

If you read last month's FLIGHTFAX 5 you learned that the Army has experienced seven ground handling mishaps in the last five years that cost nearly one million dollars. These preventable accidents impede aircraft availability and are unscheduled maintenance actions no organization wants to deal with.

Procedures for towing Army aircraft are found in the applicable maintenance manuals (IETM/AMM) and TM 1-1500-204-23-1 (General Aircraft Maintenance).

Numbers of personnel required for towing specified in aircraft IETMs vary for each MDS. The General Aircraft Maintenance manual provides procedures for all ground movements. The manual refers users to applicable maintenance manuals for towing and provides general procedures for towing of all aircraft.

Push aircraft by hand (when required) in accordance with the applicable maintenance manual and follow the procedures in the General Maintenance Manual. Personnel that are actively involved in pushing the aircraft are not performing any of the other required duties for safe aircraft movement.

Ensure Standard Army Towing System operators are selected, trained, tested/ licensed in accordance with AR 600-55 and properly integrated into your flight line driving program. Last year's February issue of Flightfax has an excellent article on flight-line driving programs if you would like to learn more.

Ground handling of aircraft by the book (TM 1-1500204-23-1)

1. True or False. An authorized ground crewmember must be assigned to operate the aircraft brakes for wheeled aircraft from the time chocks are removed until they are reinstalled.

Answer: True

2. The maximum speed for towing an aircraft is _____ MPH?

Answer: 5

3. True or False. An authorized ground crewmember must be assigned to stand near the tip of each wing to act as a guide during ground movements?

Answer: True

4. Who must brief duties and dangers of ground handling aircraft prior to pushing aircraft by hand?

Answer: Senior person present

5. True or False. Aircraft dollies and heliporters are authorized for use with the UH-72A (Lakota)?

Answer: False, <https://www.psmagazine.army.mil/Portals/74/PDFs/Infographic%20PDFs/Lakota-Infographic.pdf?ver=HOpm-99Cm650GF6jlk7gQ%3d%3d×tamp=1603133868221>

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