

Kim Smith, Editor
(optional)

or mail your answers to Kim Smith, Editor, *Vertiflite* Magazine, 217 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314, USA, (703) 684-6777, FAX (703) 739-9279

Recognizing the increasing global nature of the rotorcraft industry we would like your input on whether you think the time is right for the American Helicopter Society to delete the American prefix from its name. Currently 17 percent of the AHS membership is internationally-based and this year the AHS Japan Chapter is being honored for the largest percent increase in members. In the past year the Society has signed an agreement with the Royal Aeronautical Society to collaborate on international rotorcraft issues. AHS, in conjunction with the Singapore Chapter, hosted a Singapore '92 Vertiflite Seminar and in mid-June the Society is holding a Paris Vertiflite Seminar. Although international participation is growing, the American prefix has been reported as a deterrent to increasing participation. We'd like to receive your opinion on this potentially controversial issue and we will report your answers in our July/August issue.

1. Do you believe that the AHS should change its name to reflect a more international orientation? If yes, or no please explain.

(Please add more pages for your answer, if needed.)

2. If you believe that the time is right to change the name what name would you suggest?

We introduced this feature in the May/June issue of *Vertiflite* and the following represents the replies that we have received, to date. Although many individuals did sign their names to the missives they sent to AHS National Headquarters, we decided to provide you with the replies but sans authors.

The questions that provoked this healthy response were: **Do you believe that the AHS should change its name to reflect a more international orientation? If you believe that the time is right to change the name what name would you suggest?** (For those who are counting, we received ten faxes desirous of a name change and six who were quite adamantly opposed. We would encourage you to continue to provide us with your views on this controversial issue. The AHS leadership needs to know what you think.)

The Case for the American Helicopter Society

No - I see no need to change the name of the AHS. This organization has a distinguished history as the American Helicopter Society. Affiliations with other countries and organizations seem to be in balance without regard to a name change. Therefore I see no rationale to change. I believe the AIAA is still the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Do NOT change the name. There is a long tradition behind "AHS" that should not be lost. The international participation is important but the AHS will remain predominantly an American Society. If this discourages international participation, so be it. The Royal Aeronautical Society and AIAA don't

seem to be too worried about this in their names.

No - do not change the name. Eighty-three percent of your members are still in the US and a US-based international organization gains little by a name change. HAI still isn't strong in Europe. There is little to gain. AHS has also had close ties with the US Army and other parts of the US defense community but we jeopardize those ties by declaring ourselves international. Let's go slowly on the one-world pitch. The political and market situations are still unsettled.

No - do not change the name. As the AHS becomes more "international," it becomes increasingly difficult to present state-of-the-art technology at the technical sessions and specialist meetings. NASA Langley Research Center has the policy that unless information is already in the US public domain, it will not be presented at "international" meetings.

No - do not change the name. AHS is the "American" institute to promote rotary wing technology and interests. We are international in membership, but "American" in our origins. We might want to reconsider the word "Helicopter" in the name though to broaden the coverage to all "V/STOL" concepts. We could change the name to the "American VSTOL Society."

No - do not change the name. If the Royal Aeronautical Society can get by with its prefix "Royal" for 100 years, surely the American Helicopter Society can get along for a few more years. To achieve world wide stature it is the content of its publications that are important, not solely its name.

Ready for a Change

Yes, change the name. Although I am sentimental about the name "AHS," I do think it is desirable to de-nationalize the name. It should be simple and clearly represent what the Society is about. How about the International Helicopter Society?

The AHS has been virtually from its founding an international organization in fact, if not in name. This came about because the United States had the only significant helicopter industry at that time, albeit small and struggling. (What else is new?)

An organizational structure somewhat along the lines of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, without the stuffed shirt, top-heavy headquarters, could coordinate the world-wide shows, seminars, conventions and dissemination of mutually pertinent information.

The AHS would be the logical organization to perform that necessary function under the appellation "International Rotorcraft Society." Existing national and regional helicopter organizations would continue to represent their own constituents.

P.S. This will cause more ruffled feathers than a new rooster in the hen house! Good luck.

Yes, I believe that a name change is in order for greater collaboration and communication. Anything that would raise our status closer to that of SAE is good. I would recommend the name be changed to the International Powered Lift Association.

Yes, I believe that the Society should become more international and I recommend the name be changed to the World Helicopter Society.

The AHS has started representing the international rotorcraft community. This is obvious in the number of international participants at the Annual Forum and the growth of international chapters and increase in international membership. The time is ripe for such a change. This is underscored by the fact that most new projects these days are joint international programs. I would suggest the "Helicopter Society International."

Yes, I would suggest calling it AHS & the International Vertiflite Association. All international members belong to

the International Vertiflite Association and this will attract more non-American members.

I think the name should change. People in Canada definitely think of it as an American group and ask why they should join. The Helicopter Society Worldwide, Global or International Helicopter Society would better suit what the organization has become.

Yes! Change the name for all the reasons that you stated in your FAX Feedback Form. I would recommend the World Helicopter Society or the International Vertiflite Organization.

Yes! I believe the name should change because our membership is international and now that AHS is involved with the

Royal Aeronautical Society, I believe it is more important to do so. It would be excellent for AHS to be recognized as an international organization and provide input on international standards based on safety and not just for marketing reasons. How about the International Helicopter Society?

Yes, I believe there should be a name change but not just because of the international connotations. We represent all of vertical flight to include tilt prop-rotors, conventional rotorcraft, compound and composite rotorcraft, and VTOL aircraft such as fan-in-wing, tilt-wing, deflected thrust etc. If we truly want to cover all VTOL concepts a name change is in order and I would recommend the Vertical Flight Society.

Recognition by Your Peers

There's nothing quite like being recognized by your professional peers and associates for your hard work and accomplishments. Recognizing this longing, the Society founded its awards program in 1944 and over the years has paid tribute to the outstanding leaders of the vertical flight industry. Join the ranks of such luminaries as Igor Sikorsky, Dora Strother, Dr. Alexander Klemin, Robert Suggs, Jean Ross Howard, Marie Mouille, Frank Plasecki, Stanley Hiller and Charles Kaman - all past AHS award recipients.

AHS will accept nominations until January 15, 1993 for the following prestigious awards which will be presented, in the presence of your peers, at AHS Forum 50, May 11-13, 1994 in Washington, DC.

AHS Fellows Awards: the Grover E. Bell Award; the Frederick L. Feinberg Award; the Gruppo Agusta International Helicopter Fellowship Award; the Paul E. Haueter Award; Honorary Fellowships; the Howard Hughes Award; the Harry T. Jensen Award; the Dr. Alexander Klemin Award; the Captain William J. Kossler, USCG Award; the Robert L. Lichten Award; the Alexander A. Nikolsky Honorary Lectureship; and the Igor I. Sikorsky International Trophy.

For more information and to obtain nomination forms please contact: AHS National Headquarters, 207 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314, USA. (703) 684-6777, FAX (703) 739-9279.

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The Case for the American Helicopter Society

No — do not change the name. The AHS has a rich 50 year history and tradition. The American prefix has not bothered those 17% international members. The AHS has been largely supported by the American industry. The Society will continuously depend upon American manufacturers for years to come.

As a foreign member of AHS I would like to say that I feel you should try to retain your identity as AHS, and then each country participating could simply add their own extension, e.g. AHS-UK Chapter! If this is deemed not acceptable then drop the "American" and

rename the organization "The Helicopter Society"! It is going to be very hard to please everyone — but, good luck.

No! While I am somewhat ambivalent on the issue, my vote is no. Yes, the AHS has become an international organization. But so is the Royal Aeronautical Society, and you can bet your boots they won't change their name. I really do believe that 80% of the helicopter engineering (research, design, and technology) originates in America, and the AHS is supposed to be an engineering organization.

Ready for a Change

Yes!! By becoming the International Helicopter Society (IHS) we recognize the truly interdependent and mutually supporting nature of our profession. This will serve to increase our advancement of vertical flight in its service to society by broadening our appeal to all elements wishing to contribute.

Yes, change the name to the American International Helicopter Society, (AIHS). The name change suggested would reflect the current drive to be international while reflecting the Society's U.S. origins and "culture".

Yes, I'm convinced the AHS should change its name to reflect a more international environment. I suggest the International Helicopter Society, (IHS).

If in fact the current trend is towards international growth as described then the answer is undoubtedly yes. Since the AHS has decided to expand beyond its birthplace of America it too must deal with the consequence of this policy.

Internationalization should be seen as a benefit and the Society should not alienate its fastest growing population. Default: World Helicopter Society or International Helicopter Society or perhaps simply Helicopter Society.

Yes, change the name to the International Helicopter Society (IHS) since it appears to be a deterrent to AHS growth.

Yes, change the name and the Society can be multi-linguistic with a "basic" English language colored by the local chapters majority making it international. I suggest "Vertiso."

July/August FAX Feedback

The following are the answers we have received to date on our July/August FAX Feedback query. The question we asked was: **"What do you believe are the top ten technological achievements in the history of vertical flight?"** As in previous issues we have published your answers, but sans authors. Please FAX us at (703) 739-9279 on what you think are the top ten achievements. We will be publishing, in conjunction with our auspicious 50th Anniversary, a booklet detailing the top ten technological achievements in the history of vertical flight. Therefore, your input on this question is important to us and will help determine what accomplishments are selected.

- ☐ Development of the first Sikorsky single-rotor tail rotor helicopter (VS-300)
- ☐ Development of the first Piasecki tandem helicopter
- ☐ Development of the first Synchropter (demonstrated by Hannah Reich: the Focke Achgelis)
- ☐ First all-metal rotor blades