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Interagency Aviation ACCIDENT PREVENTION BULLETIN



No. IA APB 12-03

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Subject: Helicopter External Water Delivery Systems (Blivets)

Area of Concern: All Helicopter Operations

Distribution: All Aviation Users

Discussion:

Recently the suspension/attachment system on a 72 gallon blivet failed during flight. The blivet impacted the ground in an area free of any personnel and was destroyed [SAFECOM 12-0620](#).

Figure 1 contains photos of the damaged blivet. Notice the clean separation/failure point of the attachment straps.



Figure 1

There are several types of blivets with essentially the same basic design however there are some minor differences in how the attachment straps are secured to the blivet. All use attachment straps connect to the blivet using a combination of adhesive and rivets. The main difference is in the number of rivets on the strap.



Figure 2

Figure 2 illustrates that the adhesive has failed and the strap is separating from the blivet. Four rivets are all that are maintaining the attachment. This blivet should be tagged and removed from service.

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Figure 3



Figure 3 shows the same basic style with only two rivets backing up the adhesive attachment. The yellow circle shows where the attachment strap is starting to fail. This blivet should be tagged and removed from service as well.

Figure 4



The blivet in figure 4 contains a much more robust attachment method that will assist the adhesive and allow the attachment to maintain its structural integrity.

Recommendation:

Aviation bases inspect all blivets in their vehicles and caches for signs of fatigue or failures within the attachment strap area. Attempt to peel back the strap from the blivet. If the strap starts to peel, then the blivet should be tagged and immediately removed from service.

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