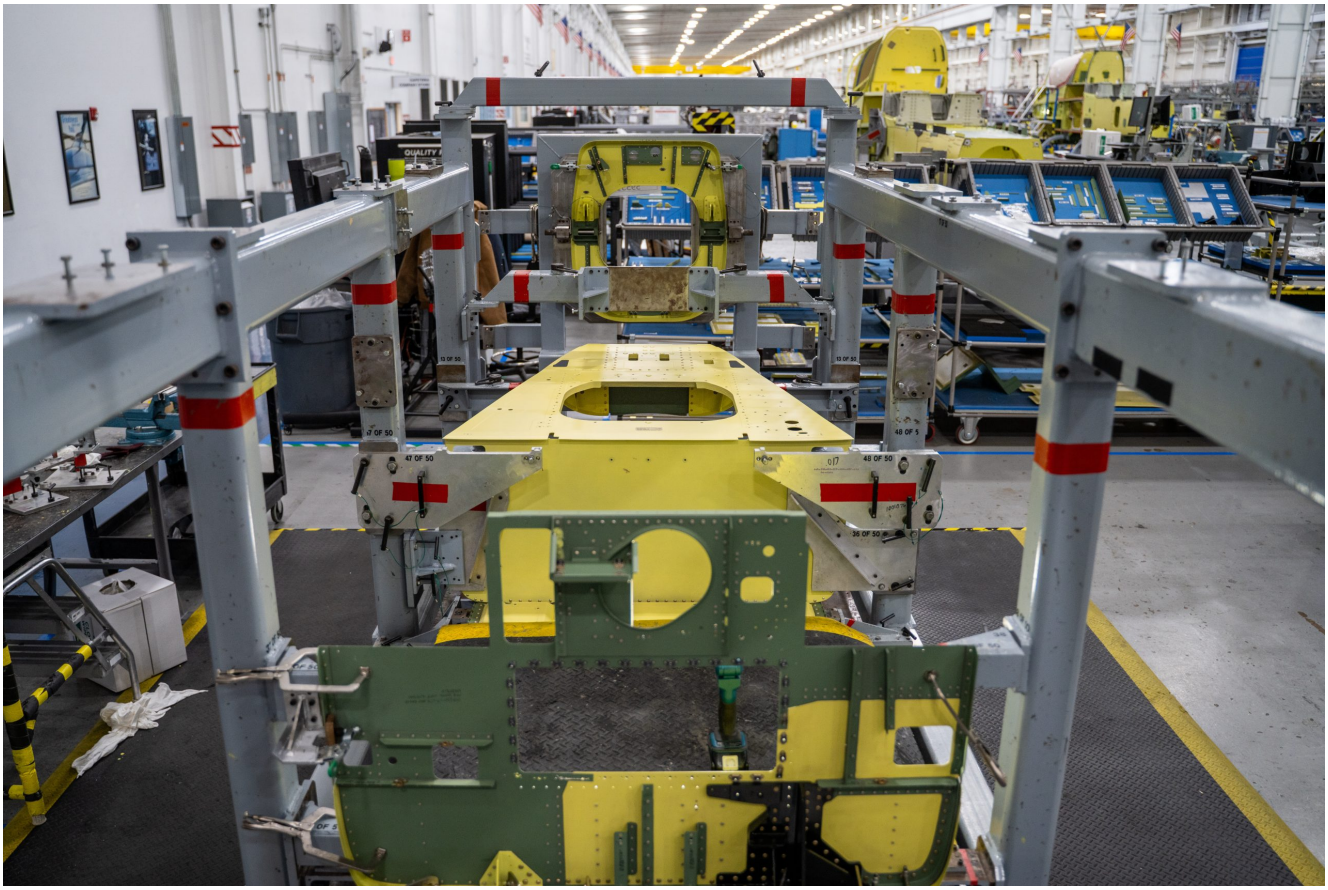
Bell Begins Production on Czech Republic AH-1Z Helicopter



The cabin of an Czech Republic AH-1Z is loaded onto the manufacturing line at the Amarillo Assembly Center to begin production. *BELL TEXTRON*

AMARILLO, Texas – Bell Textron, a Textron company, has started production of the first AH-1Z Viper for the Czech Republic at Bell's Amarillo Assembly Center, the company said Feb. 23. The production of the Viper joins UH-1Y production as part of the Czech Republic Foreign Military Sale FMS of mixed fleet aircraft.

"Bell understands what it means to execute a successful international program," said Mike Deslatte, vice president and H-1 program director for Bell. "We understand the importance of providing the unmatched capability of the H-1 aircraft to

our customers. Bell remains focused on producing exceptional combat aircraft and providing modern capabilities for the Czech Air Force as a partner in the H-1 program, along with the U.S. government.”

Bell’s work beyond aircraft manufacturing includes building a flight training device for the Czech Republic, essential to integrating the new helicopters into the Czech Armed Forces.

Bell began production on the Czech Republic UH-1Y in 2021, marking the first production for an international operator of the UH-1Y. The Czech Republic’s purchase of both the AH-1Z and UH-1Y takes full advantage of the 85% commonality between parts and enabling full mission capabilities between both aircraft.

In addition to the Czech Republic, Bell is actively producing AH-1Zs for the U.S. Marines Corps and the Kingdom of Bahrain. In total, the H-1 program is on track to produce 217 AH-1Zs and 168 UH-1Ys, with more than 100 consecutive H-1s delivered on time for the USMC and FMS customers.