

Applicability: Model 369A, D, E, H, HE, HM, HS, F, and FF helicopters, with tail rotor blades, part number (P/N) 369D21640-501, 369D21641-501, 369D21642-501, 369D21643-501, 500P3100-101, 500P3100-301, 500P3300-501, or 500P3500-701, installed, certificated in any category.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent a tail rotor blade pitch horn (pitch horn) from separating from the tail

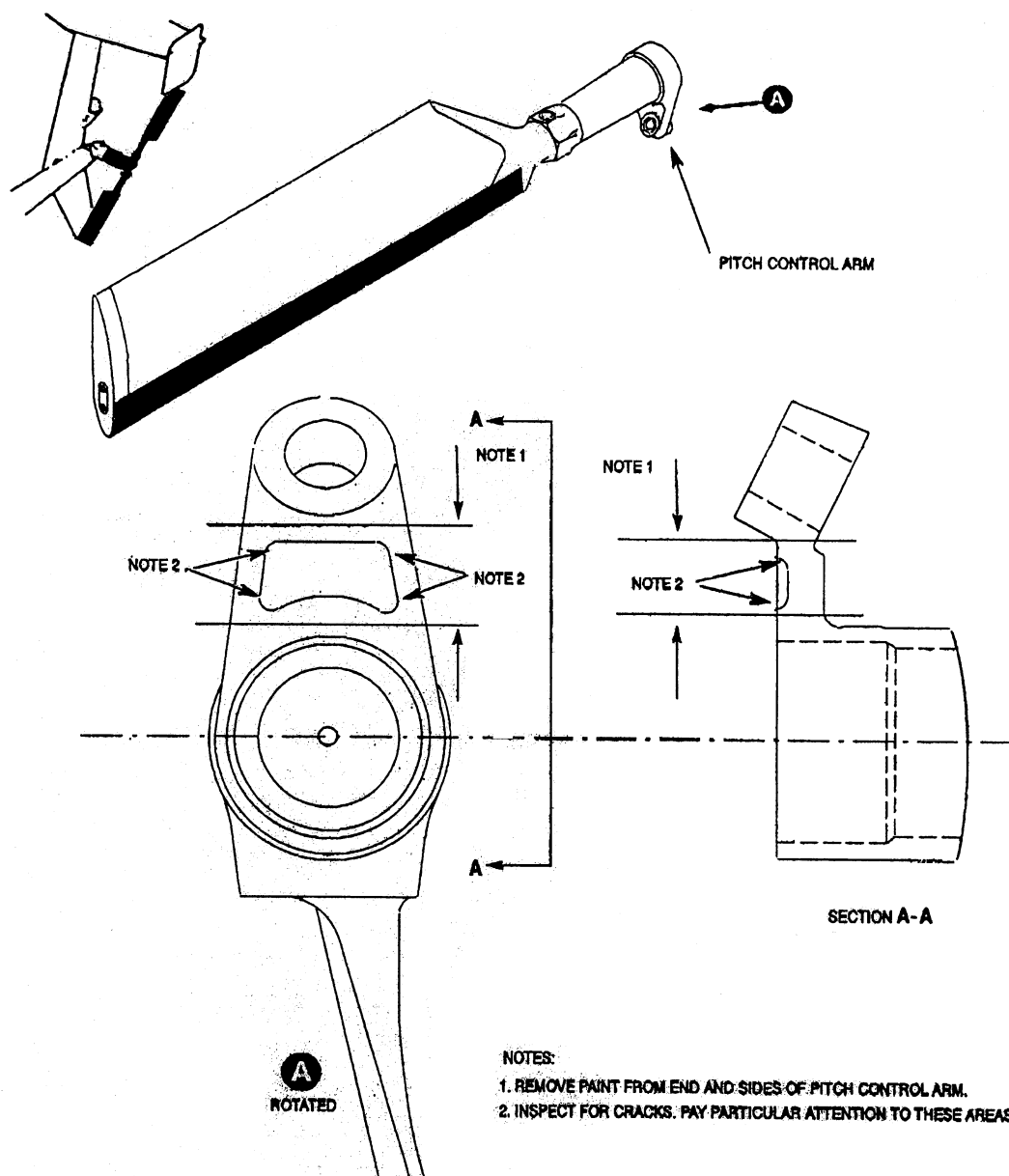
rotor blade, leading to an unbalanced condition, vibration, loss of tail rotor pitch control, and loss of directional control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) This airworthiness directive (AD) establishes a new retirement life of 400 hours time-in-service (TIS) for the tail rotor blades listed in the Applicability section. For helicopters with an affected tail rotor blade installed that has 390 through 700 hours TIS, remove and replace the tail rotor blade with

an airworthy tail rotor blade within 10 hours TIS.

(b) Before further flight, perform a one-time visual inspection of each pitch horn for a crack or corrosion in the area indicated by Note 2 in Figure 1 of this AD. Paint removal in accordance with Note 1 of Figure 1 of this AD is not required for the visual inspection.

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P



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Figure 1. Tail Rotor Blade Assembly Inspection

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(c) Revise the helicopter Airworthiness Limitations section of the maintenance manual by making pen-and-ink changes to indicate the new retirement life of 400 hours TIS for the tail rotor blades, P/N 369D21640-

501, 369D21641-501, 369D21642-501, 369D21643-501, 500P3100-101, 500P3100-301, 500P3300-501, and 500P3500-70.

(d) For helicopters with a tail rotor blade installed that has more than 700 hours TIS, a one-time special flight permit to fly it to a

repair facility may be issued only upon completion of an eddy current surface scan of each affected pitch horn (see Figure 1 of this AD). Paint removal in accordance with Note 1 of the Figure 1 of this AD is required for the surface scan. If a crack is found,