

The Air Force's giant experimental jet helicopter, the XH - 17 -- biggest believed to be the biggest in the world -- is readied for its first flight at Culver City, California.

Howard Hughes, wearing hat, who built the strange creation, watches as the crew clambers into the cockpit.

The whirling blades -- one hundred twenty five feet from tip to tip -- cause a miniature hurricane -- as the spider-like contraption blasts off the ground. The XH-17 is more than thirty feet high, powered by two modified turbo-jets.

Spewing flames from its rotors like a weird, monster pinwheel, the craft puts on a spectacular show. Officials say it is the forerunner of powerful cargo-carrying 'copters for military equipment.

~~A blazing aircraft at the Naval Air Station in New York provides firefighting crews with a xxix realistic climax to two weeks of instruction on combating fires. In a burning plane they have but a sixty seconds to rescue the crew, and one minute more to save themselves~~