

Czech Republic Chief of Defense Signs Beams of AH-1Z and UH-1Y



Czech Republic Chief of Defense Gen. Aleš Opatka signs an H-1 aircraft beam. *BELL TEXTRON*

AMARILLO, Texas – Bell Textron Inc. completed another step in the production of AH-1Z and UH-1Y helicopters for international customers, the company announced April 14.

Czech Republic Chief of Defense Gen. Aleš Opatka and delegates visited Bell's Amarillo Assembly Center in a landmark meeting to observe the Czech Republic H-1 aircraft production line.

"Hosting Gen. Opatka at our Amarillo Assembly Center allows us to showcase the significant progress Bell has made in aircraft production to support this vital international program and customer," said Mike Deslatte, H-1 vice president and program director. "We are honored to continue our great relationship with the Czech Republic as we prepare to provide them with leading defense aircraft and continue the success of the H-1 program."

During the visit, Gen. Opatka signed the beams of the first AH-1Z and UH-1Y aircraft that will be delivered to the Czech Republic. Production continues on schedule with all 12 aircraft expected to be complete in 2023.

"In military operations today, one of the key requirements is to be able to win in both aircraft capabilities and logistics support," said Nate Green, H-1 program manager. "There is no better example of two complementary aircraft regularly operating from expeditionary locations and completing as many missions together as the AH-1Z and UH-1Y."

The Bell AH-1Z and UH-1Y offer advanced capabilities for defense missions and decrease the maintenance and operational footprint due to their 85% commonality. Bell is actively producing AH-1Zs for the U.S. Marine Corps and expects to complete deliveries this year, followed by production for international operators. Bell recently completed the first delivery of four AH-1Z helicopters to the Bahrain Defence Force and expects to complete the first international delivery of the AH-1Z this year.