

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

December 14, 1998

INFORMATION LETTER 214ST-98-12

TO: All 214ST Helicopter Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: Tail Rotor Blade, P/N 214-015-700, Crack

BHT recently received a report of a 214ST tail rotor blade which experienced a chordwise skin crack running from just aft of the leading edge abrasion strip to the trailing edge. The crack was located just outboard of the first doubler.

Examination revealed the crack was the result of fatigue originating on the outer surface of the skin. The blade's internal fiberglass crack arrestor strip prevented the skin crack from propagating into the spar.

This Information Letter is issued to advise owners/operators of this occurrence and to remind that a detailed visual inspection of the tail rotor blades is required at each "A" inspection interval.