DCIAC Maintenance Series — Issues 1–4: Production Summary

How Four Issues of Don't Call It A CALLBACK Were Created

Source Material

The four issues draw from a curated set of 44 confirmed backwards-installation maintenance reports filed with NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS) by Part 121 air carrier maintenance personnel. The reports span 26 years, from March 1999 through October 2025, and cover a wide range of aircraft types, system categories, and safety outcomes. The 44 reports were identified by screening a larger ASRS query result and removing five reports whose narratives or synopses did not clearly describe a confirmed backwards installation.

Publication Framework

Each issue follows the DCIAC multi-series framework, which uses the visual identity, typography, two-column layout, and editorial conventions established for the publication's UAP series. The Maintenance series uses reporter labels appropriate to the source material — Technician, Inspector, Lead Technician — rather than the flight crew labels used in other series. All four issues were built using the DCIAC Python PDF builder (v4) and the Style Specification (v4).

Issue Descriptions

- **Issue 1 — Analytical** (Maroon accent). Five reports selected to represent different aircraft types and system categories. Each section closes by naming contributing factors, safety consequence, and systemic gap.
- **Issue 2 — Interactive** (Forest green accent). Four reports structured as split narratives: the situation is presented up to a decision point, the reader is invited to consider their response, and the outcome follows. Reports were chosen for the clarity of their pre-decision moment.
- **Issue 3 — Thematic** (Indigo accent). Five reports ordered by maintenance phase — Task Assignment, Installation, Inspection and Sign-off, Operational Check, and In-Service Discovery — tracing how the same category of error can originate or survive at every stage of the maintenance cycle.
- **Issue 4 — Resilience** (Brown accent). Five reports selected for the quality of the human response. Each section closes with a named resilience quality: Anticipation, Self-Correction, Persistence, Recovery, or Situational Awareness. This style was adapted from the UAP series Aircrew Resilience format, reframed for maintenance technicians and inspectors.

Report Usage

Across the four issues, 14 unique ACNs were used from the 44-report dataset, leaving 30 reports available for future issues. Four ACNs appear in more than one issue: ACN 772287 (DHC-8 aileron servo) appears in Issues 1, 2, and 4; ACN 1295814 (DC-10 thrust reverser lines) in Issues 2 and 4; ACN 743765 (B737-700 elevator fitting) in Issues 3 and 4; and ACN 1057981 (Beechjet 400A anti-skid lines) in Issues 3 and 4. Each reuse presents the report through a different editorial lens.