



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BELL HELICOPTER JOINS THE AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU TEAM**  
***America Supports You to be Featured at Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl***

**Fort Worth, TX –December 22, 2006** - Bell Helicopter a Textron, Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced today it has joined the *America Supports You* team, and as part of its participation will help increase awareness for the *America Supports You* program, a Department of Defense program that recognizes the support of Americans for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

In its first year as the title sponsor for the Armed Forces Bowl, Bell Helicopter will display a painted, full color *America Supports You* logo on the football field between the 20 and 30 yard lines. In addition, Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl will include a full-page Ad Council print ad in the game program, feature “shout outs” brought from troops, and a public service announcement that will air on in-stadium video screens, and activate the *America Supports You* text message program giving fans a way to show their support to military members. Additionally, the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl will have on display a 40’ tractor trailer wrapped with the *America Support You* logo at the ESPN Adventure Zone.

“We know there are countless Americans across the country who are asking what they can do to show their support for our troops and their families,” said Allison Barber, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and architect of the *America Supports You* program. “By spreading the word about *America Supports You*, corporations like Bell Helicopter help educate Americans about groups and organizations in their communities that offer support for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and help show ways everyone can join in. We appreciate all that Bell Helicopter is doing in support our troops through *America Supports You*.”

Several companies and sports organizations have joined the *America Supports You* team including the PGA Tour, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, NASCAR and USA Basketball.

“It is a great honor to join the *America Supports You* team in the recognition of what our dedicated men and women in uniform do for our country. When we began our support for the Armed Forces Bowl we were excited about the opportunity to reach out to U.S. military around the world and say Thank You! Partnering with *America Supports You* means that message will reach even further. We are very excited and pleased to be apart of this great event.” Said Michael Redenbaugh, Chief Executive Officer for Bell Helicopter.

Also in attendance at the bowl will be *America Supports You* team member *Connect And Join*. In July, *Connect And Join*, a family support and education services publishing company, launched a project, “Connect with the Troops,” to enlist children across America to help create the world’s largest, and greatest, scrapbook. With the participation of more than 29 states, *Connect And Join* has collected several thousand pages for the scrapbook. Founder, Linda Dennis, will present the scrapbooks to Allen R. Dehnert, two-star general of the Texas National Guard, which will be sent overseas to deployed troops. *Connect And Join* will also have an on-site display at the ESPN Adventure Zone.

The game will be carried live on Armed Forces Network as well as ESPN.

For more information on the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl please contact Tim Simmons at 720-244-6580 or Mike Cox at 817-455-2841. For more information about *America Supports You*, contact Maj. Thomas Johnson at 719-238-1180, or Brian Walton at (724) 456-2957.

**About America Supports You:** *America Supports You* is an ongoing nationwide program that helps showcase American’s support for the men and women of the Armed Forces. Since its launch in November of 2004 by the Department of Defense, *America Supports You* has welcomed nearly 250 grassroots organizations and more than 33 corporate sponsors to its team. *America Supports You* team members support the troops by writing letters, sending care packages, helping the wounded when they return home, assisting military families, sending e-mails or simply extending kind gestures to the troops. To learn more about how you can support military personnel please visit [www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil](http://www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil).

**Connect And Join:** The project invited teachers, students, and community service members to make scrapbook pages for the troops. In addition, the [www.connectwiththetroops.com](http://www.connectwiththetroops.com) Web site offered teachers lesson plans on teaching patriotism.

**Bell Helicopter** is an industry-leading producer of commercial and military, manned and unmanned vertical lift aircraft and the pioneer of the revolutionary tilt rotor aircraft. Globally recognized for world-class customer service, innovation and superior quality, Bell’s global workforce serves customers flying Bell aircraft in more than 120 countries.