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DL-102
EL-53
FL-47

SERVICE LETTER

DATE: 22 MARCH 1993
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TO: ALL OWNERS, OPERATORS AND PILOTS OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS HELICOPTER COMPANY (MDHC) 369 SERIES HELICOPTERS THAT HAVE ANTENNAS INSTALLED ON THE UPPER SURFACE AREAS OF THE AFT BOOM FAIRING.

ANTENNA LOCATION AND FLIGHT MANEUVER CAUTION

RECOMMENDED HELICOPTER REWORK

MDHC has received information from operators indicating that antennas (e.g., LORAN antennas) installed on the upper surface of the aft boom fairing have been struck by the main rotor blades during practice touchdown autorotations. MDHC strongly recommends that operators who have installed antennas on the upper surfaces of the aft boom fairing relocate those installations to a position where contact between any rotating component and an antenna will not be possible. Figure 1 shows an acceptable location for such installations.

PILOT NOTIFICATION

Pilots flying MD500 series helicopters with antennas located on the upper surface of the aft boom fairing are cautioned that under certain operational maneuvers, such as practice touchdown autorotations, main rotor blades may contact the antenna. This contact occurs when the blades flap to an extreme downward position while, at the same time, the antenna moves to its most upward position.

NOTE: If a pilot suspects that contact has occurred between the main rotor blades and the antenna during any flight maneuver they must land as soon as possible and check the blades for damage. Further flight is prohibited if damage has exceeded HMI limits. Contact your local MDHC Field Service Representative if you have any doubt as to damage limits.

John Reagan, Dept. Manager,
Commercial Customer Support
McDonnell Douglas
Helicopter Company

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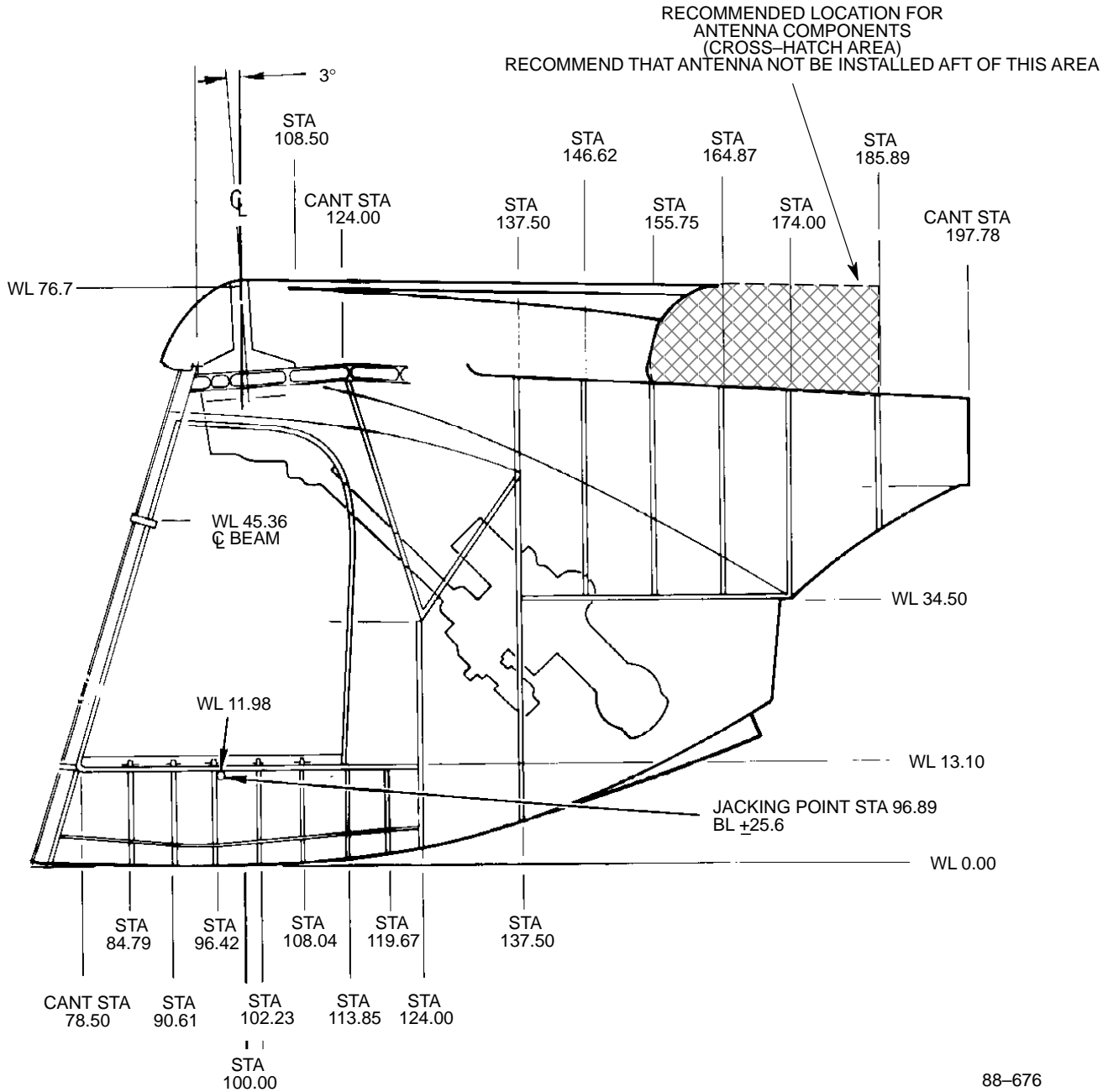


Figure 1. Recommended Antenna Location