



Interagency Aviation SAFETY ALERT



No. IASA 19-01

Date: March 25, 2019

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Subject: Aero Commander 690 Vertical Fin Attachment Bulkhead Cracks

Area of Concern: Flight Safety

Distribution: All Aviation Operations

Discussion: During a recent inspection by the Office of Aviation Services (OAS) Western Regional Office, the contractor openly provided the Inspector with information on cracks discovered in the vertical fin attachment bulkhead on three Aero Commander 690s. The contractor discovered the cracks during routine maintenance and felt it was important to disclose this to the OAS Inspector in the interest of safety and to inform other Aero Commander 690 operators of this issue.

The contractor will be submitting a Malfunction and Defect report in accordance with FAA requirements. They are also working with the manufacturer and a Designated Engineering Representative (DER) to determine an appropriate repair of the affected aircraft.

The first aircraft possesses minimal cracking that appears to be in the initial stage (Figure 1).

The second aircraft contains cracking that has progressed and is easier to identify (Figures 2 & 3).

Figure 1. Cracks in aircraft bulkhead.



Figure 2 and 3. Cracks in aircraft bulkhead.



The cracks in the third Aero Commander progressed much further than the other two (Figure 4). This area lies within the bulkhead area forward of the vertical fin attachment bulkhead.

Figure 4. Cracks in aircraft bulkhead.



This contractor exhibits characteristics of a well-functioning Safety Management System (SMS) that will benefit DOI, USFS and the entire aviation community.

We recommend all Aero Commander 690 operators inspect their aircraft for similar cracks.

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