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The Helicopter
Thinking Forward, Looking Back

J. Gordon Leishman
Professor of Aerospace Engineering
University of Maryland

Why, after decades of research, analysis, and experimentation, is helicopter performance still where it is?

With this question, Dr. J. Gordon Leishman opens an invigorating discussion of technical problems influencing the performance of the helicopter, and provides a unique perspective into future challenges and new opportunities in realizing its full performance. The problems of the helicopter are assessed in terms of the interdependent aeromechanical factors that affect and limit its flight capabilities. While written primarily for researchers, engineers, managers, and policymakers in the rotorcraft field, the book assumes only a basic background in helicopter engineering and avoids detailed mathematical development, making it suitable for all helicopter enthusiasts.

Dr. J. Gordon Leishman holds the Minta Martin Chair of Engineering and is a Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Maryland. A former aerodynamicist at Westland Helicopters, Dr. Leishman has written extensively on topics in helicopter aerodynamics and helicopter technology. He is also the author of the book Principles of Helicopter Aerodynamics. Dr. Leishman is a Technical Fellow of the American Helicopter Society, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He also serves as Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of the American Helicopter Society.

$65.–
ISBN 978-0-9669553-1-6
LCCN 2007924178
May, 2007
272 pages, illustrated, with index
6"×9", case bound

Order from: American Helicopter Society International
217 N. Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314-2538 USA
Phone: 703-684-6777
Fax: 703-739-9279
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