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SUBJ: USE OF HH-60J/HH-65A VOICE AND DATA RECORDER (VADR) DATA FOR MAINTENANCE PURPOSES

1. THIS MESSAGE ESTABLISHES POLICY FOR THE USE OF DATA OBTAINED FROM THE VOICE AND DATA RECORDER (VADR) SYSTEMS INSTALLED ON ALL HH-60J AND HH-65A AIRCRAFT FOR SITUATIONS OTHER THAN MISHAP INVESTIGATION. THIS MESSAGE DOES NOT ESTABLISH POLICY WITH REGARDS TO THE FLIGHT DATA RECORDER SYSTEM INSTALLED ON HU-25 AIRCRAFT.
2. DISCUSSION: THE INSTALLATION OF VOICE AND DATA RECORDER (VADR) SYSTEMS ON THE COAST GUARD'S HH-60J AND HH-65A AIRCRAFT PROVIDES A VALUABLE TOOL TO ASSIST IN MISHAP INVESTIGATION. IN THE SHORT TIME IT HAS BEEN INSTALLED, THE VADR HAS PROVEN TO BE AN ACCURATE AND RELIABLE INVESTIGATIVE TOOL. CURRENTLY, AR&SC ENGINEERING MAINTAINS THE ONLY COAST GUARD SYSTEM CAPABLE OF DOWNLOADING AND ANALYZING VADR DATA. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING ANALYSIS OF MISHAP DATA, AR&SC ENGINEERING, WITH THE APPROVAL OF G-WKS, HAS ASSISTED HH-65A UNITS IN RESOLVING INTRACTABLE ENGINE MALFUNCTIONS THROUGH DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECORDED ENGINE AND FLIGHT DATA. IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT THE VADR SYSTEMS CAN PROVIDE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR MAINTENANCE CREWS TO ACCESS CRITICAL FLIGHT AND/OR ENGINE DATA FOR TROUBLESHOOTING PURPOSES. HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIALITY CONCERNS PRECLUDE NON-MISHAP BOARD MEMBERS OR DESIGNATED AR&SC PERSONNEL FROM ANY ACCESS TO VOICE DATA. SMITHS INDUSTRIES AEROSPACE, MANUFACTURER OF THE VADR SYSTEMS, HAS IDENTIFIED A MEANS BY WHICH UNITS CAN ACCESS ONLY ENGINE AND FLIGHT DATA FOR USE IN MAINTENANCE TROUBLESHOOTING. UNTIL THE APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT CAN BE PURCHASED AND SUPPLIED TO UNITS THE FOLLOWING POLICY WILL APPLY.
3. POLICY: HH-65A OR HH-60J UNITS REQUESTING ANALYSIS OF VADR DATA TO HELP RESOLVE ENGINE OR OTHER COMPONENT MALFUNCTIONS SHALL CONTACT CWO CHRIS TOUPIN, HH-65A ENGINEERING, (252) 335-6612 FOR ASSISTANCE. DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES, REQUESTS SHALL BE MADE ONLY WHEN ALL OTHER TROUBLESHOOTING METHODS HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED. A COMPLETE EXPLANATION OF THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE REQUEST SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH THE AFFECTED VADR BOX. AR&SC ENGINEERING WILL DOWNLOAD ONLY PERTINENT ENGINE AND/OR FLIGHT DATA, AND PROVIDE THE UNIT WITH A REPORT IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE FAULTY COMPONENT(S). NOTE: THE HH-60J VADR PRESENTLY PROVIDES NO ENGINE INFORMATION AND ONLY LIMITED FLIGHT INFORMATION.
4. AT NO TIME WILL VOICE RECORDINGS BE ACCESSED.
5. FLIGHT WITHOUT AN INSTALLED VADR SYSTEM IS NOT AUTHORIZED. WAIVERS MAY ONLY BE GRANTED BY UNIT COMMANDING OFFICERS.
6. AR&SC ENGINEERING WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO G-WKS REQUESTS FOR DOWNLOADING AND ANALYSIS OF MISHAP AIRCRAFT DATA AND VOICE RECORDINGS.
7. SEPARATE POLICY IN THE FORM OF A CHANGE TO M13020(SERIES) WILL BE PROMULGATED WHEN EQUIPMENT IS PURCHASED AND ISSUED TO UNITS.
8. ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS MATTER MAY BE ADDRESSED TO LCDR WILLIAM HUCKE (G-SEA-16), AVIONICS SYSTEMS MANAGER, 1-800-842-8740 EXT 7-1992.
9. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.