US Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center

PIF ADVANCED COMPOSITES LAB

The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center Prototype Integration Facility Advanced Composite Lab is at the forefront of composite repair in Army aviation. In addition to performing the highest quality composite repairs, the PIF Advanced Composites Lab is creating solutions for the broad-spectrum of composite needs in Army aviation.

COMPOSITES IN THE FIELD

Aircraft components made from advanced composite materials are becoming more common on Army aircraft. Components and structures made from composite materials such as carbon and graphite fiber, aramid (Kevlar®), and fiberglass provide outstanding durability and strength while at the same time offer superior weight savings unmatched by their metal counterparts.

TRAINING

Over the past two and a half years, the PIF has trained more than 250 Soldiers and civilians in advanced composite repair processes and other composite fundamentals. The PIF offers three different courses, comprised of classroom lectures and practical hands-on exercises: Advanced Composite Repair (40 hours), Technical Inspection of Advanced Composite Repairs (24 hours) and Fundamentals of Composites (40 hours).

THE PIF

The AMRDEC PIF continues to have a direct and profound effect on Army aviation, and its experience and partnerships make it the hub of Army aviation activities for advanced composites.

The PIF is a subordinate unit of the AMRDEC Engineering Directorate which plans, develops, manages, and conducts Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command programs in the areas of total life cycle systems engineering, product assurance, test, and evaluation.

More information on the PIF is available at http://www.amrdec.army.mil/amrdec/pif.

Training the Maintainers
The AMRDEC PIF offers three Composite repair courses to Soldiers and Civilians. Although the class is based on the published procedures for the UH-60M helicopter's horizontal stabilator, the processes taught to the Soldiers are applicable across all aviation platforms.

AMRDEC

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