INFLIGHT ENGINE SHUTDOWN DURING TRAINING SORTIE

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT OR ISSUE:
• An AS350BA helicopter from 723 Squadron encountered an inflight engine shutdown during a routine training sortie at HMAS Albatross.
• The crew landed the aircraft on the Western Pad at HMAS Albatross and the crew were uninjured.
• The aircraft sustained no damage during the landing.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT OR ISSUE:
• The incident occurred on at approximately 0845 on 24 February 2012 at HMAS Albatross.

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:
• An investigation into the circumstances that led to the shutdown has commenced.
• CO 723 has directed the cessation of flying for the AS350BA pending completion of the technical assessment.
• Scheduled AS350BA tasks over the weekend will be conducted by crew using the Squadron A109E aircraft.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
The AS350BA is a single engine light utility training helicopter operated by 723 Squadron as a rotary training platform for Navy aircrew. The Navy operates 13 AS350BA for Pilot, Aviation Warfare Officer and Aircrewman training.