



17 March 2017

In reply refer to: 540LO-17-01

To: All CARA Users

Subject: Repair Facilities of AN/APN-232 Equipment

Dear CARA Users:

NavCom Defense Electronics, Inc. (NavCom) is the OEM for the AN/APN-232 Combined Altitude Radar Altimeter (CARA). It has come to our attention that multiple companies are claiming to be qualified repair centers (depots) for the CARA. As an example, we recently received four CARA Receiver-Transmitters (RTs) that were serviced by one of these companies. All four units failed OEM test procedures. Additionally, there was no evidence that repairs claimed to have been performed were actually performed. We have reason to believe that there are many more RTs in the field with suspect certifications. Please be advised that there are only two authorized depots for CARA equipment: (1) the USAF depot at Warner Robins ALC; and (2) NavCom's manufacturing facility in Corona, California.

Since the CARA is a safety-critical system in most applications, NavCom is very concerned that improperly maintained, repaired and/or certified equipment could enter the fleets of the USAF, USN or our allies. Accordingly, GIDEP Alerts E6-A-17-01 and E6-A-17-02C were issued for fraudulent and/or unqualified depot maintenance and certification of NavCom Part numbers 8010000653-5 (NSN 5841-01-246-9183), 801000653-6 (NSN 5841-01-301-4588) and 8010000788-1 (NSN 5841-01-349-9175).

Several international users of the CARA have authorized Intermediate-Level (1-Level) capabilities for the CARA, and various companies act as intermediaries that send CARAs to NavCom for duly authorized depot repair. Accordingly, there should not be any issues when dealing with these parties in situations where NavCom is the entity performing the depot repairs. What is of concern, however, is a company that claims to perform depot-level repairs (including piece-part replacement) and certification of any CARA item. Given the possible safety ramifications that exist from unqualified entities holding themselves out as possessing depot capabilities, NavCom strongly advises that all purchase orders for repair of the CARA RT require delivery of OEM Certificates-of-Conformance.

If you have any questions regarding the subject issue, or anything else pertaining to the CARA, please do not hesitate to contact NavCom.

Sincerely,

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