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Safety recommendation: AIC 17-R06/17-2002

**Addressed to: Brigadier General Gilbert Toropo, DMS, CBE
Commander PNG Defence Force**

Date issued: 19 December 2017

Investigation link: AIC 17-2002

Action status: Issued

Safety deficiency description

On 5 December 2017, at 15:04 local time, the Papua New Guinea Accident Investigation Commission was informed of a serious landing incident that occurred at Goroka Airport, Eastern Highlands Province on 2 December at 14:12 local time.

A Papua New Guinea Defence Force CASA CN-235M aircraft, registered P2-502, and operating as Eagle 502, landed on a closed runway (35 Left) while runway works were in progress. The aircraft was observed to continue along the closed runway, before back tracking to a taxiway that was also closed for works, in order to taxi to, and enter, the active runway 35 Right.

The AIC investigation into this serious incident has found that the aircraft was being operated in civilian airspace, into civilian airports, and carrying military and civilian passengers. Evidence analysed by the AIC investigation has revealed serious safety deficiencies, that while not contributory to the serious incident, nevertheless could cause an accident or a serious incident if not immediately rectified.

The aircraft sustained an engine failure 13 July 2016 during a flight from Telefomin to Vanimo, Sundaun Province, necessitating the removal of the right engine Propeller Gearbox (PGB) at Vanimo Aerodrome. A replacement PGB, Serial Number UDAG0616 was fitted to the right engine to enable the aircraft to be ferried to Port Moresby for further repairs.

The investigation has found that the replacement PGB had been placed in storage 7 years before the incident. Storage preservation requirements, confirmed in a written statement from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) state that a PGB in storage for more than 36 months, must be sent to a PGB Original Equipment Manufacturer's facility for inspection.

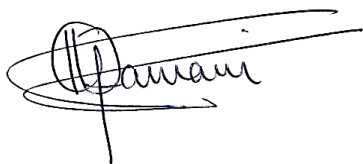
This was not carried out, and the PGB fitted in 2016 remains on the aircraft as of the date of this safety recommendation. The aircraft is engaged in flying operations throughout PNG, carrying military personnel and civilians. The PGB fitted to the right engine of P2-502 is classified as unserviceable, rendering the aircraft unairworthy.

Recommendation number AIC 17-R06/17-2002 to PNG Defence Force

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission recommends that Commander PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) should require the replacement of the unserviceable Propeller Gearbox (PGB) Serial Number UDAG0616, currently fitted to the right engine of Casa CN-235M aircraft, registered P2-502, before further flight.

Action requested

The AIC requests that the Commander PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) note recommendation AIC 17-R06/17-2002, and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days of the issue date, and explain (including with evidence) how the PNGDF has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the AIC investigation report AIC 17-2002.



HUBERT NAMANI, LLB
Chief Commissioner

19 December 2017

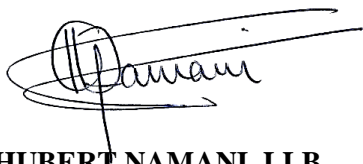
PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) response

On 7 February 2018, the Commander PNGDF informed the PNG Accident Investigation Commission that:

1. *Our aircraft CASA Eagle 502 has been shut down to allow for the PGB to be extracted and undergo an inspection by the manufacturer or their certified agent. The items required for the inspection have been purchased and we are awaiting their arrival from overseas;*
2. *There will be no further operations by Eagle 502 until the current PGB has been inspected and cleared in accordance with Air Regulations; and*
3. *We are in the process of purchasing a new PGB which will be fitted as soon as possible.*

PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) assessment of PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) response

The AIC has reviewed the PNGDF response addressing the recommendation AIC 17-R06/17-2002 addressed to PNGDF. The AIC assigned this response a *satisfactory intent* rating, and records the **Status of the AIC Recommendation: MONITOR.**



HUBERT NAMANI, LLB
Chief Commissioner

15 February 2018

PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) further assessment of PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) response

The AIC has continued to monitor the airworthiness status of the CASA CN-235M aircraft, registered P2-502, and notes that at the date of this AIC review the aircraft remains grounded awaiting a replacement Propeller Gearbox.

The AIC notes the PNGDF commitment to replacing the Propeller Gearbox and returning the aircraft to airworthiness status to ensure the PNGDF aircraft medium airlift capacity.

While noting that the safety deficiency identified in the recommendation remains, **the AIC has assigned the safety recommendation as *satisfactory intent* rating.**

The AIC has recorded the **Status of the Recommendation: CLOSED.**



Captain Aria Bouraga, MBE
Acting Chief Commissioner

21 March 2022