

PARKED AIRCRAFT REDUCTION OF FIRE HAZARD DURING PERIODS OF SUNSHINE

PURPOSE

1 The purpose of this EO is to eliminate the fire hazard which may exist when aircraft are parked outside during sunny periods.

GENERAL

2 Instances are on record where aircraft fires have occurred while the aircraft are parked outside during periods of sunshine. The resulting investigations revealed that these fires were possibly caused by the following methods.

(a) The reflection of the sun off a concave highly polished surface of the fuselage.

(b) The concentrated rays of the sun passing through certain curvatures of canopies, blisters, astradomes, windows etc.

PREVENTION

EXTERIOR

3 Inspect painted or fabric surfaces for any indication of charring or scorching.

4 If scorching or charring is evident, check fuselage skin panels for a dished or concave

condition that might reflect and focus the sun's rays on another portion of the aircraft.

5 Remedy the concave condition by use of a diagonal stiffener riveted to skin interior of affected panel. If stiffener repair not feasible, paint affected area with aluminum paint.

INTERIOR

6 The concentrated rays of the sun passing through certain curvatures of glass or perspex could be a fire hazard if they were directed upon combustible materials. To remedy this situation, all combustible materials should be removed from the aircraft on completion of flights and inspections. Where it is not practical to remove these items they should be moved to a location in the aircraft where they are not directly under canopies, blisters, astradomes etc. Specifically maps and other paper items should be stored in appropriate containers. Computers and instruments of doubtful fire resistance should not be left on windscreen shelves or glare shields. Rags and containers with combustible petroleum products must be removed from the aircraft immediately upon completion of the task for which they are required.

ISSUED ON AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF