

Bahrain Delegation Commemorates Production of Its First AH-1Z Helicopter



Brig. Gen. Faisal Al Kaabi, Bahrain Ambassador to the U.S. H.E. Shaikh Abdulla Al Khalifa, Bell Executive Vice President, Military Business, Vince Tobin, Bell Vice President and H-1 Program Director Michael Deslatte and Bahrain Defense Attaché to the U.S., Commodore Adm. Jasim Al Jowder, pose in front of an AH-1Z Viper during an aircraft frame signing ceremony at Bell's Amarillo assembly center on 31 March 2021. BELL

AMARILLO, Texas – Bell hosted a delegation from the Kingdom of Bahrain to mark the start of production of AH-1Z Viper attack helicopters built as part of the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program, the company said in an April 12 release. Delegates toured the Bell Amarillo production facility to observe the production line and ceremoniously sign the aircraft's frame destined to join the Bahrain Air Force.

"We are honored to host the Kingdom of Bahrain and share this milestone in production for the AH-1Z," said Mike Deslatte, Bell H-1 vice president and program director. "Today's ceremony marks a new milestone in bringing the advanced capabilities of the Viper a step closer to the Kingdom of Bahrain."

Bell designed the AH-1Z Viper to meet 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.

"Today also signifies the dedication of thousands of Bell and Team Viper employees around the world who are proud to support

our international partner,” said Deslatte.

The Department of Defense awarded Bell a contract to manufacture and deliver 12 Lot-16 AH-1Z aircraft to the Kingdom of Bahrain. Bell projects production deliveries to begin in late 2021.