

**The Vertical Flight Society
Southwest Chapter presents**



RSVP here!

our annual membership drive event and
a presentation by

Jim Harse

Former Bell Chief Engineer on H-1 Upgrade Program

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

**How the H-1 Upgrade
Program Started**



Bell retiree, Jim Harse, will present the origin of the H-1 Upgrade program which is traced to the 1960s UH-1, Huey. By 1968, that design led to the creation of the AH-1, Cobra, attack version. Jim follows the UH and AH aircraft through a progression that kept the utility and attack helicopters relevant to the current UH-1Y and Z models. With growing demand for safety and performance, Jim presents key attributes that allowed affordable upgrades over the decades, leading to the simultaneous upgrade for the Huey and Cobra. Based on 80+% commonality between the two platforms, common spare parts permitted a significantly smaller logistical footprint, making the aircraft the mainstay for the US Marine Corps.

Jim Harse has over 52 years of experience in the aviation and rotorcraft industry. Jim graduated from the University of Texas in 1971 and spent most of his career at Bell starting in a research analysis group focused on dynamic systems before transitioning to engineering. His experience spans many roles including staff engineer of preliminary design, Chief Engineer of Air Vehicle for the H-1 Upgrade program, Director of Mechanical Systems, and Technical Fellow guiding conceptual and pre-design activities for commercial programs.

**Please note that this will be our annual membership drive dinner! Any member who brings a non-VFS guest will be entered into a raffle with prizes worth \$200+. Any non-members that opt to join our VFS family within two weeks of this event will also be entered into a separate raffle.

Time and Location:

**Texas Star
1400 Texas Star Parkway**

6:00 PM – Social

**6:30-8:00 PM – Dinner, Presentation, and Q&A
Session**

Price:

Members (of any group): \$30

Prospective Member: FREE**

Non-Members: \$40

Students: FREE

Tickets purchase after RSVP deadline will incur
additional \$5 fee.

For additional information on the dinner or VFS, please feel free to contact one of the following people:

Elizabeth Ward

(817) 280-3806

Angela Buccio

(817) 280-5227

Please RSVP by completing the online form [HERE](https://southwest.vtol.org) or through Paypal at southwest.vtol.org by 5:00pm,
Thursday, February 13, 2025. Late registrations will incur an additional \$5 fee
If you have any issues with the form, please email Elizabeth Ward at eward01@bellflight.com