



Airfield Communications Caravan: Altona and Bacchus Marsh

For Information:

A significant structural failure occurred with the Altona based Airfield Communications Caravan after the completion of an equipment upgrade fitting. The communications unit was returning from Geelong after having a roof mounted guardrail fitted to comply with occupational health and safety requirements. The draw bar on the front of the unit collapsed when it entered the driveway at Altona. See Figure 1.



Figure. 1.

The collapse of the draw bar occurred as a result of cracks, which had developed in the draw bar frame at the rear of the power generator near the cabin. See Figure 2 & 3. It has been determined that the cracks had developed over a period of time and have not been attributed to any single event. A subsequent check was conducted on the Bacchus Marsh communications caravan, which was also being refitted with the same roof-mounted guardrail. Fatigue cracks were also found on the Bacchus Marsh unit in the same place.

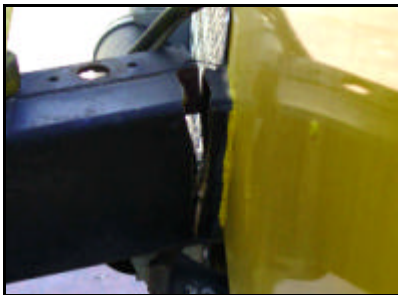


Figure. 2.



Figure. 3.

To Note

Both of the communications caravans have now been declared **UNSERVICABLE** and not to be used for any agency operations. They have been withdrawn from service and are not to be used for any purpose until further notice.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact Barry Marsden Equipment Development Centre Altona, telephone 03 9391 1829.