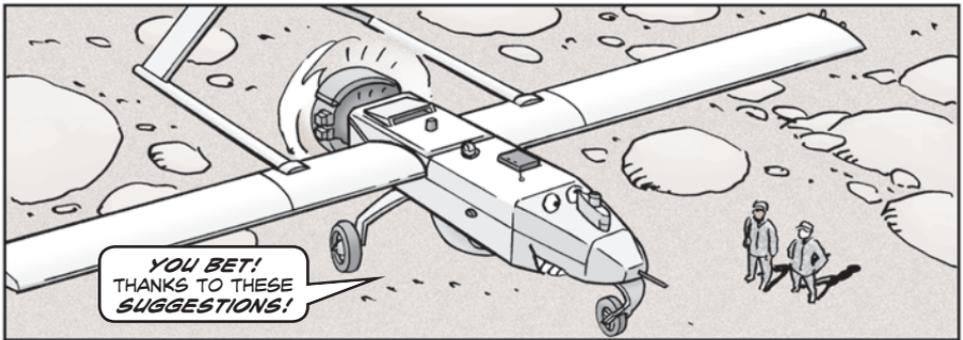


Shadow Unmanned Aircraft System...



Who's Flying High? *Only the Shadow Knows!*

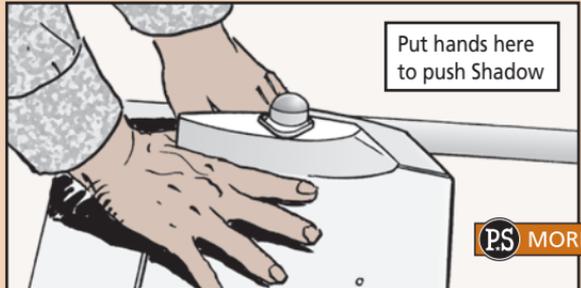
Dear Editor,

From our experience maintaining the Shadows at Ft. Stewart, we've come up with several ways to ensure your Shadows fly high and come back safely.

Move with care.

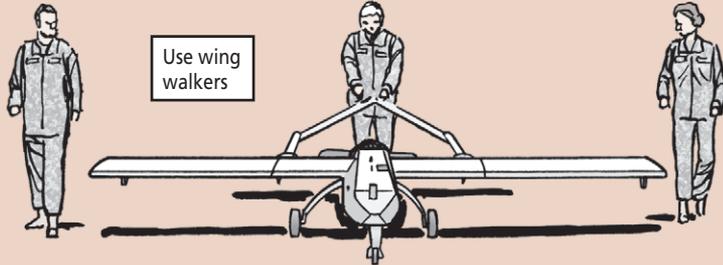
Just a bump or a hand in the wrong place can cause major damage.

When you push the Shadow, keep your hands off the elerudder and other moving parts. Push with both thumbs right in the center of the rear section of the plane.

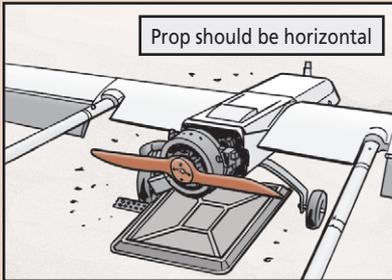


PS MORE 

If you're in a confined area, use two wing walkers to prevent the wings from hitting anything. Make sure the prop is horizontal so it can't catch on the ground. Push down on the rear of the Shadow just enough so that the front wheel is barely off the ground. That protects the wheel's strut from being bent by any-thing on the ground.



Use wing walkers

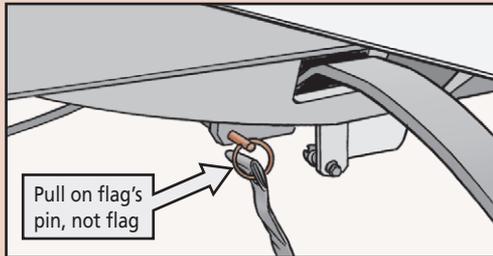


Prop should be horizontal



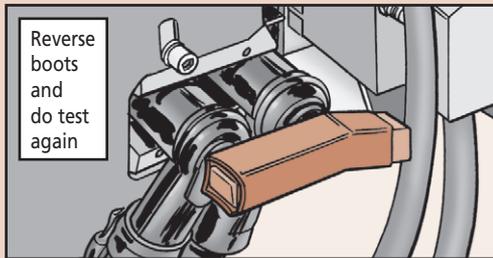
Keep front wheel just off ground

When you remove the REMOVE BEFORE FLIGHT flags, make sure to pull on the flag's pin, not the flag itself. Otherwise, the pin could stay in place without your realizing it. That could prevent something like the tail hook from going down into position.



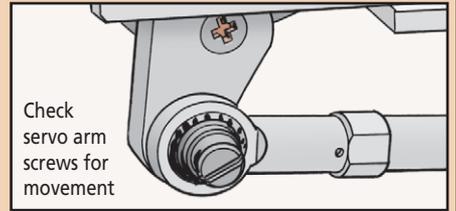
Pull on flag's pin, not flag

Channel A or B failure during before flight checks? A good troubleshooting tip is to reverse the spark plug boots and do the test again. If the channel changes, you've got a bad spark plug. If the channel doesn't change, it's the ignition module that's bad.



Reverse boots and do test again

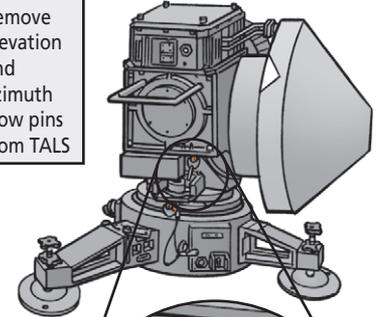
Check the screws for the servo arms on the wing ends before flight. The screws work loose. If they back out completely, the linkage will pop off during flight and the Shadow will crash. Move the rudder and see if the screws move. If they do, they need tightening.



Check servo arm screws for movement

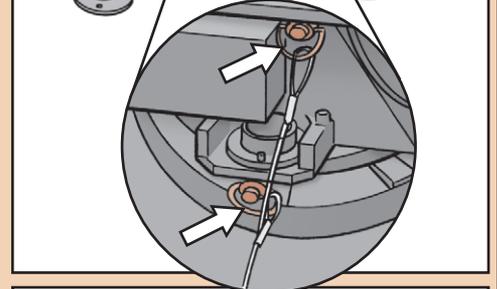
Don't forget to remove the elevation and azimuth stow pins from the tactical automated landing system (TALS) before you power up. If the pins are left in, the TALS gears will be stripped.

Remove elevation and azimuth stow pins from TALS

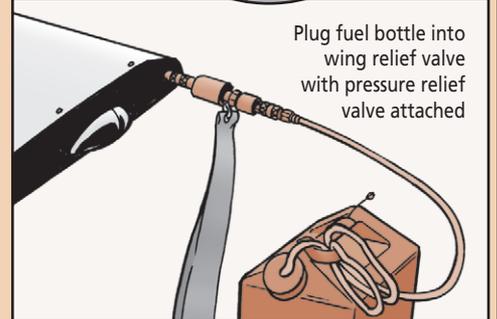


Mark the position of TALS on the runway. Once you have determined the correct position of TALS on the runway, mark the position of its three feet with paint. That will save you 20 minutes the next time Shadow flies.

After the Shadow lands, make sure all pieces of the shear pins are out. That will save time next time you mount the Shadow on the launcher. Otherwise, you have to remove the Shadow from the launcher to put in new shear pins.



When the Shadow is parked, plug a fuel bottle into the wing relief valve. That way if fuel expands because of the heat, the fuel flows into the bottle and not on the ground. But make sure the pressure relief valve is attached. Otherwise, all the fuel will come out.



Plug fuel bottle into wing relief valve with pressure relief valve attached

SPC Paul Witkowski
SPC Lucas Kannegaard
SGT Bryan Frymeyer
2-3 UAV Platoon
Ft Stewart, GA

Editor's note: Your suggestions will keep Shadows soaring. Thanks for helping them fly.

