

## Robinson Breaks Production Record

In 2007 Robinson not only confirmed the development of the R66 turbine helicopter and delivered its 8000th helicopter, but it established a new industry record for manufacturing the most civil helicopters in a single year by one company.



Robinson produced 823 new helicopters, breaking the old record of 806 set in 2005. Also, the company set a new record for production of a single helicopter model in one year, producing 664 R44s. The prior record was 563 R44s set by Robinson in 2005. While the R44 breaks records, the R22 maintains its market niche finishing the year with 159 helicopters produced.

Robinson expects strong sales to continue. To meet the growing demand, Robinson is focusing on increasing its production rate, which already averages 18 new aircraft per week.



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## President Bush Visits Robinson



*President George W. Bush, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Frank Robinson*

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 was a memorable day for Robinson Helicopter Company, with President George W. Bush paying a visit to promote pending free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama. Robinson Helicopter Company was selected as the venue for Bush's statement based on the strength of its international sales. Exports have consistently accounted for over 50 percent of the company's sales, and in 2007 exports accounted for seventy percent of Robinson's total sales.

President Bush, accompanied by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, arrived at Robinson in Marine One, one of five Marine Corps helicopters that landed at the Torrance Airport. Frank Robinson welcomed the president and governor on the tarmac and escorted them to the factory's east building. Frank then gave them a guided tour down the R44 and R22 final assembly lines. President Bush walked amongst employee workstations shaking hands, chatting, and posing for photographs.

The tour concluded in Flight Test where the president made a statement on trade to an audience of company employees, the media, and several distinguished guests including United States Congresswoman Jane Harmon, Congressman David Drier, Congressman Kevin McCarthy, Congressman Ed Royce, California



*President Bush and Governor Schwarzenegger, escorted by Frank, tour the R44 final assembly line.*

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## Rwanda's Remarkable Helicopter Pilots

Tim Tucker, Chief Instructor of the Robinson Safety Course, has taught many Safety Courses, but the one conducted in October 2007 for the Rwanda Air Force stands out because of the pilots. While they can fly helicopters, none of them know how to drive a car and some can't ride a bicycle.

Since 2004, Akagera Aviation (Kigali, Rwanda) has contracted with Robinson dealer Hover Dynamics, (Kimberley, South Africa) to train pilots for Rwanda's Air Force. Hover Dynamics provides all the training, maintenance, and logistical support needed to develop helicopter pilots from zero time to commercial standards.

Currently, 15 pilots train at the private-pilot level while five others have completed their commercial certificates and are working toward flight instructor ratings. Amazingly, these pilots transition straight from R44 Raven IIs to Russian-made, 28,000 lb MI-17 (a military version of the MI-8) or 26,000 lb MI-24 (Hind) attack helicopters used by the Rwandan Air Force.

Flight training in Rwanda is based at Kigali International Airport, which is at an elevation of 4900 feet. Due to Rwanda's mountainous terrain, much of the train-



*Tim Tucker (third from right) poses with his students from the Rwanda Air Force. Akagera Aviation, owner of three R44s, hosted the Safety Course in Kigali, Rwanda*

ing and operations are conducted around 7000 feet – 8000 feet at an average humidity of 75 percent.

Dave Baard, Hover Dynamics Chief Instructor, says "Training in this environment has been difficult on instructors, students, and aircraft alike, but the Raven II has

proved up to the task and has been an excellent training machine."

Held in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, this was the first time a Safety Course had been held anywhere on the African continent other than in the country of South Africa.

## R22 Pilot Aids Downed Aviators

On October 27, 2007, R22 pilot Maggie Rogers (Golden Gate Helicopters, California) responded to a distress call from a Bonanza airplane that had ditched into San Francisco Bay. Rogers arrived at the scene, dropped life jackets to the plane's occupants, and waited until they were rescued.



## Raven II Helicopter Joins SAR Program

A new Robinson R44 Raven II helicopter joined Project Lifesaver®, a service that locates and rescues lost people suffering from disorders such as autism and Alzheimer's disease.

Those enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a wristband that emits a tracking signal. When a caregiver reports a person missing to the local Project Lifesaver agency, a search and rescue team uses a mobile locator tracking system to find the missing person.

The addition of the R44 helicopter enables Project Lifesaver to provide air support during search and rescue operations. Since its dedication, the helicopter has been involved in at least four search and rescues, and nine training exercises involving representatives from first response agencies across the nation.

For information about Project Lifesaver, visit [www.projectlifesaver.org](http://www.projectlifesaver.org)

## Robinson Receives Repair Certificate from Argentina

Robinson received a repair station certificate from Argentina's Dirección Nacional de Aeronavegabilidad, making it the first repair certificate Robinson has earned from a Central or South American nation.

The certificate states repairs and overhauls done by Robinson on Argentina-registered helicopters comply with the country's regulations, and are authorized to be returned to service.



*Argentina's Dirección Nacional de Aeronavegabilidad (black suits) with Robinson employees.*

## Mexico's First R44 Police Helicopter Debuts

Mexico's first R44 II Police helicopter debuted in the city of Tampico on October 5, 2007 before a gathering of state and local officials. The addition of the police helicopter, along with 39 new police cars, represents a significant investment in improving public safety and traffic management for Tampico-area residents.

Made possible by the municipal and state governments, the Metropolitan Police department believes the police helicopter will be an effective tool in preventing crime. The R44 II Police Helicopter is equipped with latest crime fighting equipment, such as FLIR Ultra 8000 thermal imaging camera system, Spectrolab searchlight, PA speaker, and siren.



## Sky Helicopters Adds Hi-Def R44 Newscopter to Fleet

SKY Helicopters (Dallas, Texas) received the first of Robinson's new High-Definition (HD), camera-equipped R44 Newscopters. SKY now operates four R44 Newscopters.



For Ken Pyatt, president SKY Helicopters, the R44 Newscopter's reliability, cost, and features are unrivaled. User-friendly camera setup and operation, along with top-of-the-line equipment, make it easy to learn and produce excellent results.



The HD camera system boasts an Ikegami 1080i broadcast camera in a 5-axis gyrostabilized gimbal, with a 44x HD lens. Options include HD interior-talent camera and extra-high gain directional microwave antenna. The Newscopter's HD transmitter enables sending all-digital HD video directly to TV stations for live broadcast.

The turnkey R44 Newscopter costs about half as much as a similarly equipped turbine helicopter. Plus, the R44's operating costs are significantly less than a turbine.

Pyatt says the R44 Newscopter's affordability is an advantage in TV news gathering. "Some of our contracts require 100 hours per month of news gathering, so the economy of the R44 really comes into play. We're able to give our news and video customers the best available pictures at very competitive pricing." He adds, "More of the big-market TV stations are really paying attention to what the R44 can offer, especially now with an HD system."

## Following Robinsons Around the World



*Operating in the heat of the Tunisian desert, an R44 hovers near a camel.*



*An R44 braves the cold Russian winter in the Ural Mountains, near Yekaterinburg.*

## Pilot Brings Medical Care

Thiago Barbato pilots an R44 Astro into the Amazon, transporting doctors and medicine to people without access to medical care.



## R44 Transports Angler to Arctic

Gilles Ouellette chartered an R44 to go fishing around Ungava Bay, a remote Arctic area in northeastern Canada.



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# President Bush Visits Robinson

State Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, and Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto.

After the president's statement, he and Frank walked back to Marine One. Along the way, the president stopped to meet and sign autographs for an enthusiastic crowd of Robinson employees who had gathered in the delivery center of the factory's west building.



President Bush shakes hands with Robinson employees in engine buildup.



A crated R44, ready for export, serves as a backdrop for President Bush's statement concerning trade.



Frank and Governor Schwarzenegger look on as President Bush talks with an R44 assembler.

# RHC Delivers Its 8000th Helicopter

Robinson Helicopter Company achieved another milestone when its 8000th helicopter was flight certified. The new, solid green, Robinson R44 Raven II (S/N 11984) was ordered by Skysales Aviation (Christchurch, New Zealand) for a private owner.

Operated by Alex Rodger, Skysales started its affiliation with Robinson first as a service center in 1986 before being named a Robinson dealer in the early 1990s. Skysales Aviation also performs maintenance and overhauls, flies charters, and conducts pilot training.



## R44 Newscopter is Poland's First ENG Helicopter



A Robinson R44 Newscopter is Poland's first ENG helicopter. Operated by Sky Poland exclusively for Channel TVN, which is the country's largest commercial TV broadcaster, the Newscopter has proven from the onset to be an essential and popular tool in reporting the daily news.



Alex Rodger (Skysales), Alister Yeoman (owner) and Simon Spencer-Bower (Skysales Chief Pilot)



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