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P-3 Nose Gear Drag Strut Assembly Upgrade



Before



After



The P-3 Nose Gear Drag Strut is prone to hidden corrosion and fatigue cracks which can lead to fracture and potential nose gear collapse. It is in service with launch customer Royal Australian Air Force. We have partnered with Snowline Aerospace, Inc., to manufacture replacement struts to prevent possible gear collapse. These are U.S. Navy approved direct replacements.

Reliability and Performance Enhancements:

Drag Strut Material	Use of 7050-T7451 aluminum plate is more corrosion resistant than the 7049 forging
Drag Strut Coatings	Change to an anodized finish per Mil-A-8625, Type III, Class 1, .001 thick
Drag Strut Bushings	Material change to aircraft alloy 8620. Typical uses for this alloy are gears, ring gears, shafts and crankshafts

The results of this study show that with the given set of parameters defined in the "Linear Static Extension Study" the drag strut would not begin to see any fatigue failures until well after 200,000 cycles.

Critical Issues

- » No current form of inspection (Except specialized NDI testing)
- » Hidden corrosion
- » Hidden fatigue cracks

Features and Benefits

- » High-Grade machined aluminum verses traditional forging
- » Load stress points re-distributed to minimize structural stress
- » Robust design and specialized material to resist corrosive environment
- » Lockheed Martin Certified Parts Provider approved



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