



MARINE ONE

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History:

Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) was established in December 1947 as an experimental unit to test and evaluate helicopters and tactics. HMX-1 made history on May 1948, by making the first ship-to-shore helicopter lift. In September 1957, the squadron again made history when President Dwight D. Eisenhower, while vacationing in Rhode Island, was required to return to Washington, D.C., on short notice. He boarded an HMX-1UH-34 in Newport for a flight to Naval Air Station Quonset Point, marking the first time an American President had flown on a Marine helicopter.

Marine One Today:

HMX-1 continues to provide helicopter transportation for the President and Vice President, and "Marine One" is the call sign used when the President is on board one of the HMX-1 Marine helicopters. The primary presidential helicopter is a Sikorsky VH-3D (Sea King). Uniquely designed for the President's use, this aircraft has a cruising speed of 110 knots (131 miles per hour) and range of 450 miles. Marine One has flown in 48 foreign countries and has landed at such faraway places as England's Windsor Castle, Japan's Akasaka Palace, Colombia's Bolivar Square, the Demilitarized Zone of South Korea, and Kuwait's Bayan Palace. The VH-60N (Blackhawk) and CH-46E (Sea Knight) have also been used as "Marine One." Other HMX-1 helicopters are used to transport the Vice President, Cabinet members and foreign dignitaries.