



# SERVICE BULLETIN

DATE: 10 MAY 1999

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## TAIL ROTOR FORK INSPECTION, FOUR-BLADED

### 1. PLANNING INFORMATION

#### A. Aircraft Affected:

All MD Helicopters, Inc. (MDHI) MD369D and MD369E Series helicopters equipped with four-bladed tail rotor assemblies.

#### B. Assembly/Components Affected By This Notice:

Tail Rotor Fork Assembly, Four-Bladed, P/N 369D21701-21, with the two ridges on each of the long fork arms machined off.

**NOTE:** Tail Rotor Fork Assembly, Four-Bladed, P/N 369D21701-21M, is not affected by this bulletin.

#### C. Reason:

MDHI has discovered that a number of P/N 369D21701-21 tail rotor forks may develop cracks during normal service. Failure to perform the requirements of this Bulletin may result in loss of the tail rotor and directional control of the helicopter.

#### D. Description:

Procedures in this Bulletin provide owners and operators with information pertaining to inspecting all affected four-bladed tail rotor fork assemblies.

#### E. Time of Compliance:

The requirements of this Bulletin shall be accomplished prior to next flight. After the initial inspection, fork assemblies without ridges must be inspected at each subsequent 50 hours of helicopter operation. Fork assemblies without ridges must be replaced within one year from the date of this Bulletin. The 50 hour recurring inspection and the fork replacement do not apply to forks with ridges.

#### F. FAA Approval:

The technical design aspects of this Bulletin are FAA Approved.

#### G. Manpower:

0.2 man-hours for initial inspection and 2.0 man-hours for dye penetrant inspection.

#### H. Points of Contact

For further assistance, contact your local MDHI Field Service Representative (refer to the latest revision of the "At Your Service" handbook for address and telephone numbers) or contact the Field Service Department at MDHI, Mesa, Arizona. Telephone 1-800-388-3378 or (480) 891-6342. DATAFAX: (480) 891-6782.

#### I. Interchangeability:

N/A

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## **J. Material/Part Availability:**

Contact MDHI Warranty and Repair Dept.

| REPLACEMENT PARTS/SUPPLIES            |                                  |      |            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|------------|
| Nomenclature                          | Part No.                         | Qty. | Source     |
| Paint Remover                         | Turco 5873                       | A/R  | Commercial |
| Dye Penetrant Inspection Kit          | MIL-I-25135                      | A/R  | Commercial |
| Tail Rotor Fork Assembly, Four Bladed | 369D21701-21 or<br>369D21701-21M | A/R  | MDHI       |

## **K. Warranty Policy:**

Labor reimbursement as specified in paragraph G.

## **L. Disposition of Parts Removed**

Return to MDHI.

## **M. Weight and Balance:**

N/A

## **N. Other Publications Affected:**

N/A

## **2. ACCOMPLISHMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

(Ref. Figure 1)

- (1). Inspect tail rotor fork assembly for ridges on the two long arms which support the outboard tail rotor hub.
- (2). Parts with ridges are acceptable and do not require any further inspection.

**NOTE:** Operators must report to MDHI Field Service the presence or absence of ridges on their tail rotor fork assemblies.

- (3). Parts without ridges must perform the following inspection:



Do not allow paint remover to contact other than the inspection area.

- (a). Chemically remove paint from machined area. Do not use any abrasive materials.
- (b). Perform a dye penetrant inspection in accordance with MIL-I-25135 in area of paint removal. Fork assemblies that show any indications of cracking must be replaced.
- (c). Using a 10X magnifying glass inspect for cracks in area of paint removal. Fork assemblies that show any indications of cracking must be replaced.
- (d). Repeat step (3).(c). at each subsequent 50 hours of helicopter operation until fork assembly has been replaced with an acceptable fork assembly.

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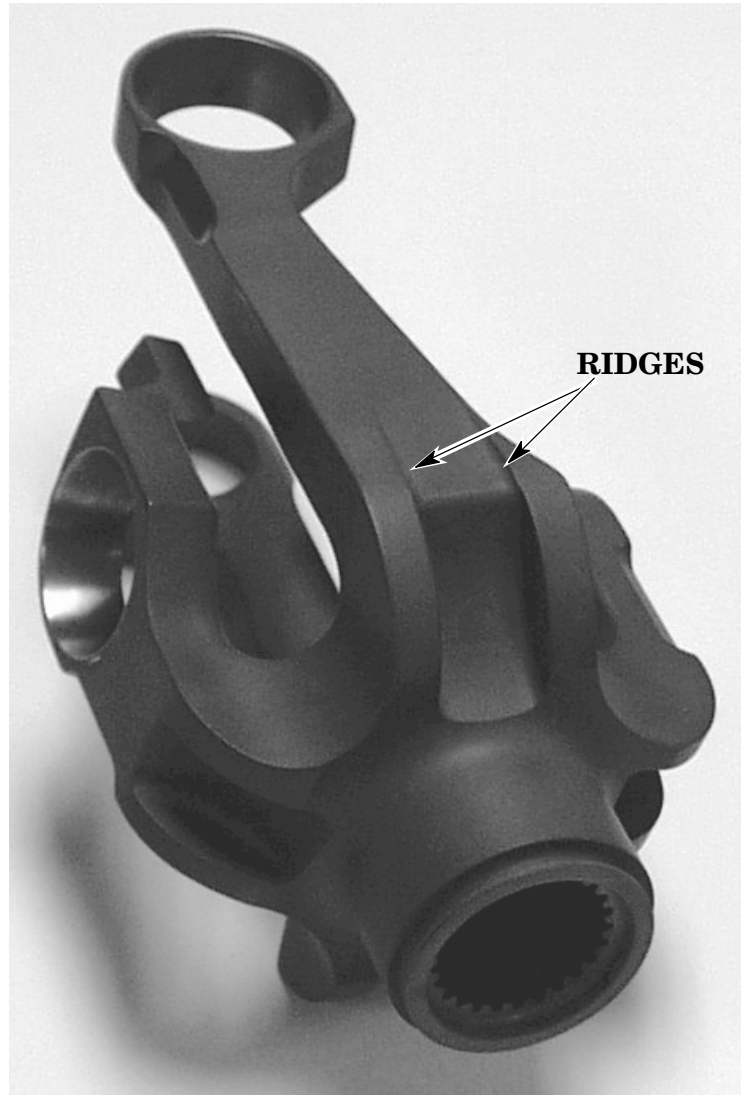
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- (4). Record compliance to this Bulletin in the compliance section of the helicopter Log Book.



**Figure 1. Fork Assembly with ridges (Sheet 1 of 2).**

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**Figure 1. Fork Assembly without ridges (Sheet 2 of 2).**

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