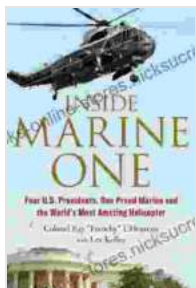


# Four Presidents, One Proud Marine, and the World's Most Amazing Helicopter: The Story of Marine One



## Inside Marine One: Four U.S. Presidents, One Proud Marine, and the World's Most Amazing Helicopter

by Lee Kelley

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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## The Early Years

The story of Marine One begins in the early days of the Cold War. As tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union escalated, President Dwight D. Eisenhower realized that he needed a way to quickly and safely evacuate from Washington, D.C. in the event of a nuclear attack. In 1957, the Marine Corps was tasked with developing a new helicopter that could meet the president's needs.

The Marines selected the Sikorsky H-34 as the basis for the new presidential helicopter. The H-34 was a proven design, having served in the Korean War. However, the Marines made a number of modifications to the

aircraft to meet the president's specific requirements. These modifications included adding a bulletproof cabin, a secure communications system, and a self-destruct mechanism.

The first Marine One helicopter was delivered to the White House in 1957. President Eisenhower immediately put the aircraft to use, flying it to Camp David and other locations. Marine One quickly became a symbol of the president's power and prestige.

### **The Kennedy Years**

President John F. Kennedy was a big fan of Marine One. He used the helicopter to travel all over the country, and he even took it on a trip to Europe. Kennedy's use of Marine One helped to make the helicopter even more popular with the American people.

In 1961, Kennedy ordered the Marines to develop a new, more powerful helicopter for the president. The result was the Sikorsky VH-3 Sea King. The Sea King was a much larger and more capable helicopter than the H-34. It could carry more passengers, fly faster, and travel farther. The Sea King also had a number of advanced features, such as a weather radar and a night vision system.

The Sea King entered service in 1962. Kennedy was so impressed with the new helicopter that he ordered a second one for his personal use. He named the second Sea King "Caroline" after his daughter.

### **The Johnson Years**

President Lyndon B. Johnson continued to use the Sea King as the presidential helicopter. However, he also ordered the Marines to develop a

new, even more advanced helicopter. The result was the Sikorsky VH-53D Sea Stallion.

The Sea Stallion was a massive helicopter, capable of carrying up to 37 passengers. It was also the first presidential helicopter to be equipped with a missile defense system. The Sea Stallion entered service in 1969.

Johnson used the Sea Stallion to travel all over the world. He even took it on a trip to Vietnam. The Sea Stallion quickly became a symbol of American power and prestige.

### **The Nixon Years**

President Richard Nixon was the first president to use the VH-53D Sea Stallion as his primary helicopter. He used the helicopter to travel all over the country, and he even took it on a trip to China. Nixon's use of the Sea Stallion helped to make the helicopter even more popular with the American people.

In 1972, Nixon ordered the Marines to develop a new, even more advanced helicopter for the president. The result was the Sikorsky VH-60N White Hawk.

The White Hawk was a much smaller and more maneuverable helicopter than the Sea Stallion. It was also the first presidential helicopter to be equipped with a digital flight control system. The White Hawk entered service in 1979.

### **The Reagan Years**

President Ronald Reagan was the first president to use the VH-60N White Hawk as his primary helicopter. He used the helicopter to travel all over the

country, and he even took it on a trip to Europe. Reagan's use of the White Hawk helped to make the helicopter even more popular with the American people.

In 1985, Reagan ordered the Marines to develop a new, even more advanced helicopter for the president. The result was the Sikorsky VH-71 Kestrel.

The Kestrel was a state-of-the-art helicopter, equipped with the latest in technology. It was the first presidential helicopter to be equipped with a fully digital cockpit. The Kestrel also had a number of other advanced features, such as a night vision system and a missile defense system.

### **The Bush Years**

President George H. W. Bush used the VH-71 Kestrel as his primary helicopter. He used the helicopter to travel all over the country, and he even took it on a trip to the Middle East. Bush's use of the Kestrel helped to make the helicopter even more popular with the American people.

In 1991, Bush ordered the Marines to develop a new, even more advanced helicopter for the president. The result was the Sikorsky VH-92A Superhawk.

The Superhawk was a much larger and more capable helicopter than the Kestrel. It could carry more passengers, fly faster, and travel farther. The Superhawk also had a number of advanced features, such as a weather radar and a night vision system.

### **The Clinton Years**

President Bill Clinton used the VH-92A Superhawk as his primary helicopter. He used the helicopter to travel all over the country, and he even took it on a trip to Africa. Clinton's use of the Superhawk helped to make the helicopter even more popular with the American people.

In 2000, Clinton ordered the Marines to develop a new, even more advanced helicopter for the president. The result was the Sikorsky VH-72A Lakota.

The Lakota was a state-of-the-art helicopter, equipped with the latest in technology. It was the first presidential helicopter to be equipped with a fully digital cockpit. The Lakota also had a number of other advanced features, such as a night vision system and a missile defense system.

### **The Bush Years**

President George W. Bush used the VH-72A Lakota as his primary helicopter. He used the helicopter to travel all over the country, and he even took it on a trip to Iraq. Bush's use of the Lakota helped to make the helicopter even more popular with the American people.

In 2008, Bush ordered the Marines to develop a new, even more advanced helicopter for the president. The result was the Sikorsky VH-92A Superhawk II.

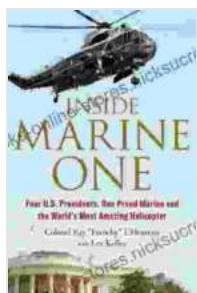
The Superhawk II was a much larger and more capable helicopter than the Lakota. It could carry more passengers, fly faster, and travel farther. The Superhawk II also had a number of advanced features, such as a weather radar and a night vision system.

### **The Obama Years**

President Barack Obama used the VH-92A Superhawk II as his primary helicopter. He used the helicopter to travel all over the country, and he even took it on a trip to Cuba. Obama's use of the Superhawk II helped to make the helicopter even more popular with the American people.

In 2014, Obama ordered the Marines to develop a new, even more advanced helicopter for the president. The result was the Sikorsky VH-92A Superhawk III.

The Superhawk III was a state-of-the-art helicopter, equipped with



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