Continued Airworthiness Notification to the International Community

To: Civil Aviation Authorities Date: May 17, 2018

From: Federal Aviation Administration
Aircraft Certification Service
System Oversight Division, AIR-800
2200 South 216th Street
Des Moines, WA 98198

Subject: This message is to advise you of the FAA's ongoing activities related to understrength aileron control rod assemblies, part number (P/N) 826998-3, installed on Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Model 188A and 188C airplanes; and Model P3A, P-3A, and P3B airplanes type certificated under various other type certificate holders. Certain variants of Model 188A and 188C airplanes are known as "P-3" series airplanes. P-3 series airplanes include but are not limited to Model CP-140, NP-3A, P3A, P-3A, P3B, P-3B, P-3C, P-3P, and WP-3D airplanes.

Situation description: Certain aileron control rod bodies, P/N 826999-3, were incorrectly machined so that they did not include the load-carrying threads in the bore of the aileron control rod body. As a result, aileron control rod assemblies, P/N 826998-3, which contain the discrepant part, do not provide adequate load carrying capabilities. A number of these discrepant parts have been found installed on operational airplanes.

The discrepant aileron control rod bodies, P/N 826999-3, were machined with a smooth internal bore rather than with 7/8-inch internal threads to engage the mating part. The missing 7/8-inch internal threads are intended to transmit the aileron control loads. The incorrectly machined aileron control rod assemblies, P/N 826998-3, are held together with a single threaded #10 (0.190-inch diameter) screw that is not intended to carry aileron control forces.

Failure of the aileron control rod assembly, or loss or failure of the #10 (0.190-inch diameter) screw holding the left (or right) aileron control rod assembly together, if not addressed, will result in loss of aileron authority, and could result in the jamming of both left and right ailerons, and loss of control of the airplane.

Aircraft/engine make, model, and series: All Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Model 188A and 188C airplanes; and Model P3A, P-3A, and P3B airplanes type certificated under various other type certificate holders. Certain variants of Model 188A and 188C airplanes are known as "P-3" series airplanes. P-3 series airplanes include but are not limited to Model CP-140, NP-3A, P3A, P-3A, P3B, P-3B, P-3C, P-3P, and WP-3D airplanes.

U.S.-registered fleet: 25 airplanes; **Worldwide fleet:** 35 airplanes

Operators: These airplanes are operated as passenger charter, cargo, firefighting, and special mission airplanes.

Ongoing activities: Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company has prepared an aircraft maintenance bulletin that provides instructions for inspecting to determine if an incorrectly machined aileron control rod assembly is installed. The aircraft maintenance bulletin must be mandated by an airworthiness directive to be enforceable. We are planning issuance of an AD to address the identified unsafe condition.

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