Interagency Aviation Accident Prevention Bulletin

Subject: sUAS Parrot Anafi Propeller Blades

Area of Concern: Flight Safety

Distribution: All Aviation Operations

Discussion: During a recent A-450, Small UAS Basic Remote Pilot Course and Mapping Workshop, three propeller separation events occurred with Anafi sUAS. Two resulted in no damage. The propellers were replaced, the sUAS was inspected, and operations continued. The third resulted in a fracture covering the front left arm of the sUAS. SAFECOM 24-0477 was submitted to report the events and hazards. Following these events, the participants in the workshop inspected the propellers with increased scrutiny. Additional propellers were removed and replaced after finding cracks or chips. Photo 1 and 2 below illustrate the damage that was discovered. Photo #1 illustrates a visible crack in the hub (gray line). Photo #2 shows a chip out of the propeller hub. Photo #3 shows a crack in the blade (dark line in the trailing edge). Photo #4 is a propeller that departed and was recovered.
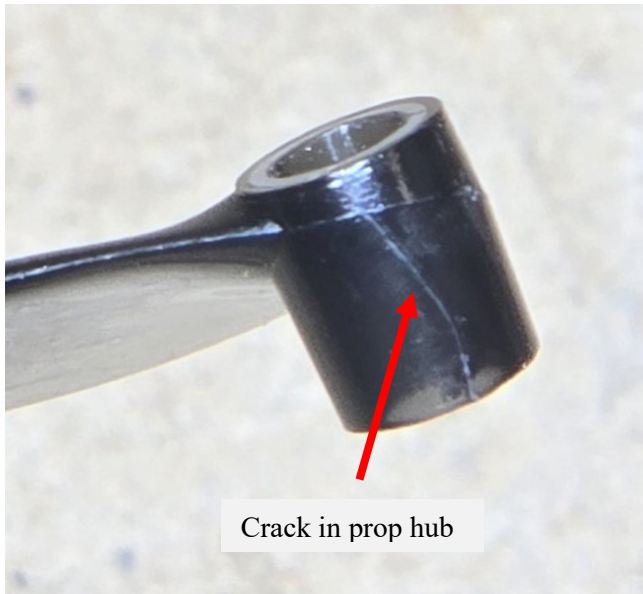

Crack in prop hub

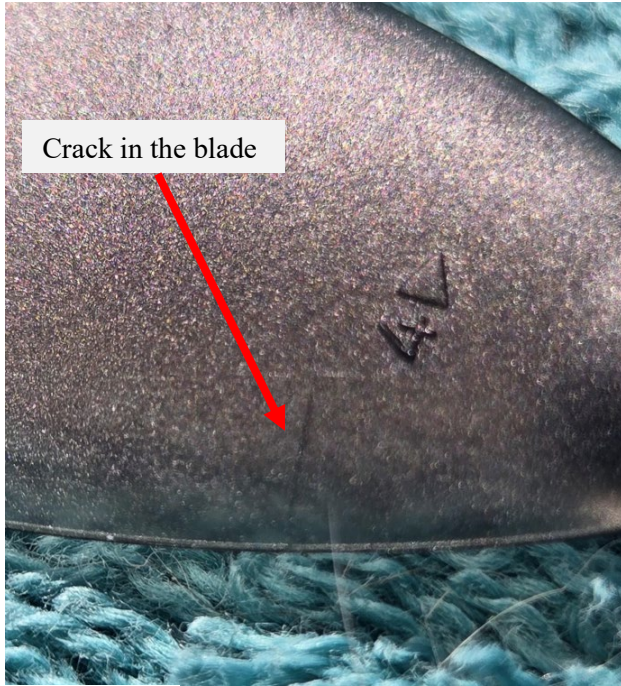Photo #1

Chip in prop hub

Photo #2

Photo #3

Photo #4

Propeller blade cracks and separation on the Parrot Anafi have become a common occurrence and highlight the importance of thorough preflight and post-flight inspections to minimize the risk associated with the use of these sUAS. The damage may not be obvious until a closer inspection is conducted. Ensure you're examining the entire surface of the blade for any signs of damage. This can be done both by visually inspecting the blade for small cracks and fractures as well as running a fingernail along the surface to feel for any imperfections. It's also important to check for discoloration or changes in texture that might indicate a crack. Regular thorough inspections are a key to ensuring the longevity of our Anafi Fleet.

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