THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN TRANSMITTED TO UNITS SUBORDINATE TO ADDRESSES. ADDRESSES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISSEMINATION OF MESSAGE TO ALL SUBORDINATE UNITS.

MAINTENANCE ADVISORY MESSAGE ON AVIATION LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT - TROOP SEAT BELTS ON UH-1 AIRCRAFT. (GEN-96-28)

A RECENT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION INVOLVING A UH-1 SHOWED THAT:

THE TROOP SEAT BELTS HAD BEEN INSTALLED USING THE CARGO TIE DOWN FITTINGS IN THE FLOOR AS ANCHOR POINTS; THE INSTRUCTIONS IN REFERENCES A, B, AND C AND THE FIGURES IN REFERENCE D DIRECT THE INSTALLATION OF TROOP SEAT BELTS USING THE RING FITTINGS ON THE SEAT FRAME OR BULKHEAD.

TESTS WERE CONDUCTED AT FT. RUCKERT ALON CARGO TIE DOWN FITTINGS, RING FITTINGS ON THE SEAT FRAME, AND RING FITTINGS MOUNTED IN THE BULKHEAD. THESE TESTS SHOW THAT THE SEAT FRAME/BULKHEAD RING FITTINGS EXCEED THE STRENGTH OF THE CARGO TIE DOWN FITTINGS BY AT LEAST A FACTOR OF 2;

BASED ON THESE TEST RESULTS, INSTALLATION OF TROOP SEAT BELTS SHOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DIRECTIONS CONTAINED IN REFERENCE A, B, C, AND D UTILIZING THE SEAT FRAME/ BULKHEAD RING FITTINGS.

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