



***Maintenance***

***DROPPED OBJECT REPORTING PROGRAM***

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction implements procedures outline in Chapter 6 of AFRCI 21-101, *Aircraft Maintenance Guidance And Procedures*, for preventing, investigating, and reporting inflight loss of objects from aircraft. It implements AFD 21-1, *Managing Aerospace Equipment Maintenance*. It applies to Logistics Group (LG) aircraft maintenance personnel and aircrew members in the flying squadrons of the Operations Group (OG).

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

Deleted unnecessary duplications of procedures found in AFRCI 21-101, which is now applicable to our unit. Added requirements for maintainers and operators, which focus on preventing inflight loss of objects. A ★ indicates revisions from the previous edition.

- 1. DEFINITION:** A dropped object is any aircraft component, cowling, door, panel, part, surface, or other item, lost or inadvertently released during aircrew operations, from the beginning of engine start through flight, to engine shutdown at recovery.
- 2. RESPONSIBILITIES:** The LG Quality Assurance (QA) activity is designated program manager and primary investigating office.
- 3. PREVENTION:** Effective prevention begins with supervisors ensuring maintenance personnel are properly trained in their AFSC of responsibility. Additionally, all maintenance personnel must be knowledgeable of command and unit requirements to prevent dropped objects from occurring.

★3.1. Personnel must ensure doors, cowlings, and panels fit properly. Place special emphasis on the condition and serviceability of all hinges, fasteners, nutplates, and latching devices as they are prime contributors to dropped objects.

★3.2. Prevention of dropped objects from aircraft is a combined responsibility between operators and maintainers.

3.2.1. Maintainers will:

3.2.1.1. Place special emphases on ensuring panels are secure during preflight and thruflight inspections.

3.2.1.2. Examine thumb latches for condition and check for wear.

3.2.1.3. Replace worn or missing fasteners.

3.2.1.4. Repair skin panels where fasteners are wearing through.

3.2.1.5. Ensure HF antenna wires are inspected for proper tension and any damage that could cause failure.

3.2.1.6. Ensure safety wire is properly installed on landing light lens retainer.

3.2.2. Operators will:

3.2.2.1. Ensure equipment and loose items are secure before opening any door in flight.

3.2.2.2. Ensure any panels opened during -1 preflight are securely closed.

3.2.2.3. Ensure main landing gear door pip pins are properly installed and chain is securely attached.

3.2.2.4. Ensure that airspeed limitations are not exceeded.

**4. INVESTIGATION:** Each dropped object must be thoroughly investigated by the Quality Assurance and Flight Safety (SE) office as soon as possible after the loss is discovered/reported. Every effort must be taken to determine the precise cause of the loss so permanent corrective actions can be taken.

★4.1. Dropped objects resulting from maintenance malpractice (not following established procedures) are referred to the MXS commander for action.

★4.2. Dropped objects resulting from aircrew malpractice are referred to the OG commander for action with information copy to LG commander.

★4.3. Quality Assurance will analyze incidents for unit trends and ensure corrective actions are valid and completed in a timely manner.

**5. REPORTING:** Aircrews and maintenance personnel discovering a dropped object loss make appropriate AFTO Form 781A entries.

★5.1. Aircrews debrief the loss to maintenance immediately after landing.

★5.2. Crew Chiefs discovering a missing panel or other component during thruflight or post flight inspections will notify Debrief/Dispatch immediately.

★5.3. Debrief/Dispatch notifies Quality Assurance and the Command Post Maintenance Control Function of the dropped object for investigation and reporting.

★5.4. Quality Assurance investigates the reported dropped object to determine the cause and what, if anything can be done to prevent another such incident. A one-time inspection will be initiated if necessary to inspect other unit aircraft.

5.5. Quality Assurance reports dropped objects to the Numbered Air Force by telephone within 24 hours. Results of investigation will be forwarded within 5 days by e-mail to HQ AFRC/LGMSP with info copies to HQ 10 AF/LGMA; HQ AFSOC/LGMW; 919 SOW/CC and 919 SOW/SE.

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