



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific Region
Honolulu Flight Standards District Office

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February 26, 1997

Rhuno J. Nelson
Airworthiness Unit Supervisor
Scottsdale FSDO
15041 N. Airport Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Dear Mr. Nelson:

My name is Michael Smith and I am a Principal Avionics Inspector at the Honolulu FSDO. I am currently involved in an accident investigation on a Hu-369-D, N505RM aircraft (LAX GA 107).

While reviewing the log books it was noticed that three tail rotor pitch links, Part Number 369D21723-13, were changed within the last 180 flight hours. The McDonnell Douglas manufacturer representative (Michael Mannix, 310-420-1229) says that the pitch links should last anywhere between 300 and 1000 flight hours.

The NTSB Inspector (Wayne Pollack, [REDACTED]) requested that I send the most recently changed tail rotor pitch link to the Scottsdale FSDO so they can take it over to McDonnell Douglas and have it analyzed to why it failed.

This particular pitch link was overhauled by Spartan Helicopter Service ES3R486L, as well as the other pitch links that were changed recently.

Mr. Pollack requests that the Scottsdale FSDO take the part to the McDonnell Douglas lad and have it analyzed. He requests that the results be sent to him.

After the results are given to him, he plans to have the Long Beach FSDO perform an inspection on the Spartan Helicopter Service Repair Station. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at ([REDACTED]) or the HNL FSDO Airworthiness Supervisor Steve Dahlen.

Thank you for your help and assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Smith
Principal Avionics Inspector