The US Army Names the Bell MV-75: The Legend of the Cheyenne II is Reborn

Published on 18/04/2026

The **U.S. Army** has officially named its new tiltrotor aircraft **Bell MV-75** as **Cheyenne II**, reviving one of the most iconic and ambitious names in military aviation history. This choice respects the long tradition of naming combat vehicles in honor of **Native American tribes**. The name directly recalls the legendary **Lockheed AH-56 Cheyenne**, the revolutionary attack helicopter of the 1960s that sought to combine the speed of an airplane with the versatility of a rotor, but whose program was halted in **1972** due to technical and political issues. Today, more than sixty years after the first prototypes, the U.S. Army resumes that interrupted concept to usher in a new era of **vertical flight**.

The US Army Names the Bell MV-75: The Legend of "Cheyenne II" is Reborn

MV-75: The Technical Evolution of the Tiltrotor

The **Cheyenne II** represents the final evolution of the technology demonstrator **Bell V-280 Valor** and introduces radical engineering solutions compared to previous models. Unlike the Osprey, the **MV-75** is designed with **fixed engines** in a horizontal position, where only the **rotors** and transmission systems rotate; this design increases **mechanical reliability** and drastically reduces the thermal impact on landing zones. The numerical designation **75** was chosen to celebrate **1775**, the founding year of the **U.S. Army**, following a symbolic designation logic already adopted for the stealth bomber **B-21** and the future fighter **F-47**, departing from the traditional numerical sequence to emphasize the historical importance of the project.

The US Army Names the Bell MV-75: The Legend of "Cheyenne II" is Reborn

Operational Revolution and Accelerated Delivery Times

The new tiltrotor is set to replace the renowned **Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk**, taking on the role of a cornerstone for long-range tactical transport and air assault. The first operational unit to receive the new aircraft will be the prestigious **101st Airborne Division** (Screaming Eagles) at Fort Campbell. Surprising international observers, the Pentagon has decided to accelerate the program significantly: the official introduction will take place by the end of **2026**, well ahead of the original forecast of **2030**. The army plans to deploy the first **six series prototypes** to immediately commence field testing, ensuring troop projection capability with speed and range almost **doubled** compared to current helicopters.