

Improving birdstriik resistance of aircraft windshields

(R. J. Speelman and R.C. McCarty, USA)

IMPROVING BIRDSTRIKE RESISTANCE OF AIRCRAFT WINDSHIELDS

R. J. Speelman
Aircrew Protection Branch
Flight Dynamics Laboratory
AF Wright Aeronautical Laboratories
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433

R. C. McCarty
Aircrew Protection Branch
Flight Dynamics Laboratory
AF Wright Aeronautical Laboratories
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433

ABSTRACT

USAF aircraft repeatedly prove that birds and aircraft cannot occupy the same airspace at the same time; over 3000 birdstrikes per year cause millions of dollars in damage to USAF aircraft. During the past 18 years 13 aircrew members have been killed and 21 aircraft have been destroyed due to bird impact. More of these losses are due to birdstrikes on the windshield subsystem than to any other subsystem. Windshield systems on several different aircraft are being redesigned to provide improved tolerance of the birdstrike event. These efforts to improve windshield system birdstrike resistance will be discussed in general terms as will the rationale behind these efforts. Some technical voids in designing for, and integration of, birdstrike resistance will be discussed.

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