

# AIRCRAFTSMAN

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT

Winter 2024



America's Aviation Depot  
We Keep the Army Flying!  
[www.CCAD.Army.mil](http://www.CCAD.Army.mil)



*COVER PHOTO:*  
Corpus Christi Army Depot Commander  
COL Kevin J. Consedine passes the  
flag to SGM Angelo Rickert during the  
Assumption of Responsibility ceremony  
at America's Aviation Depot,  
December 16, 2024.



# Sergeant Major Rickert Assumes Responsibility at CCAD

By Della Adame, CCAD Public Affairs Office  
Photos by Ervey Martinez, CCAD Multimedia Imaging Specialist



Sergeant Major Angelo V. Rickert addresses guests after assuming responsibility of the Corpus Christi Army Depot during a ceremony held December 16, 2024.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) hosted an assumption of responsibility ceremony Dec. 16 to welcome its new sergeant major.

Sergeant Major Angelo Rickert assumed responsibility of the depot, a helicopter and component repair and remanufacture facility for U.S. Army, during a formal ceremony.

Soldiers, family, friends, and members of the local community gathered in an aviation hangar with a large U.S. flag as the backdrop. The ceremo-

ny highlight was the passing of the depot flag or colors from the depot commander to the incoming sergeant major. With the passing of the colors, the organizations legacy is passed as building blocks for future performance and achievement.

Colonel Kevin Consedine, CCAD commander, welcomed Rickert to South Texas, noting the ceremony as the fulfillment of the need for leaders with recent operational/tactical experience to inform decision makers at the depot and provide context to the workforce.

“A position of trust and confidence at the depot comes with a steep learning curve and a requirement to be effective right away. Sergeant Major Rickert hit the ground running and jumped right into the fray to have an early impact with a town hall, meal options for the artisans, and leadership development programs for floor supervisors. He’s assumed the role with confidence and a desire to matter - the team is very thankful for that,” said Colonel Consedine.

Sergeant Major Rickert  
*Story continues on page 13*



Sergeant Major Angelo V. Rickert shares the celebratory and traditional cake cutting duties after the assumption of responsibility ceremony at depot hangar 44 on December 16, 2024.



Incoming CCAD Sergeant Major Angelo V. Rickert addresses the crowd after he assumed responsibility for the depot during a ceremony held December 16, 2024 at the Corpus Christi Army Depot.

# Salute to the Military

On December 5, 2024, the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce honored local military personnel during the annual Salute to the Military event. Al Arreola, Chamber President and CEO, emceed the event. During a panel discussion, RADM Rich Brophy, Chief of Naval Air Training and Colonel Kevin Consedine, CCAD Commander talked about the military, jobs, and how the community can support military operations.



## Autonomous Robots at Depot

By Pedro Garcia, CCAD Division Chief, Transmission and Gearbox Output  
Photos by Ervey Martinez, CCAD Multimedia Imaging Specialist

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, TX - Director of Powertrain production, Marc A. Gonzalez, said "This has been an exceptional display of teamwork and coordination. The smooth and efficient transition, resulting in a swift return to production is an achievement."

The Notice to Proceed for the new facility's design phase was issued in the fall of 2018, marking the start of the journey. A \$62.49 million construction contract was won two years later. Despite the difficulties that come with a project this size, construction was completed ahead of schedule.

This seamless transition marked a pivotal moment in CCAD's history, by means of swift troubleshooting and collaborative problem-solving. For instance, with the collaboration between

the IT and engineering departments, the team achieved a flawless transition without disrupting production. A blue light scan was made of the one-of-a-kind rotor head stand to ensure that the stand was placed precisely in position. This state-of-the-art facility represents a significant step forward in CCAD's mission to sustain the Army's aviation fleet and provide the warfighter with unparalleled efficiency and innovation. This accomplishment is crucial to CCAD's ongoing mission to ensure that aircraft components reach the warfighter.

The directorates of engineering, facilities and production were instrumental in planning and carrying out the phased transition. For example, facilities helped with the logistics of relocating equipment, engineering worked to release

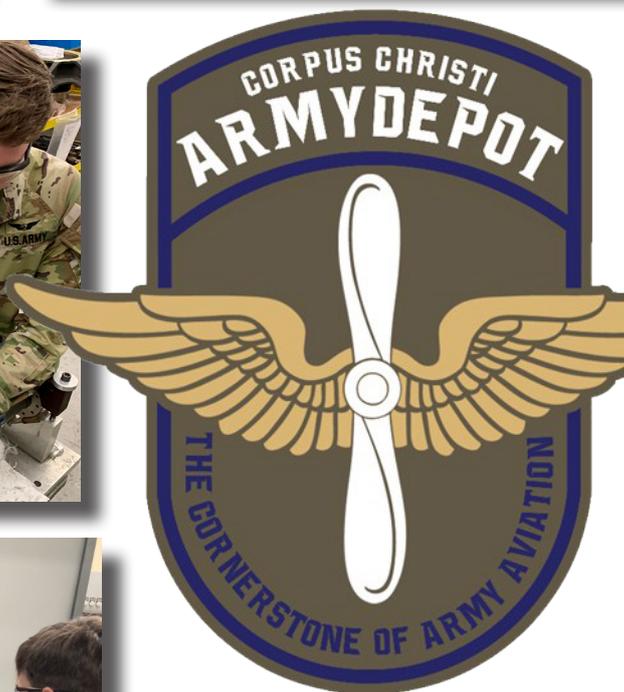
the facility and production created work orders and coordinated traffic for the relocation. Production schedules were maintained because of the team's proactive handling of obstacles such as relocating outdated machinery, bad weather and restricted parking because of construction while continuing to produce assets during the changeover.

Building 1700.3 is more than just a workspace; it is a testament to CCAD's commitment to innovation and resilience, as the entire building 1700 replaces World War II-era buildings. Designed to with-

*(Continued on page 14)*

# Skill Enhancing Aviation Program at America's Aviation Depot

## 602nd Aviation Support Battalion



Their unit slogan says it all, "To Mend Broken Wings!" The Talon Soldiers of the Warhorse Battalion spent a week at America's Aviation Depot honing those mending skills by working alongside the 'best of the best' - the organic industrial base Artisans at the Corpus Christi Army Depot. Maintaining operational readiness is at the forefront of our efforts every day.

# New Employee Orientation

---



All new U.S. Army Civilians at America's Aviation Depot attend a new employee orientation (NEO) class to become familiar with the depot's policies, procedures . These are the newest members of the Civilian Workforce.

Above (L-R): Andrew Scott Ally – Materials Expediter, Nicole Marie Escamilla – General Engineer, Mark Andrew Menking – Physical Security Specialist.

Below (L-R): Alfredo Arispe – Production Machinery Repairer Helper, Lisa Bayardo – Safety Technician, Stacy De La Cruz – Materials Expediter, Matthew Martinez – Safety Technician, Isaac Rodriguez – Maintenance Worker, Bryce Seward – Safety Technician, Andre Sitterly – Electrician and Donald Woodson – HVAC.



# Awards & Recognition



## CCAD Impact Performer

### Gary C. Brown II

CCAD Salute to Mr. Gary C. Brown II, a Sheet Metal Mechanic in the Structures Division, for his selection as a CCAD Impact Performer for consistently seeking to improve and learn all aircraft sections.

He trained a Soldier on UH-60 Helicopter structures repair and modifications and assisted with modifications to meet production schedules while expediting UH-60V nose modifications and reducing man-hours by 25%. The dedicated efforts of Mr. Brown, and those like him, allow CCAD to achieve mission success -- selling 15 UH-60Vs in FY24!

Congratulations, Gary and thank you for the efforts to fulfill our mission. YOU are CCAD!



U.S. ARMY



## CCAD Impact Performer

### Marie Franco



CCAD Salute to DQM Components/Engines QA Chief Marie Franco as this month's **IMPACT PERFORMER**. She has been with CCAD for over 25 years, implementing and improving quality process across all facets of depot operations to ensure that CCAD is and continues to be the premier rotary wing depot in the DoD. Her work has been vital in making CCAD the first DoD site to be accredited to both AS9100 and AS9110 quality management systems. Ms. Franco has been promoted to SRD's Quality Management Division, to continue her excellence in quality assurance across the entire Army OIB. We appreciate her efforts to make CCAD better and developing generations of skilled quality assurance specialists. As an #ArmyCivilian, her expertise and dedication will be applied to improve and ensure quality operations across a much broader scope.



U.S. ARMY



# Awards & Recognition



# Retirements



# Tours at the Depot

Texas Military Preparedness Commission and South Texas Military Task Force members were hosted by LTC Kenneth Ferguson at America's Aviation Depot to view current and future modernization efforts. Ms. Dalexis Flowers briefed Mr. Garry Bradford, Mr. Kresten Cook and Mr. Keith Graf for a first-hand look at the valuable impact the Depot's daily operations have on the Army's operational readiness in support of the Warfighter.



## Tours at the Depot

Students in the Tango Flight Program at Flour Bluff HS toured America's Aviation Depot. CCAD's Managing Director for Aircraft Operations, LTC Kenneth Ferguson, and the Chief of the Local Manufacturing Division, Fred Mehary, escorted them along the route with a final stop at flight test for photo op in front of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Mr. Mehary has been instrumental in providing the leadership and continuity needed for this unique aircraft building project to succeed. The Tango Flight program is a high school course that provides students with the tools needed to build and fly a two-seat FAA-certified airplane. Students are introduced to the disciplines of aerospace: electrical, me-



chanical, manufacturing and design engineering. Each week, students receive mentorship and guidance on the build from CCAD volunteers and members of the aviation

and engineering community and we CCAD Salute all the volunteers who have provided outstanding mentor support to FBHS Tango Flight!

On October 25th, engineering students from the South Texas Society for the Advancement of Materials and Processes Engineering (SAMPE) student chapter at TAMU - Kingsville were given a tour of the Corpus Christi Army Depot's plating shop and blade shop. Students were able to view various electroplating and blade shop processes including how to inspect and repair composite structures. Pictured L-R: Adrian Alvarado – CCAD Lead Electroplater, Dr. Larry Peel - TAMU Kingsville Professor, David Calvillo Jr - Student, Daniel Barrera - Student, Jimmy Gonzales - Student, Anthony Anderson, Student - Dr. John



Golden - Boeing (retired), Adeline Sowles - Student, Lucas Munoz - Student, Brian Goulden-Brady - Student, Bruce Toman - Texas Research Institute, Jeffery Farris - Student, Job Gonzales - Student, Rick Perkins - Chem

Logic, Robert Brushaber - Texas Research Institute, and Derek Flores – CCAD Chemical Engineer. Not pictured: Jason Backhurst – Rotary Wing Production Manager

# CCAD Town Hall



Colonel Kevin Consedine, Commander of the Corpus Christi Army Depot held his first Town Hall in November 2024. The incoming Sergeant Major Angelo Rickert had just arrived to the depot from his previous assignment at Fort Cavazos and was able to join him for the event. CCADers submitted questions in advance and there was also a small audience in the hangar to ask questions in person.

The event was broadcast through the Microsoft Teams for the workforce to watch. Consedine took the opportunity to talk through

the results of the Defense Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS). He noted that there were 144 pages of comments and he read every single one of them to get an understanding of some of the atmospheres within the depot.

The Colonel explained that despite ongoing issues such as with the gate traffic, we are on a military base with an Army footprint we have to maintain by being creative in exploring options like Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants (DEAAG) and other means of funding.

CCAD Sergeant Major Rickert introduced himself to the workforce with assurances that he is committed to serving here for the next two years. He also reminded the audience that as the voice of the Commander, he is part of the team and is readily available. He encouraged employees to visit with him as he is walking around the depot and on the hangar floors.

The Commander proposed regular touch points in every directorate within the organization -- because the culture and climate at CCAD is his responsibility.

# Recognition



The Directorate of Engine Production recognized the T700 Power Turbine Module production/support shop under the leadership of Supervisor Ruben Teran, for their dedication, commitment, and execution of the Army's Number 1 Priority Engine Program (RT318).

The Power Turbine Module shop met and exceeded its customer demand to the Army Readiness Driver as well as

the Engine National Inventory Component Program Line.

CCAD was able to help close the supply gaps for this Priority 1 Program by accepting a FY24 mid-year increase of assets as well as securing an increase to our FY25 workload.

This required a 50% reduction of RTAT in FY24 Q1 and the team continued to accelerate production ensuring

completion of the army PTM program, ahead of the promised customer schedule.

The PTM shop has prepared for FY25 workload for the Army/Navy and Engine Line Support by cross training, ensuring daily/weekly gemba walks, meetings and collaboration with production support entities.

The PTM shop has already begun FY25 ahead of schedule.



## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

When our support needs support, the CCAD Industrial Trades Branch is ready! In an effort to meet cost and schedule requirements, the Industrial Trades Branch (ITB) assisted in meeting the requirements of providing 5 lecterns for the new building 1734 training facility. After receiving a high bid and a really long lead time for fulfillment, Black Belt Crespin Cortez recommended the utilization of the ITB. Larry Adams, Chief of Workforce Development, submitted the request to fabricate the lecterns in accordance with specifications from the Training/Facility Department. Industrial trades fabricated them with an estimated 90% cost avoidance and shortened the delivery time by six weeks! Pictured L-R: Carpenter Xavier Meza, Painter Gabriel Gutierrez, Painter Sabrina Cavazos and Carpenter Rick Martinez.

# CCADers Around the Depot

1. Impaired Driving Prevention Month at CCAD urged all service members, civilians and contractors to invest in the power of prevention to make each other safer and stronger! The CCAD leadership team, COL Kevin Consedine, Deputy Rod Benson and incoming SGM Angelo Rickert, bring awareness to the danger of impaired driving to CCAD's Army Civilian Workforce with the signing of the official proclamation.



CCAD once again showed good community stewardship and Army Pride to approximately 200 students and parents in attendance.

2. CCAD Blood Drives occur quarterly. We salute the amazing Army Civilian Workforce for pulling up their sleeves to donate lifesaving blood!

3. On STEM Day, CCAD ASAP visited the newest Elementary School in Corpus Christi. Creekside Elementary invited CCAD to participate in their inaugural Science Night to provide an educational experience for their students and parents last night. The CCAD ASAP provided Alcohol and Drug education via a science experience sharing with the young bright minds how substances change brain chemistry - more than the "The Just Say No" message!

4. During Red Ribbon Week the CCAD Army Substance Abuse Program office was busy visiting schools and spreading the word about the dangers of drugs, including fentanyl.

The Workforce knows the potentially deadly impact drugs can have on someone's life, and CCAD ASAP empowered and educated employees and their families with knowledge to make good, safe choices.

While visiting Windsor Park Elementary School in Corpus Christi, ASAP discussed the importance of saying no to drugs



and making positive choices.

5. The Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend (CACCB) serves children victims of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, drug-endangerment, human trafficking, and witnesses to violent crimes such as homicide and domestic violence.

The CCAD Workforce was generous with donations to the Blanket and Stuffed Animal Drive to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend. Your efforts netted 17 large bags of items for children who are victims of sexual and physical abuse, human trafficking, substance endangerment and witnesses to crimes like homicide or domestic abuse.



## & CCADers In Our Community



6. Americas Aviation Depot was proudly represented at the DOD maintenance symposium in Salt Lake City, Utah. This is the only DOD event that is solely focused on the maintenance of weapon systems and equipment. CCAD representatives were on hand to showcase opportunities and emerging technologies, used by Organic Industrial Base Artisans, that ensure our operational readiness to defense maintenance and sustainment professionals from government, industry and academia in attendance.



7. COL Kevin Consedine welcomed The U.S. Army Field Band to the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Performing Arts Center as it rolled through South Texas.

8. COL Consedine dropped the puck at the Stars and Stripes Military night game hosted by the Corpus Christi Ice Rays at the American Bank Center. SGM Angelo Rickert attended the event too, giving him an opportunity to meet local Veterans, military service members and their families enjoying a night of hockey action on the ice.



9. Sparky and Fire Inspector Phillips were welcomed to Americas Aviation Depot by COL Consedine to kick off Fire Prevention Week. This campaign was 'Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For YOU!' The campaign is to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. A smoke alarm is only good for ten years. For any questions about Fire Prevention Week and smoke alarms please contact the NASCC Fire Department at 361-961-1710. Or visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).

## READ MORE

### *Sergeant Major (cont'd from page 2)*

thanked CCAD leadership and those in attendance, noting that the day not only marked a transition but an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment to excellence, teamwork and innovation that upholds a proud 63-year legacy of keeping the Army flying.

“As your sergeant major, I will focus on leader development and reshaping the opportunities for advancement to build leaders at all levels by cultivating an atmosphere of growth,” said Rickert.

Ceremonies such as the assumption of responsibility are a military tradition that embrace and recognize the high standards bestowed upon the recipients. The sergeant major is the senior enlisted Soldier and principal advisor to the commander.

“We are a command team, there are only certain things the commander can do, there are certain things only the sergeant major can do. Standards and discipline with a focus on the essential needs of our artisans – ensuring our relationships, reputations and results are what we want them to be – this is sergeant major business at the depot.” Consedine added, “Sergeant Major Rickert has the experience and mindset we need – we are excited for the next two years.”

The ceremony concluded with the singing of the Army Song.



### *Autonomous Robots (continued from page 3)*



stand hurricane-force winds, the facility incorporates climate and corrosion controls, ensuring optimal working conditions for decades to come. The building enhances collaboration and streamlines processes by housing powertrain gearbox and rotor head operations under one roof.

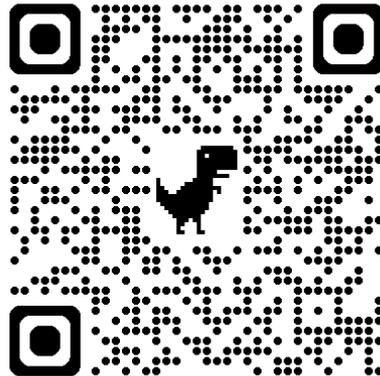
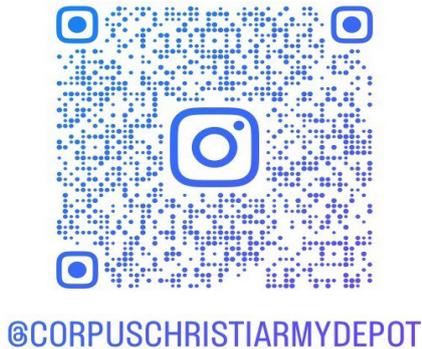
Branch Chief of Powertrain Production, Shannon Rodriguez, said “Artisans on the floor are excited to embark on this new journey, proud to be the first to work in a shop that will produce aircraft parts for decades to come. They take immense pride in contributing to the legacy of this building.

”Here’s to the future of CCAD—where innovation meets mission, and excellence is built to last.

SCAN the QR codes to follow, like and share the CCAD social media pages!

**Facebook & Instagram:** @CorpusChristiArmyDepot  
**X:** @CCADPAO **LinkedIn:** The Corpus Christi Army Depot

Use these hashtags to find CCAD on social media platforms:  
#AmericasAviationDepot #WeAreCCAD #CCArmyDepot #WeKeepTheArmyFlying  
#CCADSalute #CCADstagram #CCADSocialMedia #CCADSalute



### CCAD Command Team

COL Kevin J. Consedine  
**Commander**

SGM Angelo Rickert  
**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

The Aircraftsman is an authorized publication for all audiences, including the U.S. Army and Department of Defense. Contents of the Aircraftsman are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, DOD, or the Corpus Christi Army Depot. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the user or patron. All editorial content of the Aircraftsman is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Corpus Christi Army Depot Public Affairs Office.