

6/14/2006

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

2006-51/9-1

690431

To: FAA (AFS-230)

Info: FAA (AFS-200, AFS-300 AFS-900 ANM-100, SEA-AEG), AASC, AIA, ALPA, AMFA, APA, SWAPA, ASAP, ATA, CAPA, IFALPA, IAM, ICASS, IPA, NATA, NTSB, PAMA, RAA, TWU

From: Linda J. Connell, Director  
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: UNDETECTED STATIC PROBE COVER SPRING CAUSED INSTRUMENT ANOMALIES

We recently received an ASRS report describing a safety concern which may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our FYI service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Harvey Hartmann or Don Purdy at (408) 541-2800 or email at [hhartmann@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:hhartmann@mail.arc.nasa.gov), [dpurdy@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:dpurdy@mail.arc.nasa.gov).



Aviation Safety Reporting System  
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## ACN: 690431

### Time

Date : 200603

Day : Sat

Local Time Of Day : 0001 To 0600

### Place

Locale Reference.Airport : ZZZ.Airport

State Reference : US

Altitude.AGL.Single Value : 0

### Aircraft / 1

Make Model : B737-300

### Person / 1

Function.Maintenance : Lead Technician

ASRS Report : 690431

### Person / 2

Function.Maintenance : Inspector

ASRS Report : 690434

### Person / 3

Function.Oversight : PIC

Function.Flight Crew : Captain

### Events

Anomaly.Aircraft Equipment Problem : Critical

Anomaly.Maintenance Problem : Improper Maintenance

Anomaly.Non Adherence : FAR

Anomaly.Non Adherence : Published Procedure

Independent Detector.Other.Flight CrewA : 3

Resolatory Action.None Taken : Detected After The Fact

Resolatory Action.Other : Returned To Dep Arpt

Consequence.Other : Company Review

Consequence.Other : Flight Cancelled

Consequence.Other : Maintenance Action

### Narrative

ACFT WAS BROUGHT TO THE WASH RACK FOR A WASH. THE VITAL AREAS, OR WHAT IS CALLED FOR ON PAPERWORK, WAS COVERED. THE ALTIMETER WAS COVERED WITH PROPER COVERING. THE ALTIMETER ON THE PLT SIDE WAS COVERED WITH A COVERING NOT UP TO SPECS. THE COVERING SPRING, OR OVAL SHAPED RING, WAS MISSING FROM THE COVERING FOR A LONG TIME. ALL OF THE EXISTING COVERINGS ARE DAMAGED IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER. THERE WAS A VISIBLE WALK AROUND OF AIRPLANE, BUT NO OVAL SHAPED OBJECT WAS DISCOVERED. THE LONG USE OF INFERIOR MATERIAL HAS CAUSED SOME AWARENESS AND THE REPLACING OF INFERIOR EQUIP WILL PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

CALLBACK CONVERSATION WITH RPTR REVEALED THE FOLLOWING INFO: THE RPTR STATED THE PROBE COVERS ARE INSTALLED ON THE PITOT STATIC PROBES AND ARE HELD ON WITH A SPRING LOCATED IN THE END OF THE PROBE THAT LOCKS THE COVER ON THE PROBE. THE COVERS ARE WORN AND SOME SPRINGS ARE MISSING BUT THE COVERS ARE STILL USED, SO A SPRING MISSING WOULD NOT BE NOTICED. THE RPTR STATED THE COVERS ARE JUST WORN OUT AND NEED REPLACEMENT. REPORTEDLY, IN THIS EVENT, THE COVER WAS REMOVED AND THE SPRING REMAINED ON THE PROBE, COVERING THE STATIC PORTS. THE AIRPLANE TOOK OFF AND CAME BACK RIGHT AWAY AND THE SPRING WAS DISCOVERED.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFO FROM ACN 690434 REVEALED THE FOLLOWING INFO: DURING THE FLT, AIRSPD/ALT DIFFERENCE WAS NOTED BY THE CAPT BETWEEN HIS INSTRUMENTS AND THE FO'S. THE FO'S INSTRUMENTS CONCURRED WITH THE STAND-BY INSTRUMENTS.

### **Synopsis**

UNDETECTED STATIC PROBE COVER SPRING WAS LEFT ON ACFT AFTER WASHING. ACFT FORCED TO RETURN BECAUSE OF INSTRUMENTATION ANOMALIES.