Bell Commemorates First Production AH-1Z Aircraft for Nigeria



AMARILLO, Texas – Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. company, hosted a delegation from the country of Nigeria to mark the start of production of AH-1Z Viper attack helicopters built as part of the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program approved by the Department of War in 2024. Delegates toured Bell's Amarillo production facility to observe the production line and ceremoniously sign the aircraft's frame destined to join the Nigerian Air Force.

"We are honored to host the Nigerian Air Force and share this milestone in production for the AH-1Z," said Scott Sims, H-1 program director, Bell. "The beam of the first production Viper for Nigeria will forever carry the names, hopes, and commitment of those who brought this aircraft to life."

Delivering unmatched multi-mission flexibility while employing both precision guided weapons and unguided munitions, the Bell AH-1Z Viper meets the modern battlefield's expeditionary requirements across the full spectrum of military operations. The Viper routinely maintains a high operational tempo from forward operating facilities by minimizing its logistical footprint without losing warfighting capabilities.

"The Bell AH-1Z Viper will play an important role in strengthening our counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations and enhancing our ability to protect the citizens of Nigeria," said Air Commodore Ehimen Ejodame, NAF spokesperson. "We are pleased with the Viper's advanced capabilities and interoperability and look forward to its induction as a key platform in our attack helicopter fleet."

The Department of War awarded Bell a contract to manufacture and deliver 12 AH-1Z Viper aircraft to Nigeria from its Amarillo Assembly Center in Texas. Along with the aircraft, Bell will also provide associated engineering, program management, and logistics support. Bell projects the aircraft production to be completed in early 2029.

"Today also signifies the dedication of thousands of Bell and Team Viper employees around the world who are proud to support this important international partner," said Sims. *From Bell Textron, Sept. 16, 2026*