



# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## Military Aircraft Accident Summaries

### ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE BUCCANEER XX898

Date: 17 June 1982  
Parent Airfield: RAF Lossiemouth  
Place of Accident: 1½ nm South West of RAF Lossiemouth  
Crew: 2  
Casualties: 2 major injuries

MAAS 26/83

6 October 1983

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

REF 5176787

623.746:656.708

RAF Lossiemouth

65. MOD PR.

DATE 30/6/83

### Circumstances

1. Following successful completion of a night sortie, Buccaneer XX898 was established on a radar approach to land. At a height of about 550 feet above ground level the aircraft suddenly yawed to the left without warning and without any indications of systems failures. The pilot was unable to control the yaw; the aircraft then began to roll rapidly to the left, the nose pitched down and both crew members ejected. They received back injuries which were classified as major and the aircraft crashed in a field and was destroyed.

### Cause

2. Examination of the wreckage of the aircraft revealed that the rudder Powered Control Unit (PCU) was disconnected from its control rod. The bolt which should have secured the connection was found in the wreckage but its associated nut and split pin were not found; there was evidence that the bolt had not become detached in the crash. Subsequent tests showed that when a control rod became disconnected from a PCU, the PCU would immediately apply full left rudder irrespective of the position of the mechanism before disconnection. The last recorded disturbance of this Buccaneer's rudder control system occurred when the PCU was replaced during a major servicing of the aircraft some 8 months and 148 flying hours before the accident. It was deduced that the split pin had not been fitted when the control rod was reconnected to the PCU and that, in the intervening period, the nut had worked loose and detached, allowing the bolt to fall out of the connection.

3. The feasibility of fitting self-retaining bolts in non-fail safe flying control systems and of designing PCUs to fail safe in the event of a disconnection are being investigated.

### Claims

4. A total of 7 claims were received of which 6 have so far been settled in the total sum of £6,018.