

For Immediate Release

**BOUNDARY LAYER RESEARCH CONTRACTS
WITH NAVAL AIR FOR 128 TAILBOOM STRAKE
KITS TO REDUCE FATIGUE IN AGING H-1N
HUEY'S**

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EVERETT, WASHINGTON – March 15, 2003 – Boundary Layer Research, Inc. (BLR) has contracted with Naval Air (NAVAIR) to provide tailboom strake kits for its aging fleet of H-1N Huey helicopters.

The installation of the kits will help reduce fatigue cracking in the tailboom as well as enhance the operational safety and performance of the widely used Huey, used as a utility machine that experiences decades of hard flying.

NAVAIR was looking for a way to reduce the consistent fatigue cracks it was discovering to the tailboom structure. BLR engineers identified an aerodynamic process called 'vortex shedding' as the primary factor causing the cracking. Dave George, spokesman for BLR describes the process, "the rotor downwash only flows smoothly down the sides of the tail boom for a short distance before curling into a vortex. The vortex gets bigger as it flows down until it is too big to "hide" under the tail boom and gets swept away. Meanwhile, the next vortex forms on the opposite side of the tail boom and the process, called vortex shedding, repeats. This alternating vortex shedding causes the tail boom to wag back and forth, and the associated vibration and oscillation causes increased fatigue and stress in both airframes and pilots trying to counteract the problem."

The BLR strake kit, when installed, eliminates the problem through reductions in vortex shedding and its effects by manipulating the airflow around the tail boom and eliminating the alternating sideways lift. An additional and significant benefit of the strake kit is an improvement in overall aircraft control and stability, enhancing flying safety.

The kit consists of two strakes (8 components) mounted to the left side of the tail boom.

NAVAIR evaluated the BLR kit in a flight testing program that consisted of typical operational maneuvering Huey's experience regularly.

Pilot experiences to the BLR modifications have been overwhelming positive. Maj. James Judkins, the maintenance officer for HML/A-167 was an evaluator, "I truly believe this modification is one the entire fleet should desire to get," he added. "It's an outstanding modification to the overall aircraft."

Bob Desroche, BLR's founder expects further testing and acceptance of the strake program throughout all branches of the US and foreign militaries as well as worldwide civilian applications. "We have seen nothing but positive results from our engineering. Our strake kit is fast becoming a 'must have' modification. The performance and safety enhancement coupled with the reduction in airframe fatigue is an improvement that cannot be overlooked."

Boundary Layer Research, Inc.

Boundary Layer Research, Inc (BLR) is an Aerospace Research & Development firm located in Everett, Washington.

BLR is a world leader in the engineering, certifying, manufacturing and marketing of aerodynamic enhancement components that cost effectively enhances the productivity, performance, and safety of general, commercial, and military legacy aircraft.

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