

**From:** [Fox Matthew](#)  
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**Subject:** ERA16FA248 - Hickory, TN - Materials Laboratory Examination  
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Ralph,

The collective lever, collective lever pins, the collective lever pin screws, and washers were examined visually and by optical microscopy. All components were intact. Threads on the collective lever pin screws and the mating threaded holes in the collective lever were intact with no evidence of stripping. Holes for attaching safety wire were present in the heads of the screws and at an adjacent area on the collective lever, but no safety wire was observed attached at either location.

Deformation at the edges of the safety wire holes on the collective lever indicated that safety wire had been installed at some point. Circumferential scoring was present across the entire face on one side of one of the washers. On one of the screws, thread peaks were flattened near the middle of the shank on one side of the screw consistent with contact with the collective lever pin hole bore with the screw partially threaded into place.

In summary, the absence of safety wire attached to either the collective lever or the screws indicates that the safety wire was not installed during the last maintenance action involving the component, and the presence of intact threads for the collective lever pin attachment screws and mating holes in the collective lever indicates that separation occurred due to the screws backing out of the threaded holes on the collective lever.

Best Regards,  
Matt

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