



# AIRCRAFTSMAN

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PARKER



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# New CCAD Commander: COL Joseph H. Parker

Native Texan born in Corpus Christi takes Depot reigns in virtual ceremony

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) conducted its first-ever Change of Command ceremony on May 29, 2020 using a social media platform.

Colonel Gail E. Atkins relinquished command to Colonel Joseph H. Parker after 22 months of serving as CCAD commander.

Foregoing the traditional ceremony with respect to today's social distancing guidelines and to protect the health and well-being of the entire workforce, the ceremony was held with participants, family members and support staff in the Joseph P. Cribbins Conference Room.

The event was hosted, via video conferencing, by Major General K. Todd Royar, Commander for the United States Army Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama,

The ceremony officially passed CCAD leadership to Colonel Parker, who will serve as the organization's 27th military leader.

Major General Royar said during his opening remarks. "I am very excited about the ceremony being done virtually. It really highlights the resilience of CCAD and its workforce. Despite all, everything that's gone on before, CCAD is producing and they are meeting the nation's requirements."

Although Army guidance prohibited the traditional passing of the colors, the colors were symbolically passed from outgoing Commander, Colonel Atkins, to incoming Commander, Colonel Parker.

Colonel Atkins expressed her regret at not being able to host community leaders and thank



them in person for their support. She said, "You've heard many of us in uniform say it before-but this community is special and has a unique and genuine connect with its military service members and their families."

Colonel Parker comes to CCAD after his most recent assignment as the Aviation Modernization Division Chief with the Headquarters, Department of the Army at the Pentagon.

Previous positions include: Deputy Commanding Officer of the 16th combat aviation brigade in Afghanistan, Executive Officer to the Commanding General, and First Army at Rock Island Arsenal Illinois. Commander of the 46th aviation Support battalion, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Deputy, G3 (Rear) of the 101st airborne, air assault division, Fort Campbell, KY.

"... Change is a beautiful thing for any organization. I know that he will work hard to lead this unique organization. I wish him the best." Colonel Atkins said.

Colonel Parker will oversee the operation of the U.S. Army's premier organic industrial base for worldwide helicopter maintenance support.

During his speech Colonel

Parker recounted a story of his first contact with Colonel Atkins at West Point in 1993 when he was a cadet and she was an upper class cadet. He said, "It is a privilege to take over from Colonel Atkins because she is much more than a phenomenal leader."

Colonel Parker commands more than 3,300 employees, comprised of Army civilians, contractors, and Soldiers. He will continue to foster and build relationships between military, community and original equipment manufacturers, and oversee 800 million dollars in annual revenue.

"What you do here impacts the force and helps us keep our nation safe while we fight for freedom together," said Colonel Parker.

"I've heard the saying around here that we support the warfighter. In my opinion, those who support the warfighter at CCAD are also warfighters."

Colonel Parker shared that he was born in Corpus Christi and lived near Haas Junior High School.

He closed with, "There is truly no other command for me. I am one of you. I am home. Army Strong! We are CCAD!"

## The Hallmark of Today's Depot: People & Modernization

The Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) continues to grow and its quest for talent continues to transform how to acquire, develop, and retain our most valuable asset – our people.

Bryan McMillan, training specialist lead for the Workforce Development Division (WDD), led the effort to bring a special training system to CCAD.

The system allows employees to visualize the inner workings of an actual helicopter engine and pull it apart...virtually. Yes, a virtual engine, think Iron Man Tony Stark style of tech.

"We will be able to utilize artisans who are subject matter experts, who passionately serve as adjunct instructors and can answer the technical, complex questions that arise," said McMillan.

The Virtual Interactive Environment (VIE) platform provides a high definition 3-D compartmentalization capability that allows students (artisans) to visualize the engine or avionics systems.

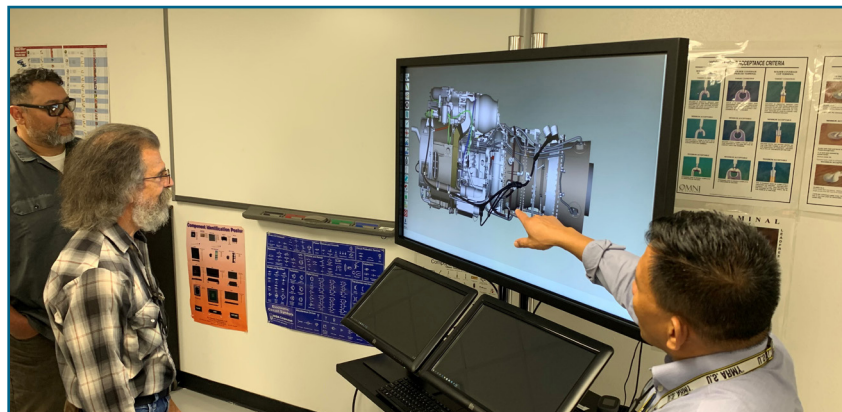
It's a virtual drill down into the smallest module or section of the systems. Imagine being able to virtually see what the problem is inside the engine while it is in use.

These virtual training systems caught the attention of McMillan in 2018 during a temporary duty assignment at the Logistics Aviation Readiness Center at Fort Hood, Texas.

This opened the door for a site visit to CCAD by original equipment manufacturer, Logistic Services International, Inc. to present depot leaders and supervisors with a show-and-tell of the capabilities.

Upon seeing the systems in action first-hand, leadership not only wanted the systems, they needed them.

McMillan said, "This is a big



win for CCAD and I'm excited to see where this will go, and the impact it will make."

The systems are stand-alone and do not interface directly with the CCAD network.

Upgrades and revisions come directly from Apache and Blackhawk Program Executive

Office located in Huntsville, Alabama.

Each of the systems are comprised of a main 55-inch touch screen and two smaller instructor touch screens.

When all T700 artisans have taken the initial training, intermediate and advanced levels of training will be leveraged and competencies can be managed throughout their careers.

McMillan said, "I call this a "force multiplier" because this

system can be utilized as standardized training for the target mass groups, from basic familiarization to advanced levels."

Brett Todhunter, CCAD Electronics Mechanic, has experience working on this type of system.

"The VIE has the possibility to do great things for the Depot," said Todhunter. "I see it helping new employees become familiar with different aircraft platforms than they have worked on before."

WDD is always seeking new innovative technology to train and improve the skill level of the workforce, from the newest employee to the seasoned artisan in the shop. They are committed to providing only the best for the workforce, because the people at CCAD are our strength.





## Behind the Mask: The Mission Continues

In an industry where safety is paramount, the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) is no stranger to the protection of its workforce.

The Depot has provided health related gear in the form of cloth face coverings to its workforce to better protect against the spread of COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that face coverings are worn in settings when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The CDC recommends approximately 6 feet of separation when possible.

With medical grade masks reserved for health care workers worldwide at the time of the requirement, obtaining over 3,200 cloth face coverings proved to be difficult, according to Mr. Michael Bonincontri, CCAD Material Management Division Chief.

The Depot's acquisitions team cautiously sought products without consuming first responder supplies.

"Our workforce is playing a critical role in supporting the Warfighter at an unprecedented time of need in our country," Colonel Gail Atkins, CCAD Commander, said in a statement. "We're committed to doing everything we can to ensure the health and safety of our employees."

Partnering with One Store Solutions, a 501(c)(3) charitable, not-for-profit organization operated by the South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, to find a vendor to manufacture the cloth face coverings expeditiously, was the solution.

In a period of one week, a small family-owned business produced over 3,200 cloth face coverings proudly made in McAllen, TX, USA.

One Store Solutions Regional Manager, David Nease, personally

drove halfway to the Rio Grande Valley to collect two separate shipments ensuring the product adhered to Depot requirements, and delivered them to the acquisitions team in Corpus Christi, TX.

All CCAD employees will receive or have received one cloth face covering for use.

Teleworking employees and those on leave will receive theirs upon returning to the workplace.

On April 22, the Army Materiel Command issued an order that all employees will be provided a spare cloth face covering.

The Army Aviation and Missile Command has purchased enough cloth face coverings for CCAD and other subordinate commands with an estimated delivery date of late May.

"Organizations experience adversity, but our resilience allows us to overcome and function." CCAD Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Rod Benson explained.

"Using cloth face coverings enables us to operate with a level of safety and follow the six foot social distancing guidelines. The lack of coverings would impede the Depot's progress to deliver to the

Warfighter as we have."

Companies have implemented safeguards to better protect the health of workers as millions of Americans are advised to stay home to slow the pandemic and help flatten the curve.





## Kevin Rees, Order of Saint Michael Silver Medal Recipient

Mr. Kevin Rees, Chief of the Maintenance Airworthiness Engineering Division of the Systems Readiness Directorate in the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (CCDEVCOM), received the Order of St. Michael medal from the Army Aviation Association of America for providing exceptional service to Army Aviation for over 30 years in positions of increasing responsibility and effect.

For the last 19 years, Rees has served alongside every CCAD commander as an invaluable advisor, mentor and subject matter expert. His contributions exemplify his commitment to the Army Aviation Community and substantiates him as most worthy of the Order of St. Michael Award.

Rees is responsible for coordinating maintenance and sustainment engineering support for Army helicopter operations worldwide. In addition to these and other responsibilities, he manages an organization of approximately 125 engineers with an annual operating budget of more than \$30 million.

He was also recognized with a "Career Achievement Award" by his alma mater, the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, the #1 college in the country for undergraduate engineering programs.

Kevin has earned the Secretary of Defense Global War on Terrorism Superior Civilian Support medal and the Bronze Order of Saint Michael Medal, AAAA in 2015. He is very active in his church, many higher-education boards and has published more than a dozen professional papers.



## Patriots in Service

Chuck Weigle served his country as a Protective Force Lieutenant with the Department of Energy. Today, he is an IT technical writer at CCAD.

Chuck proudly shares a legacy that spans generations, beginning with his grandfather, Private Dorr H. Weigle, USMC, who served in the Argonne Forest in WWI. His father, Richard C. Weigle, was a 2nd Lieutenant and infantry trainer. The commitment to our country is strong with Chuck's family as his son, First Lieutenant Charles W. Weigle, graduated from West Point and flew Apache helicopters. Share your patriotic family legacy: [usarmy.corpuschristi.usamc.mbx.pao](mailto:usarmy.corpuschristi.usamc.mbx.pao)



## Pilot Promotion

U.S. Army test pilot, Kylene Lewis received a promotion to Chief Warrant Officer 4 recently at the Corpus Christi Army Depot. Chief Lewis has been a frequent volunteer to participate in numerous community relations events, such as judging science contests, and reading to students. She has graciously represented the Depot to accept awards on its behalf for its commitment to the partnership with Zachary Kolda Elementary School. In attendance at the promotion ceremony were her husband and daughter.



# Rock Star Award Winners

## Human Capital Management

Congratulations to the March Rock Star Award winners. Amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, the Human Capital Management Directorate worked tirelessly to ensure personnel documents for over 3,300 employees were properly developed and distributed.

Thank you for your commitment to the Depot's #1 priority - our PEOPLE!



## Planning & Supply Management and Resource Management

April was the first time the Rock Star award was shared between two directorates. The Directorate of Planning and Supply Management and the Directorate of Resource Management were recognized for their efforts on budget transmission, data alignment, and planning requirements for the enterprise in regard to carryover and supportable programs. Their attention to detail in analysis of information and making necessary adjustments were evident in their collaboration.



## Around the Depot



#WeAreCCAD

## P3: Performance Triad



The Army Public Health Center has communication products and messages that help you on your journey to better health with strategies for success. The Performance Triad of sleep, activity, and nutrition have a proven track record. Your daily routine in the three basic areas of sleep, activity and nutrition can increase or decrease your physical and mental performance. For more information copy/paste the following link into your browser: <https://p3.amedd.army.mil/>

## Hurricane Season Is Here

Hurricane season began June 1, 2020. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, you will need to carefully review your hurricane plan and give yourself more time than usual to prepare your emergency food, water and medical supplies. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance that is in place to keep you safe from COVID-19 may impact the disaster preparedness plan you had in place, including what is in your go-kit, evacuation routes, shelters and more. Be sure to include face masks and hand sanitizer to your hurricane preparedness

checklist. Coastal area residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane to make landfall to make it an active season for their area.

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season names are: Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, and Wilfred.



### CCAD Command Team

COL Joseph H. Parker  
**Commander**

Mr. Mark Wagner  
**Deputy to the Commander**

SGM Patricia Wahl  
**Sergeant Major**

Mr. Tom Bamford  
**Chief of Staff/Senior Editor**

Mr. Rod Benson  
**Chief Operations Officer**

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