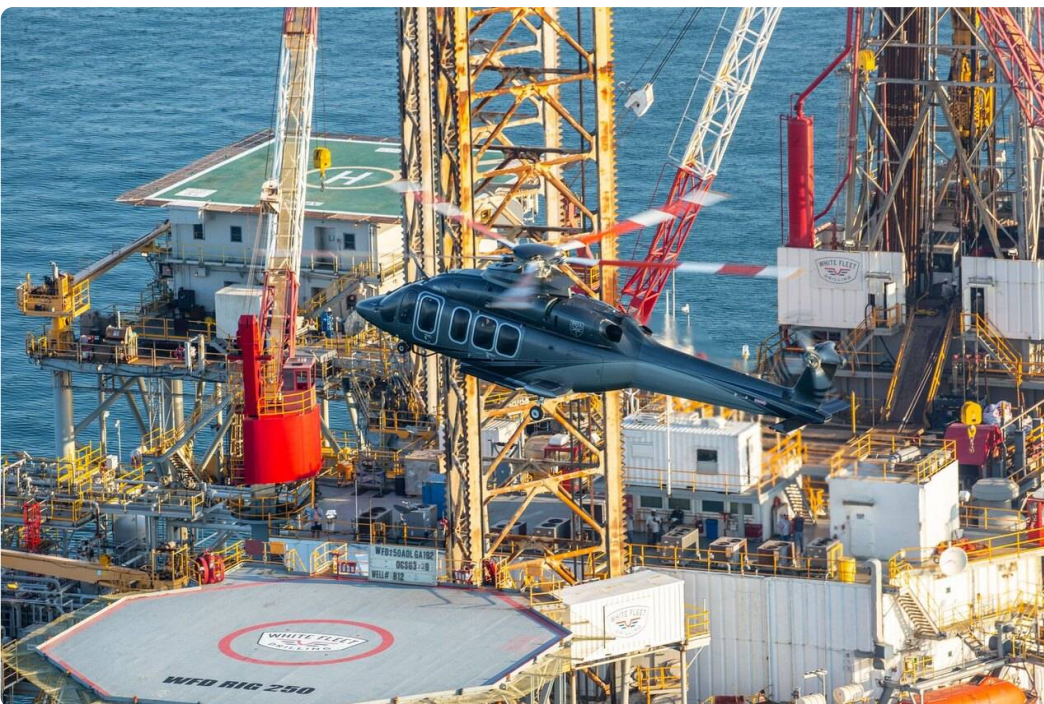
In the early 1950s, the Bell H-13 Sioux made history on the battlefields of Korea, airlifting the wounded from the front lines in short time frames. What started as an emergency battlefield solution evolved into a global standard, laying the foundation for air ambulance services that save lives every day. The legacy continues today with the Fort Worth Police Department, who operate a fleet of Bell aircraft to support life-saving missions across the city. From critical response to rapid medical transport, the same spirit of MEDVAC innovation that began two decades ago lives on.

The World's First Practical Tiltrotor



1977 saw the first flight of the Bell XV-15, an experimental “tiltrotor” aircraft that combined the vertical take-off and landing capabilities of a helicopter with the speed and efficiency of a fixed-wing plane. The success of the XV-15 led to the evolution of tiltrotor technology, including the development of the Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey and the MV-75 Cheyenne, which continue to pioneer military and commercial aviation today.

The World's First Fly-By-Wire Commercial Helicopter



The Bell 525 is set to redefine commercial rotorcraft with cutting-edge fly-by-wire technology, advanced avionics and superior range and payload capacity. Designed for missions like offshore transport, search and rescue and corporate travel, the Bell 525 will set new standards in safety, efficiency and pilot control, making it one of the most anticipated helicopters in modern aviation.

A Bold Legacy Set to Continue

Through every decade, Bell has proven that helicopters are more than just a mode of transportation, they are instruments of change, discovery and survival. Now, as Bell builds off 75 years of aviation excellence in Fort Worth, our commitment to innovation and progress continues to shape the future of flight. The next chapter of aviation history is already in the making, and Bell will be leading the way.

About Bell

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Thinking above and beyond is what we do. For more than 90 years, we've been reimagining the experience of flight – and where it can take us.

We're an aerospace and defense company that engineers and manufactures aircraft for critical solutions in extreme scenarios. We're breaking barriers in lifting people to safety across transportation, medical, rescue and military services, and leading the industry in future solutions that are fast, reliable and efficient.

Headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas – as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Textron Inc., – we have strategic locations around the globe. And with generations of employees who have served, many in combat theatre of operation, helping our military achieve their missions is a passion of ours. Above all, our breakthrough innovations deliver exceptional experiences to our customers. Efficiently. Reliably. And always, with safety at the forefront.

About Textron Inc.

Textron Inc. is a multi-industry company that leverages its global network of aircraft, defense, industrial and finance businesses to provide customers with innovative solutions and services. Textron is known around the world for its powerful brands such as Bell, Cessna, Beechcraft, Hawker, Jacobsen, Kautex, Lycoming, E-Z-GO, Textron Systems, and TRU Simulation + Training. For more information, visit: www.textron.com.

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