

From: Weber, Brian [mailto:[REDACTED]]

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 4:19 PM

To: Yeager Leah

Subject: RE: Missing bolt/link

Leah,

It appears that the missing part was the AN4-31 bolt and associated washer and nut that attach the upper torque assembly to the nose gear steering arm assembly. Loss of that bolt would allow the lower shock strut assembly to freely caster in the shock strut tube assembly, which could result in a significant shimmy similar to what the pilot described to you. Nose wheel steering control would also be significantly reduced or nonexistent. Without the torque assembly, the shimmy dampener would also have limited to no effect.

It is difficult to tell from the photographs, but if the FAA inspectors identified all the fracture surfaces as overload signatures, then it would appear that the resulting shimmy was enough to separate the upper and lower nose gear fittings from the fuselage, and fracture the lower nose gear fitting.

Thanks,

Brian J. Weber

Air Safety Investigator

[REDACTED]

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