

News from Northwest Helicopters



Northwest Helicopters unveiled its newly developed Carbon Fiber Main Rotor Blade for the UH-1H and Bell model 205 and 212 helicopters today at Heli-Expo 2009.

According to Brian Reynolds, CEO of Northwest Helicopters, the blade is in the FAA STC process now, with certification estimated to be the fourth quarter of 2009. "This advanced design blade, which has been under development since 2006, will provide many benefits over any other blade ever installed on a Bell Medium Helicopter. The benefits include: longer life limits, improved hot weather and high altitude lift performance, decreased fuel flow in cruise flight, dual trim tabs for a smoother ride, and modern composite construction. The blade is built with a carbon fiber reinforced composite spar, Nomex honeycomb core, carbon fiber skins, and a one piece stainless steel leading edge" said Reynolds. The first year of blade production is committed to the Bell UH-1H with the Bell 205 and 212 deliveries to follow. The first blades are committed to military and public use agencies this summer after completion of flight and fatigue testing. "The development of this advanced technology, high performance blade shows our commitment to support and improve the UH-1H aircraft well into the future" stated Reynolds. Product support and the authorized repair station for the new main rotor blade, PN 205CB0600-101, will be IAC Ltd. of Dallas, Texas and will be available for purchase exclusively through Northwest Helicopters LLC of Olympia, Washington.

Mr. Phil Connolly of MSS Holdings (Preston, Lancashire UK) will be accepting delivery of a Bell AH-1 Cobra helicopter from Northwest Helicopters LLC of Olympia, WA USA at the Helicopter Association International convention in Anaheim California. This restored AH-1 will join Mr. Connolly's existing fleet of helicopters in the United Kingdom. These include a Bell UH-1H and a Hughes OH-6A.

Mr. Connolly has the distinction of having the only flying Bell UH-1H and Hughes OH-6 in the United Kingdom. The Bell AH-1 will also hold the same distinction.

"It is a privilege and honor to fly and display three of the most important helicopters of the Vietnam War, actually in the history of helicopter aviation" said Connolly.

Brian Reynolds, CEO of Northwest Helicopters stated, "Phil has been a pleasure to work with over the years. His enthusiasm and love for helicopter aviation and U.S. Army helicopters is unsurpassed. It is good to know that these examples of our aviation history will be well cared for and displayed to the citizens of the United Kingdom for many years to come."

All three helicopters came out of the restoration and overhaul shops of Northwest Helicopters. Northwest Helicopters LLC is a full service helicopter maintenance, overhaul, restoration and completion center located in Olympia Washington USA. They are a Bell Customer Service Facility and an approved MD Helicopters service center.

Northwest Helicopters has dedicated a restored Bell UH-1H to honor the members of the United States military who have been killed or wounded in action while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

"We wanted to do something to honor the men and women of our military this year for Heli-Expo. Our original thought was to reproduce Major Bruce Crandall's huey from 1965. Maj. Crandall won the Medal of Honor for his actions while piloting a Bell UH-1H at LZ X-ray in 1965. He is also from our hometown of Olympia, WA" said Brian Reynolds, CEO of Northwest Helicopters. "But when Jeff (Winner, Director of Maintenance for Northwest Helicopters) suggested we restore a huey in the Purple Heart theme to honor all of the men and women of our Armed Forces who have been killed or wounded, it just seemed right."

Winner stated, "All of us should be humbled by and extremely thankful for the sacrifices of the men and women of our military. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be having this convention in a free United States today."

"We have a donation box at our static display for the benefit of the Wounded Warriors Project. This organization is committed to assisting severely wounded service men and women and helping them transition to civilian life. I encourage everyone in attendance at the convention to stop by our static display and give what they can to this worthy cause." added Winner.

The "Purple Heart Huey", N703PH, has been refurbished and upgraded to serve in a civilian capacity as a restricted category aircraft.

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