



# AIRCRAFTSMAN



MARCH/APRIL 2019

Corpus Christi Army Depot  
The Cornerstone of Army Aviation

*Safety, Accuracy, Quality*





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## Article Idea???



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Simply email your request to:  
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## Vision Conservation and Readiness Program (VCRP)

The U.S. Army Public Health Center, VCRP, is dedicated to optimizing the vision, optical, and eye health through vision conservation and readiness of Department of Defense health care beneficiaries. The VCRP provides professional and comprehensive consultative services in vision/sight conservation and readiness in order to identify, assess, and prevent ocular and vision injuries and illnesses.

Want to LEARN more about Vision Readiness and how to avoid eye injury? Check out the VCRP Newsletter. Just copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://go.usa.gov/xmK82>



# CCAD completes 10,000 engine overhaul



Story by Della Adame  
Photos by Ervey Martinez

Corpus Christi Army Depot leaders, staff and industry partners took part in a ceremony celebrating CCAD's engine milestone completion, here, March 14.

The ceremony marked CCAD's success in servicing 10,000 T700 engines, which were first inducted into the depot in 2001 after partnering with General Electric Aviation in 2000. The milestone is based on the Army's 2004 single-fleet plan initiative to have the T700 in all of its UH-60 Black Hawk and AH-64 Apache helicopters, according to a GE Aviation press release.

From the beginning, GE Aviation has worked tirelessly in support of CCAD to help complete their goals by providing onsite technical, engineering and logistics services, and monitoring and supplying T700 spare parts to ensure adequate inventory, according to the same press release.

"We work closely with the CCAD artisans as (the engines) are opened up by engineering teams to figure out what materials are needed to perform the overhaul quickly... to get it back out into the field to the warfighter," said Cristina Seda-Hoelle, vice president and general manager, GE Aviation.

Army warfighters' success are dependent on the quality and excellence of each engine produced at CCAD.

"I tell you every day that we align ourselves to the warfighter. Because if we are not doing it for him and we're not doing it for her, I would ask, why are you (at CCAD)? You have to reflect on this," said Col. Gail Atkins, commander, CCAD.

Atkins recounted an experience from one of her mentors, Steve, who is an Army pilot, to CCAD employees during the

ceremony, giving them an understanding of how the work they do and the engines they produce impact the warfighter.

An Army attack weapons team, flying in Apache helicopters, had to react to enemy contact outside of Baghdad. None of the pilots knew how bad the situation was, said Atkins, and never questioned for a second the weapons system they were jumping inside of.

Throughout more than 12 hours of fighting, one of the Apaches sustained bullet damage to one of its engines, she added. Even with the damage, the engine continued to provide enough power for the pilot to keep fighting.

The mission was a success and what the pilot remembered most from it was "the confidence in that weapons system that he was flying and fighting with that day," said Atkins.

Atkins said it's the depot employees' commitment to excellence and the relationship with our industry partners that allow CCAD to celebrate rolling out 10,000 engines in support of the warfighter.





# RUNNING for Sexual Assault Prevention



Corpus Christi Army Depot Commander, Col. Gail Atkins, along with eight other U.S. Navy and Marine leaders signed a NASCC Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation before the start of the NASCC Sexual Assault Prevention Run. Leaders signed the proclamation signifying their efforts to educate their subordinates on the prevention of this intolerable crime, while showing support for those who have come forward in an effort to speak out against sexual assault. SGM Patricia Wahl and other CCAD Soldiers conducted a ruck march during the run to show their support.



Photos by Ervey Martinez



# CCAD test pilots judge school competition

Story and photos by Quentin Johnson

Representatives from the Corpus Christi Army Depot had a unique opportunity to participate in the Kolda Elementary School Entrepreneur Quest competition at Kolda, March 28.

Three CCAD pilots were guests as part of a five-judge panel for the annual competition where 5th-grade students present a creative and new product concept they have created, said Josie Alvarez, Kolda principal. The competition resembles the entrepreneurial-themed reality show, Shark Tank®.

This year, 11 students presented brand ideas from fishing tackle jewelry to custom-created hats with built in sunglasses in hopes of winning the grand prize of a \$100 donation to help start their business, said Alvarez. Each project was vetted for age level and appropriateness.

Alvarez said the competition is more than just winning the grand prize, but a learning tool for the students to incorporate school subjects they have been taught for the past 4 years.

"Each design encompassed how (the student) integrated subjects such as math, science, writing, and reading," said Alvarez.

Another benefit of the competition is a creative outlet for students to learn how to work with others, learn authentic business practices and put themselves into their product.

"I enjoy being creative, and I wanted to see how far I could go with my ideas," said Talen Silvas, 11, who won the competition with his product – individual, homemade peanut butter and jelly slices.

Silvas said Alvarez, his teacher and others students were very supportive of his idea, which he calls "The Good Stuff."

"Other students have been very encouraging, my teacher is supportive and my principle even gave me a few ideas on packaging the product," said Silvas.

Silvas said he was most thankful to the judges and to all the members from CCAD who help support Kolda at different events.

Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Andrew Gardner, test pilot, CCAD, and frequent Kolda volunteer, said he enjoys being able to support the school and see how creative students can be.

"I was honored to be here and help the children out," said Gardner. "The (projects) were crazy. The 'Good Stuff' idea blew my mind."

Gardner said he was there to encourage the students, but ended up finding himself encouraged as most of the products developed where about giving back to campaigns such as anti-bullying, cleaning up state parks and donating to wounded warriors.

"I'm glad these children think about others," said Gardner. "I think it is great schools are teaching our children about giving back and charitable organizations."

Each student was encouraged to continue their pursuit of marketing and selling their products, even if they didn't place in the competition. This includes expanding their brand or creating new ideas.

"Don't ever give up... run with your ideas and keep expanding," said Gardner.





# CCAD visits career fair, seeks prospects



Story and Photos by Brian Nestor

The Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) hosted a booth during the DoD Hiring Heroes Career Fair at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, March 20th.

The fair consisted of dozens of booths supported by multiple branches of the military and other agencies, which gave prospective job-seekers an opportunity to learn about various careers and even have on-the-spot interviews.

A half-dozen CCAD employees were in attendance in an effort to promote current career openings at the depot, said Evelyn Reyes, an administrative officer, CCAD. Each employee brought with them a unique perspective of CCAD and experience in their particular positions.

"A lot of what we do (at the career fair) is educating people about who CCAD is and what we do. CCAD is more than just mechanics and pilots, we have other fields," said Reyes.

This is just one of a dozen career fairs CCAD has participated in as part of their human capital campaign, a project centered on a commitment to help fill critical or hard-to-fill positions at the depot, said Reyes.

Some current hard-to-fill positions at the depot include financial management, engineers, chemists, flight test pilots, information technology, and welders.

San Antonio resident, Nelson Brenner, said he came to the career fair looking for a position as a budget analyst and was able to be interviewed for one.

With such results, Brenner said career fairs like this are a great opportunity for job seekers and hopes to visit others in the future. I think the Career Fair was very efficient and well organized, if they have more in the future I will come," said Brenner.

Like Brenner, Reyes said the fair was a success and that CCAD had received a lot of interest from good, prospective candidates.

The depot is scheduled to take part in multiple fairs throughout the year.





# Pilot for a Day



Photos by Della Adame

The Corpus Christi Army Depot received a special visitor last month at Hangar 44. Pilot-For-A-Day (PFAD) Cayson Rodriguez, 6, was accompanied by his brother Cayden, 8 and parents, Chelsea and Justin. Hailing from Rockport, the honorary pilot received a Commander's Coin, a CCAD plaque and numerous magnets and stickers along with other mementos of his visit to the Depot. CCAD is proud to partner with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's VT-35 Stingrays and the PFAD program that gives chronically ill children in our area the opportunity to enjoy a full day of activity with their family.

## CCAD Turns 58!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY CCAD!

58 years of excellence in Army rotary aviation! A cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate the Corpus Christi Army Depot's 58th birthday was held with the workforce in March. Since opening its doors on March 10, 1961 as the U.S. Army's first aviation maintenance facility, CCAD has grown to become the service's premier globally-engaged rotary wing maintenance, overhaul and repair facility in existence today.



# FLY ARMY





# Celebrating Military Children

Article by Christina Martin  
Child and Youth Program Lead  
NAS Corpus Christi CDC

The Child Development Center honored the sacrifices made by military and DoD families, and the experience children of military and DoD members gain while serving at home and overseas during the month of April.

The Child Development Center staff puts together a calendar full of activities for our children every year. This is an opportunity for us to recognize the military and DoD children who attend our center... for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices.

We kicked off the month with a parade around the Child Development Center and a ribbon cutting ceremony that signifies the start of a month full of activities.

On April 12, 2019, we asked everyone to wear purple in support of the Month of the Military Child (MOMC). "Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it's a combination of Army Green, Marine Red, and Coast Guard, Air Force, and Navy Blue. The goal of "Purple Up!" is for military youth to actually SEE the support in their school, youth groups, and the community!"

CHILDREN SERVE TOO!!



## Supporting the Community



### March Reading Buddies

CCAD Volunteers participated in the Reading Buddies event at Zachary Kolda Elementary School today. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kylene Lewis and pilot Josh Provencio from Flight Test joined Marciann Young (Workforce Development), Dennis Terrell (DMPP), Vickie Garcia (CCAD Retired Ladies Group), and Rafael Rubalcaba (PAO) to read to the six Kindergarten classes. Thank you to Mrs. Gamez, Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. Garcia, Mrs. Dlabaja, Mrs. Johnston, and Mrs. Pantoja for welcoming CCAD into your classrooms and to the Cadets for their respectful manners and great behavior. The Kolda Cadet Kindergarten teachers have a combined total of 84 years of experience!



### April Reading Buddies

Volunteers from CCAD's Directorate of Engines and the CCAD Retired Ladies participated in the April Reading Buddies Event at Zachary Kolda Elementary School on Thursday, 18 April. The 5th grade classes had an opportunity to ask questions and learn about our workforce. It is the personal stories - of serving in the military, working as contractors, learning the mechanics of an engine, becoming a branch chief, retiring from civil service after a long career - that engage the students and provide them a glimpse into the variety of occupations at CCAD.

Photos by Della Adame



# CCAD hosts internal career fair



Story and photos by Rafael Rubalcaba III

The Corpus Christi Army Depot's (CCAD) workforce management and workforce development team hosted an internal career fair, here, March 20.

The career fair consisted of three 45-minute classes centered on interviewing techniques, the federal job selection process and effective resume writing.

Each class was taught by a CCAD subject matter expert who brought their own unique experience to each lesson.

Workforce attendees appreciated the fact that leaders were the ones conducting each session, said Rosa Maria Segovia-Luther, program manager, CCAD.

"I was very intrigued that they had top management providing the training," she added.

Ric Rincon, Director of Quality Management, attributed the leader involvement to CCAD wanting to ensure the fair was instrumental for their most important asset – the workforce.

"Our workforce is second to none," said Rincon.

Segovia-Luther said she learned more than just lessons in resume writing and interview skills, but areas on where she felt were lacking.

"(The fair) was very informative. It actually helped me understand where I probably dropped the ball," said Segovia-Luther.

Leadership was just as excited and willing to present the tips for the betterment of the workforce.

"(The fair) is an opportunity to make the workforce more competitive when seeking their respective promotions," added Rincon.

CCAD Resource Management Director, Jeff Fluegge, said, "We want our subject matter experts engaged with the employees and vice versa. The information shared between groups make us all stronger and more prepared for that next job search, wherever it may be"

Future career fair or workshops are in discussion, but no dates have been scheduled at this time.







# Earth Day

CCAD's environmental team rocked Earth Day as they hosted their first Earth Day Fair at Kolda Elementary School, April 24! Seven supportive organizations came together from throughout the Coastal Bend area to spread the word about sustainability, recycling, watersheds and Texas marine/animal life. A huge thanks goes out to Kolda for allowing us the opportunity to share such valuable information with their students.



ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH • MAY

# UNITE OUR MISSION

BY ENGAGING EACH OTHER

