



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND  
805 KIDDER BREESE STREET SE  
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5060

IN REPLY REFER TO

24 MARCH 2011

From: Director, Navy Office of Commemorations, NHHC (Code 500)  
To: Commander, Naval Air Forces (Code N00)

Subj: BIRTHDAY OF NAVY HELICOPTER AVIATION

Ref: (1) NHHICINST 3120.3

Encl: (1) Page 131 of *United States Naval Aviation 1910-1995*,  
Roy A. Grossnick; with contributions from William J.  
Armstrong [et al.]. [4th ed.] Naval History and Heritage  
Command

1. **Purpose:** Establish the official birth date of Navy helicopter aviation.
2. **Background:**
  - a. In order to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Navy helicopter aviation, an official date is required to be designated.
  - b. Other communities within the Navy, such as Naval Aviation and the Submarine Force, recognize the first vehicle accepted into the inventory as their specific birth date.
  - c. According to enclosure (1), the first helicopter accepted into Navy inventory occurred on 16 October, 1943.
3. **Action:** In accordance with reference (1) and in keeping with the tradition set by other communities, Navy History and Heritage Command, Office of Commemorations designates 16 October, 1943 as the official birth date of Navy helicopter aviation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. C. Burns", is written over a horizontal line.

P. C. BURNS  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Director, NHHC Office of  
Commemorations