# V-22 Osprey Surpasses 500,000 Flight Hours



MV-22 Ospreys prepare to extract Marines from a landing zone during training Sept. 30 at Naval Station Rota, Spain. The V-22 fleet has topped the 500,000-flight-hour milestone. U.S. Marine Corps/Cpl. Kenny Gomez

PHILADELPHIA – The V-22 fleet of tilt-rotor aircraft built by Bell Textron Inc. and Boeing has topped the milestone of 500,000 flight hours. More than 375 Ospreys logged the hours, including the U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 and the Air Force CV-22, Bell and Boeing said Oct. 7 in a joint statement.

"The V-22 provides unmatched capability for the U.S. Marines and U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command," said Marine Col. Matthew Kelly, the V-22's joint program manager. "The platform's influence on our nation's defense is seen through its extensive operational and humanitarian impact across the globe."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brkUGe27-vM

The V-22 Osprey is the world's only production tilt-rotor aircraft, enabling servicemen and women to conduct diverse missions throughout the most difficult operating environments. Most recently, the aircraft deployed to join relief efforts in the Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian.

Bell and Boeing support V-22 readiness through a sustainment effort that includes maintenance, training, on-site field representatives and data analytics. The companies also are working with the V-22 program office on several efforts to improve V-22 readiness. The Marines' Common Configuration Readiness and Modernization program, the Air Force's configuration reducing modification plan, and nacelle wiring and structure improvements are expected to increase readiness.

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>
> *Marine Col. Matthew Kelly, V-22 joint program manager*

“V-22 is one of the highest demand platforms in the Department of Defense. This achievement is a great testament to the Marines and Air Commandos operating this platform in all environments,” said Chris Gehler, Bell V-22 vice president and Bell-Boeing deputy program director.

“We are committed to providing unparalleled support to our partners by steadily improving Osprey readiness and capabilities now and in the future.”

Since 2007, the V-22 has served the Marines as well as Air Force special operations. A third variant, the CMV-22, is set to join the U.S. Navy next year.