

Who 'ya gonna call?

FOD BUSTERS

Foreign Object Debris



A trained unit knows that foreign object debris (FOD)—like nuts, bolts, screws, nails, washers or just about anything inadvertently left in aircraft moving parts—can cause foreign object damage (FOD).

Foreign Object Damage

A helicopter engine is powerful, but it's no match against FOD, which can cause millions of dollars in damage if items are left in the engine area after maintenance is done.



FOD Walks



FOD walks on the flight line are a must. Aircraft rotor wash can sweep up things like dropped cotter pins, brass casings, rocks and safety wire into moving parts. So walk the flight line and pick up all debris.

Personal Property

Always account for personal property such as hats, pens, keys and loose change. Some of these items can become stuck in cockpit flight controls. No hats should be worn on the flight line.



Caps, Plugs, Loose Hardware



Plastic caps, plugs, and rags left in components during assembly and installation are FOD, can cause damage and even bring down an aircraft. So, after any work's been done on the aircraft, scour the work area for these items and remove them.

Pocket Tool

The handy-dandy pocket tool that most soldiers won't leave home without can bring down a helicopter if left in the wrong place. When maintenance is done, make sure you take it and any other loose items with you.



Work Area & Tools



Tools can be FOD. Track your tools and return them to the toolbox at the end of maintenance. Check and double-check your work area and inventory your tool box to ensure everything's there.

FOD Can

Create a FOD can; it's easy. Start with an empty plastic, hand wipe container. Add a little yellow, red and white paint...and you've got yourself a FOD can to use in the hangar.



FOD Prevention Program



DA Pam 385-90 gives guidance for running an effective, tailorable FOD prevention program. Preventing FOD involves everyone. Know your unit's FOD prevention program and do your part to prevent foreign object debris and damage.