



AIRCRAFTSMAN

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT

October-December 2023



America's Aviation Depot
We Keep the Army Flying!
www.CCAD.Army.mil



COVER PHOTO:
UH-60V Black Hawk crew chief and
Aircraft Maintenance Technician,
Anthony R. Roofner, on the depot
flightline as he prepares to board a
helicopter for a test flight.



18th Luther G. Jones Army Aviation Depot Forum

Story and photos by Kathleen (Kat) Pettaway-Clarke, CCAD Public Affairs Office
Photos by Ervey Martinez, CCAD Multimedia Imaging Specialist

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Army Aviation Association of America hosted the 18th Luther G. Jones Army Aviation Depot Forum at the Solomon P. Ortiz International Center December 5-6.

The two-day event focused on Army Aviation Maintenance and sustainment, providing education on the government's capabilities, the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD), and the advantages for the global industry customer. This year's theme was CCAD-Integral to Army Aviation Readiness Today and Into the Future.

The forum is named after former CCAD commander and former Corpus Christi Mayor Col. Luther Griffin Jones Jr. who served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1939 to 1945 and the Vietnam War from 1958 to 1973; he then served as the mayor of Corpus Christi from 1979 to 1987.

Retired Maj. Gen. Walt Davis, AAAA Executive Director, emceed the event. Army Chaplain (Captain) Dennis Ohiku, CCAD's first on-staff Chaplain, provided the invocation.

OPENING

During opening remarks, CCAD Commander Col. Kyle M. Hogan implored organizations to consider the depot for refurbishment, modernization, and organic industrial base needs. "We are committed to meeting enduring and future requirements. CCAD

is actively engaged in continuing to be the center of [industrial and technical] excellence for rotary wing aviation."

The Hon. Paulette Guajardo, Mayor of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Hon. Michael Cloud, U.S. Representative, 27th Congressional District, Texas, sent video salutations expressing the importance of the military in South Texas and their efforts of securing support within the highest levels of government. One out of

U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Commanding General, delivered the keynote address. He spoke about the Chief of Staff of the Army's number one priority of readiness for the Army. "The Depot produces readiness; they are a national insurance policy that produces a 50 percent cost savings vs. new." He continued, "We are willing to invest in our people our resources to ensure we can rapidly respond." O'Connor expressed his appreciation for



On opening day, the Corpus Christi Army Depot Commander, Colonel Kyle Hogan welcomed the attendees at the 18th Luther G. Jones Army Aviation Depot Forum at the Solomon P. Ortiz International Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, December 5, 2024.

100 people in the Corpus Christi area are employed at CCAD. The depot has an economic impact of \$1.4 billion to the local community.

Maj. Gen. Thomas O'Connor,

Depot employees thanking them for coming to work every day to make a difference.

Richard Martin, Army Materiel Command (AMC) Executive Director, provided an AMC update. He spoke about the near challenges of the near peer adversaries and getting the right things to the right place at the right time. "It is done with precision across multiple platforms." It also involves generational modernization. "Generational modernization involves thinking differently about fleet strategy, while being data informed."

Panel discussions for the two-day event included additive manufacturing; organizational culture within an aviation maintenance



The Commanding General of the U.S. Army's Aviation and Missile Command, General Thomas O'Connor addressed attendees at the 18th Luther G. Jones Army Aviation Depot Forum in Corpus Christi, Texas, December 5, 2024.

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Commander's Corner



Happy New Year!!

I hope 2024 brings a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm.

Workload. The future is bright, and we are moving in a positive direction. After the challenges of COVID-19, supply chain issues, and decreasing workload, 2024 brings much to appreciate and look forward to. With the right effort and outlook, we can be better than we have been in decades.

Quality and Flexibility. I need the most help to ensure our short-term success becomes a long-term success through quality assurance. It is not solely the responsibility of the Directorate of Quality Management to ensure our products are of the highest quality; it is on everybody. Remember, I AM CCAD: "It starts with me." As our workload adjusts, we will need to flexibility with that shift; when we have more component work, more people are required in components. This shift must occur to ensure both the solvency of the depot and the individual artisans.

SGM Trawick and I are incredibly proud of all the effort and energy you put into the depot daily. We are proud to be on this team and look forward to the continued greatness this year will bring.

KYLE M. HOGAN
Colonel, Aviation

environment; industry support; Theatre Aviation Support Maintenance Group/CCAD partnership and academic collaboration.

AWARDS

Crystal Leal was the 2023 recipient of the AAAA Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisan of the Year award.

This national award is presented to people who have made outstanding individual contributions to Army aviation in depot maintenance during the award period commencing July 1 to June 30.

Leal is an Electronics Integrated Systems Mechanic for the

Avionics Branch at CCAD. She is considered the "go to person" and often selected to lead directorate maintenance teams while displaying a relentless personal dedication and commitment to her work. Leal also provides technical instruction, safety tips, and lessons learned to her colleagues.

Leal was a critical player in the revamping of the UH-60 Victor Black Hawk recapitalization assembly program. She consistently improved build times while cutting costs. Her efforts led to a cost savings of over \$1.1 million.

Sgt. Ricardo Yglesias was presented the Army Achievement Medal as the CCAD Soldier of the Year for exceptionally meritorious achievement.

Clarence Hitchings, Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Center, Liaison Engineering Branch Chief was presented with the Honorable Order of St. Michael-Silver Award for his continued superior contributions to Army

Aviation, such as his airworthiness responsibility for all nonstandard field repairs and maintenance conducted

worldwide.

During closing remarks, Hogan presented the signature "I Am CCAD" video, solidifying CCAD employees' commitment to readiness and supporting the warfighter.



Sgt. Ricardo Yglesias was presented the Army Achievement Medal as the CCAD Soldier of the Year at the Luther G. Jones Army Depot Aviation Forum.



Crystal Leal was the 2023 recipient of the AAAA Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisan of the Year award during a ceremony at the 18th Luther G. Jones Army Aviation Depot Forum in Corpus Christi, Texas.



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Depot-college partnership flourishes, CCAD gains 40 new employees

By Kathleen (Kat) Pettaway-Clarke, CCAD Public Affairs
Photos by Ervey Martinez, CCAD Multimedia Imaging Specialist

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas — The fruits of CCAD's labor, from planting the seeds to growing a continually skilled workforce, are finally being cultivated, as 40 people took the oath of office during a swearing-in ceremony.

More than half of the new employees were Del Mar College graduates, directly resulting from the

and the sergeant major speaking [to the group], drives home the importance of the depot and how CCAD fits into the big picture to support the Army and our nation."

The partnership provides local graduates with a pathway to explore career opportunities related to their academic field while also learning about civilian careers within the department of the Army.

Since the signing, CCAD has participated in the Del Mar College External Stakeholder Focus Groups at the DMC Oso Creek and DMC West Campuses. In addition, CCAD participated in two career fairs held at Del Mar College.

The Commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, Maj. Gen. Tom O'Connor and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradford Smith thanked the new employees for joining the Army and AMCOM family. The depot employs civil service and contract employees in direct and indirect roles supporting aircraft production.

"Thank you for your commitment to our nation and the Soldiers," O'Connor said. "I count on you to do your job to ensure we produce quality products because people's lives depend on our products. I



Above: Commander of the Corpus Christi Army Depot, Colonel Kyle Hogan, administers the civilian oath to the members of the December 8 new employee orientation class.

would ask you to think about how you come to work daily and challenge the status quo. We've got to be more efficient and effective."

"I'm always excited when I come down here because I always learn something new," Smith said. "Specifically, how we are recruiting, training, and retaining people like you. And most importantly, how can we ensure that the workload comes here to keep you employed? What you do is essential, and we thank you for joining the team to serve your country."

CCAD commander Col. Kyle
Story continues on page 13



Above: The Commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, Major General Tom O'Connor welcomed the new employees to their civil service career at America's Aviation Depot.

partnership between the academic institution and the depot. CCAD continuously seeks to recruit and train the next generation of artisans and employees, and earlier this year, America's aviation depot signed a letter of agreement with Del Mar College.

Dan Korus, dean of workforce programs at the college, said, "This is just the beginning of our partnership. We plan to do more with CCAD to provide more career opportunities for our students, especially with the Army civilian career."

Samuel Fryer, training information administrator, said, "It was very encouraging to see this number of new employees here today. We've never seen that number of employees hired at once. The AMCOM commander



Above L-R: Dan Korus, Dean of Workforce Programs at Del Mar College, Samuel Fryer, Training Information Administrator and Jennifer Gonzales, Director of Career Development at Del Mar College.

CCAD Soldiers and Readiness

By Carla Green, CCAD Public Affairs
Photos by Ervey Martinez, CCAD Multimedia Imaging Specialist

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas —Soldiers, fitness and readiness-you cannot have one without the other to be effective, capable, and intentional.

The Soldiers assigned to the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) must pass the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) two times a year. ACFT is an age and gender-performance-normed test that assesses all soldier's readiness levels. The ACFT replaced the Army Physical Fitness Test as the test of record in October 2022.

The ACFT measures individual physical fitness levels and ensures that Soldiers are training appropriately to fight and win our nation's wars. Soldiers are required to take two tests within 12 months, giving the commander a snapshot of their Soldier's physical fitness readiness levels.

CCAD sergeant major, Jon Trawick said, "Soldiers must be ready to deploy and fight our nation's enemies at any given time. Maintaining a high level of physical fitness allows Soldiers to withstand the stresses that deployments bring."

Soldiers also prepare themselves mentally and physically to improve their physical training scores, increase their chances of acceptance into special schools and promotion potential. All contributes to Army readiness.

The ACFT is very important to sergeant Ricardo Yglesias prior to his attendance and successful completion of the Air Assault course at The Air Assault School at Fort Moore (formerly known as Fort Benning). "The course was very physically and mentally challenging. It also tested my attention to detail, my ability adapt and my safety awareness," said Yglesias.

Sgt. Yglesias has earned his



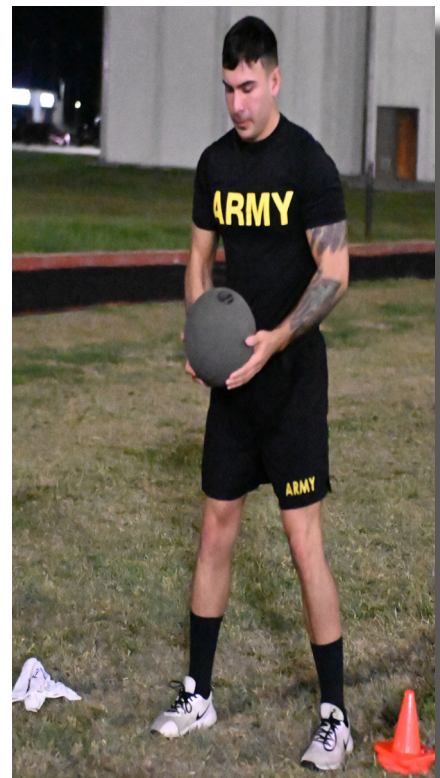
Above: U.S. Army Sergeant Ricardo Yglesias participates in the Army Combat Fitness Test twice a year to assess his readiness levels. He is CCAD Soldier of the Year and has gone on to attend and successfully complete the Air Assault course at The Air Assault School at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning.)

earned the Air Assault wings. He is now certified in to rig sling load operations from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

Every Soldier makes a difference everyday as a member of the world's premier fighting and crisis response force. Adaptive Soldiers are the premier capability that provides the Army its decisive advantage in military operations. Spc. Pablo Franco is working to improve his physical training score for promotion to E-5 (sergeant). He has been in the military for almost four years. His future goal is to be a UH-60 pilot. Franco said, "First of all, I'm living my dream. Why? Because I like this [the Army], I like how I can prove myself in the Army and as a Soldier. I joined, for more opportunities."

Yglesias spoke highly of Franco's attention to detail and dependability. "He [Franco] is the complete opposite of complacency." Sgt Maj. Trawick said, "The ACFT allows Soldiers to challenge themselves and compete against each other, all while bringing

out a sense of teamwork and purpose. I am proud of all the CCAD Soldiers who give their all when taking the Army Combat Fitness Test."



Above: Sergeant Ricardo Yglesias' dedication to fitness played an important role in his Best Warrior competition results, earning him his choice of the Air Assault School and earning the Air Assault wings.

Outstanding Performers



CCAD Outstanding Performer

Audrey Pena



Ms. Pena is Accounting Division Chief. The Accounting Division has persevered over challenges with new systems, audit requirements, and reconciliations in FY23. She led her organization through any issues with flying colors. Her office received a commendation from higher headquarters, which commended CCAD for clearing accounts to a \$0.00 balance for the fiscal year end close. Ms. Pena displays expertise, dedication, leadership, and determination to drive our business forward every day which makes her the epitome of the "I AM CCAD" mantra. Congratulations, Ms. Pena!



CCAD Outstanding Performer

Jason Backhurst



Jason Backhurst has been instrumental in leading the effort to modernize and standardize the operations of the Directorate of Aircraft Production tool rooms. He led the transformation of the DAP tool rooms to the current state which includes standardized check in and out processes, increased tool accountability, TMDE control and significant time savings in locating tools. Also responsible for taking custody of consumables materials in hangar 43 and 46, his efforts resulted in a 45% reduction of monthly usage and annual savings of over \$168K. Congratulations, Jason and thank you for helping CCAD keep the Army flying!



UPLIFT Class 23-2



Awards & Recognition



Around the Depot



In Our Community



Tours



Tours



Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program Selectees

Mr. John Aguirre and Ms. Karen Glanz have been selected at the Department of Defense level to participate in the Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program (DCELP) Cohort 19.

Mr. Aguirre is currently a property book supply technician in the Directorate of Supply Management. He assists over 270 hand receipt holders on managing their inventories.

A native of South Texas, John is a retired Veteran of the Army National Guard.



Ms. Glanz, originally from California, has been a paralegal specialist at the depot since 2011.

She provides paralegal support to CCAD attorneys in the evaluation, development, and litigation of administrative actions (i.e. personnel actions, Merit Systems Protection Board, and Equal Employment Opportunity.)

They will attend a total of four one-week seminars in Oklahoma during a three-month period starting in June of 2024.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Open to select Army civilians in grade GS-07 thru GS-12 (or equivalent); DCELP is one of the premier Department of Defense (DoD) leader development program for civilians.

The program consists of in-resident sessions, assessment tools, knowledge transfer activities, participant writing and briefing projects, and individual coaching.

The program concentrates on the five terminal learning objectives of Know Self, Express Self, Build Teams, Manage Organizations



Above L-R: John Aguirre and Karen Glanz, CCAD Army Civilian employees selected to participate in the Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program in 2024.

and Understand the DoD.

DCELP is comprised of two cohorts.

The “Big 3” cohort is only open to Acquisition, Financial Management and Human Resources functional communities.

The “Open” cohort is open to all functional communities and solicited through commands.

THE SELECTION PROCESS EXPLAINED

Employees can log into the ACCMA Talent Development Application Portal to apply for these great opportunities for permanent Army Civilians in grades GS-07 thru GS-15 and pay band equivalents.

All Army civilians must self-nom-

inate through the ACCMA Talent Development Application Portal.

The Command Board, Functional Board and ACCMA Selection Board will convene to identify employees to participate in these developmental programs.

Completed applications in the Application Portal will generate

an email to the rater and endorser in their chain of command for endorsements.

Applications for all programs submitted into the application portal

will require the applicant to

self-rate their competencies using the Executive Core Qualifications (ECQ).

In addition, WHLDP, DSLDP and ASF applications will require narrative descriptions for each ECQ.

2024 DEADLINE TO APPLY

The 2024 Army Civilian Career Management Activity (ACCMA) Enterprise Civilian Talent Development Programs will be accepting applications for FY24/FY25 training on 1 March 2024.

The Civilian workforce at the Corpus Christi Army Depot is encouraged to take advantage of these developmental opportunities.

READ MORE

NEW EMPLOYEES

Continued from page 4

Hogan and Deputy and Chief Operations Officer Rod Benson shared expectations with the new employees about their potential to build the depot's legacy.

"At the end of the day, people make the organization happen," Hogan said. "We hear many things about artificial intelligence

Rs: reputation, relationships, and results.

"You are a U.S. government employee now, a CCADer 24/7. Remember the three Rs and then challenge assumptions. Strive to understand the process and "The Why" this job exists. Strive to execute in the job, give your best and make those around you better.

Victor Perez, a Del Mar College and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi graduate, applied for

Emily Garcia Angel, a recently hired sandblaster, received her Level I certificate at Del Mar College. She said, "I've been going to Del Mar since my sophomore year of high school. I was a dual credit student and took the welding program. Amazingly, I just turned 18 and got a job here at CCAD. I am honored."

O'Connor thanked Del Mar for their partnership to help people through airframe and powerplant licensing and training, adding that great relationships with the community are critical.

"Being here [at CCAD] in Corpus Christi, you're part of a broader community," he said. "This broader community supports us [AMCOM] and directly supports our Soldiers down range."

Benson reiterated the importance of showing up daily, removing excuses and taking responsibility. He said improvement happens with small steps from oneself to the organization and, ultimately, the industry.

"We have people here doing things that no one else in the world is doing right here, and you can do that," he said. "It doesn't matter where you start. It's up to you where you want to go."

Building upon the partnerships with academic organizations provides the CCAD workforce with a pathway to success.

Hogan said, "From GED to Ph.D., we're glad to be associated with this partnership and what we provide, not only here for our people, but for the rest of the world."



Above: Newly sworn in as official government employees at the December 8, 2023, new employee orientation (NEO.) Emily Garcia Angel, a sandblaster, received her Level I certificate at Del Mar College. Victor Perez, a Del Mar College and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi graduate, applied for a position at a recent career fair and is now a depot IT specialist.

and robots. However, we will always need people to do the thinking aspect [of the job], the human part, and the execution part of the job. What [leadership is] trying to do is make sure that our assets go where they need to go to defend the nation, and you answered the call."

Benson talked about the three

a position at a career fair and was recently hired as an IT specialist.

"I was at Del Mar College working for my associate degree in business administration," he said. Intertwined with the Del Mar community, I feel like CCAD provides leverage to continue building that community."

On The Glide Slope

January 2024:

-Commander's Townhall

-Remembrance Ceremony

-Martin Luther King Birthday

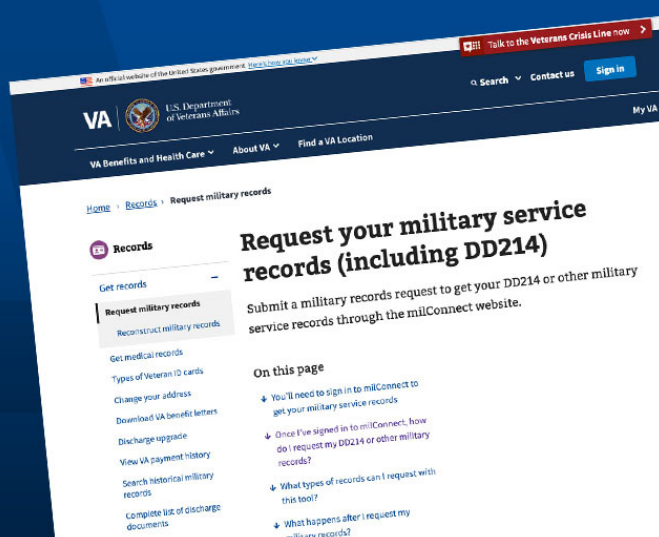
"Day of Service"

Submit a request for your **military** **service records.**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration



USAJOBS

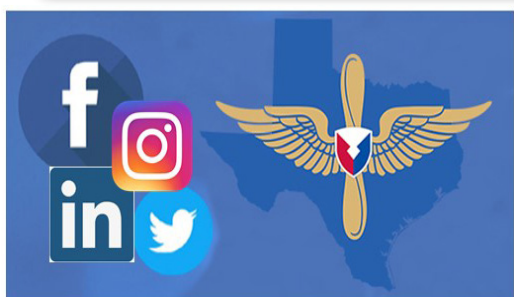


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Use these hashtags to find CCAD
on social media platforms:

#AmericasAviationDept
#WeAreCCAD #CCArmyDepot
#WeKeepTheArmyFlying
#CCADSalute #CCADstagram
#CCADSocialMedia #AboveTheBest



Follow, like and share the CCAD
social media pages!

Facebook & Instagram:

@CorpusChristiArmyDepot

Twitter: @CCADPAO

LinkedIn: The Corpus Christi Army Depot

CCAD Command Team

COL Kyle M. Hogan
Commander

SGM Jon L. Trawick
Depot Sergeant Major

Mr. Rod Benson
Deputy and Chief Operations Officer

Mr. Peter Dillon
Chief of Staff

CCAD Public Affairs & Visual Information Team

Ms. Carla Green
Chief of Public Affairs

Ms. Kathleen Pettaway-Clarke
Lead Public Affairs Specialist

Ms. Della Adame
Aircraftsman Editor

Mr. Ervey Martinez
Multimedia Imaging Specialist

Mr. Jerry Duenes
Audio Visual Specialist



It's a tradition for CCADers to wear
RED shirts on Fridays to
Remember Everyone Deployed.
We are proud to show solidarity and support
for all military personnel regardless of rank.
Whether military personnel are stateside or
stationed abroad, we salute all our Warriors.
#TillTheyAllComeHome #REDFriday
#RememberEveryoneDeployed

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