

Hot Issue Brief Tracking System

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Subject: SUSPENSION OF AP-3C FLYING OPERATIONS
Comment:
Group: AIR FORCE

SUSPENSION OF AP-3C FLYING OPERATIONS

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT:

- RAAF AP-3C 'Orion' aircraft have been suspended from flying operations due to potential airworthiness concerns.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT:

- On 7 November 2012, an airworthiness issue was detected on an AP-3C, involving the locking of the rudder controls under certain conditions.
- The rudder problem was detected during a post-Deeper Maintenance test flight at RAAF Richmond.
- Further tests on other AP-3C aircraft undergoing maintenance at RAAF Richmond demonstrated the same problem.
- Air Force suspended AP-3C flying operations from 8pm 7 November 2012 to investigate the matter fully.

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- Air Force is working to determine the cause and corrective actions.
- The issue appears to be a characteristic of the aircraft generated when the rudder pedals are adjusted to the fully extended position.
- Air Force is currently working with relevant agencies to provide a technical and operational airworthiness solution that permits a safe return to flying operations as soon as possible.
- The suspension has not significantly affected Defence operations.

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