

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR RELEASE: 6:30 P.M., E.D.T., JUNE 27, 1976

(202) 426-8787

ISSUED: June 27, 1976

Forwarded to:
Honorable John L. McLucas
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, D. C. 20591

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

A-76-89

The National Transportation Safety Board has determined that the actions taken by your Southern Region, as delineated in Docket No. 76-SO-25 regarding Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)--Airworthiness Directive Grumman-American Aviation Corporation Models G-159 and G-1159, and Amendment 39-2566, may not provide the protection intended for occupants of the jump seats of these models.

The NPRM specifies that these models were to be modified structurally by October 1, 1976; however, Amendment 39-2566 rescinds the prohibition of jump seat occupancy during taxi, takeoff, and landing (AD-76-05-08). The action was taken because the problem was believed to be seasonal and because all aircraft could be modified before the next winter season in the United States.

However, the Safety Board has determined that (1) the problem is not seasonal--three of the ten penetrations did occur in nonwinter conditions; (2) G-159 and G-1159 aircraft are operating now in areas of the world which are just beginning winter; and (3) Grumman will not be able to provide parts for the necessary modification until March 1977; thus, fleet operation will be necessary without the modification for another winter.

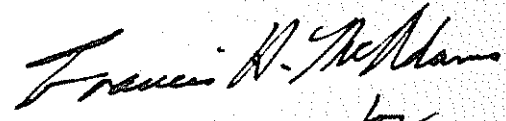
Honorable John L. McLucas

- 2 -

In view of the above, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Federal Aviation Administration:

Prohibit occupancy of the jump seat and require a placard on each aircraft until that aircraft has been modified structurally so that the nose landing gear drag strut cannot penetrate the cockpit floor. (Class I--Urgent Followup.)(A-76-89)

TODD, Chairman, McADAMS, HOGUE, BURGESS, and HALEY, Members, concurred in the above recommendation.



for
By: Webster B. Todd, Jr.
Chairman

THIS RECOMMENDATION WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THE ISSUE DATE SHOWN ABOVE. NO PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THAT DATE.