



## Army requests Comanche termination

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 23, 2004)

The Army plans to cancel further research, development and planned purchases of the RAH-66 Comanche stealth helicopter. Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker told the Pentagon press corps late Feb. 23 the Army's



Comanche termination recommendation to Congress is about getting the most bang for the buck for Army aviation.

"We have examined closely our re-sourcing plans for aviation and concluded that some of the capabilities those funds would provide are no longer consistent with the changed operating environment," Brownlee said. From a purely business standpoint, it makes a lot more sense to upgrade the capabilities of the current Army aircraft fleet to meet the demands of the contemporary operating environment with the \$14 billion currently slated for the Comanche program versus getting the 121 Comanche helicopters designed for a different environment and a different enemy than the ones the Army faces today, Schoomaker said. That \$14 billion represents about 40 percent of the planned Army aviation budget through fiscal year 2011.

The decision to cancel the Comanche program stems from one of Schoomaker's

early directives to take a close look at Army aviation to determine how it should transform to best meet today's and tomorrow's challenges on the battlefield. The six-month study that ensued recently concluded. Standardizing what comprises an aviation brigade was one of the study's recommendations.

There are currently seven different types of aviation brigades in the Army today. That standardization includes the Army Reserve and National Guard. The reserve component has dozens of 1970s airframes like the UH-1 utility and AH-1 attack helicopters that had been phased out of the active Army more than a decade ago.

Given how reserve-component units have been tasked to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in the past two years, they should be "plug-and-play" with their active-Army counterparts -- but they are mostly not due in large part to equipment differences, said Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. The 3rd Infantry Division's aviation brigade, recently back from Iraq, will be the first brigade to reset under the standardization plan. The future Army aviation brigades will have two battalions of 24

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**Heart Healthy Survey**

17-28 May 2004

Info packets will be distributed soon.

For more information:  
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**Navy motor board tour** – Pete Barrientes, chief of engine induction/final sell and T55 assembly division in CCAD's directorate of engine production, fields a question from Mike Seiler, Navy CNAF (Fleet) representative during a tour of CCAD facilities on Thu. The Navy motor board group toured CCAD as part of their quarterly meeting. CCAD repairs the 401 and 401C engines, modules and engine-related components which represent a workload of approximately \$31M for CCAD in FY04.



**Flour Bluff High School career day** – Students at FBHS stopped by the CCAD display during the annual career day on Mar. 27. Art Gomez of the business development office (seen seated in foreground), and Sharon Flores from the civilian personnel advisory council (seated next to Gomez) provided information on the student career enhancement program at CCAD which generated interest among prospective participants. The business development office and CPAC have participated in the FBHS career day for several years.

# V I S I T O R S



**TMDE Activity directors visit CCAD** – Dennis Collins from the directorate of security and industrial risk management (seen in brown at left) briefs a group of test measurement and diagnostic equipment (TMDE) directors during their tour of CCAD engine shops. The group was in Corpus Christi for their quarterly meeting. Seen with Collins are (l-r): Donald Ruth, director, TMDE at Letterkenny Army Depot; David Hargett, director and Thomas Chaffee, both from TMDE at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.; Normand Curran, TMDE Korea; John Ball, TMDE Redstone Arsenal; Emery Woodard, TMDE White Sands Missile Range; Charles Coutler, TMDE Redstone Arsenal; and Ruth Banegas (back to camera), White Sands Missile Range.

**U.S. Army test, measurement and diagnostic equipment activity (USATA) quarterly conference**

The test, measurement and diagnostic equipment activity conference is usually held at Redstone Arsenal on a quarterly basis. The directors decided to change the conference location to provide a better understanding of missions supported by the different installations, TMDE support centers and support laboratories. This quarter, the conference was held in Corpus Christi and hosted by the local TMDE activity chief, Thomas Arangua.

Among the issues discussed at the conference are funding, personnel, acquisition, equipment, BRAC, buyouts, and long range mission planning. The conference serves to keep directors abreast of ongoing issues within the TMDE community and provides an exchange of ideas and solutions to similar issues encountered not only at the different regions, but at the headquarter level, as well.

Dennis Collins, environmental specialist at CCAD, served as tour guide for the group who expressed their appreciation for a most impressive tour.

# WOMEN INSPIRING HOPE & POSSIBILITIES

Corpus Christi Army Depot's  
Federal Women's Program Committee

Cordially invites you & a friend to come out and help us celebrate

## National Women's History Month

A luncheon observing the significant contributions of women in  
history will be held

**March 24, 2004**

Guest Speaker

**Brenda Holt-Henderson**  
Educator, and Motivator, Inspirational  
Speaker

Bay Club – NAS Corpus Christi

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tickets price - \$7.50

Last day to purchase tickets 22 March 2004

Menu: A Fresh Salad..... Fish or Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Rolls, Tea or Coffee

To purchase tickets contact the EEO Office or any FWP Committee Member:

*Brenda Mack .....3317*

*Cynthia Holmes....3737*

*Glenda Turner.....3480*

*Sandra Jackson...2064*

*Sherlyn Johnson...3898*

*Dina Cruz.....4280*

*Rea Gray.....2717*

*Shirley Villarreal..6413*



**Length of service** – Charles Cellum, aircraft engine repairer in the directorate of engine production (seen at left in photo) received a 20-year certificate and pin from Pete Barrientes, III (seen at right in photo), chief of engine induction/final sell and T55 assembly division on Thu. In the photo at right, Barrientes is seen presenting a 25-year certificate and pin to Juan Hinojosa, aircraft engine repairer (at right in photo), also from the directorate of engine production on the same day.

# Around the d



**Commander's Coin awards** – Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander (I), presented a commander's coin to Sam Allen, accounting technician in the directorate of resource management (photo at left) and Grenate Brinkman, accountant (photo at right) also from resource management on Fri. The two were recognized for their efforts and success in reducing the man-hours and amount of paperwork associated with a GE financial transaction.



Joe Herrera, director of engine production at CCAD (I), was presented a 2500-hour certificate and pin by Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander on Mar. 2.

# Depot...



Walter Robinson, production controller in the directorate of production management (seen at center in photo above) retired after 21 years of federal service. Shown with Robinson are John Lowe, chief, engine production control branch (I) and Pam Johnson, chief, production control division.

## Focus Area: Strategic Communications Leverages Army Story By Spc. Lorie Jewell

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 10, 2004) – *A Soldier tucks a plastic card displaying the Soldier's Creed and the Army values into his wallet.*

*At a school career fair, students pick up a brochure that describes our Army at war, and how it remains relevant and ready while moving from the current to future force. An action-filled video plays on a television screen, showing the Army's new Stryker infantry carriers on the move.*

*A senior leader tells the Army story to an audience of executives at a corporate function; a young sergeant shares his take on force stabilization at the family dinner table.*

*A grandmother surfing the web clicks on the Army's web site to learn more about her granddaughter's new duty station.*

From small, ordinary gestures and everyday conversations to eye-catching promotional materials and tactical speeches, strategic communications is the method by which the Army delivers its messages to those in and out of uniform. It's one of 16 focus areas Army leaders have developed as a means for strengthening efforts to win the Global War on Terrorism.

"It's about communicating to our audience what's going on in the Army, and explaining it terms or concepts people can understand, so that they can be a part of achieving the goal," said Col. Nelson McCouch, who heads the strategic communications division in Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. "They can't support something if they don't know anything about it."

For example, a Soldier may hear the term "force stabilization" and, having read about it in a post newspaper, may understand it in more simple terms as "my family and I will stay in one place for longer periods of time."

"Expeditionary mindset" could translate into "I'm ready to go anywhere you need me to go, at any time, because I know I am well trained and my family is well taken care of."

The role of OCPA's strategic communications is to develop and implement plans for getting internal and external media to support the Army's campaign plan with articles that explain what's going on, McCouch said.

There are two other 'legs' that support the effort to disseminate information – the Office of Congressional Legislative Liaison and the Office of Strategic Communications. OCLL's strategic communications team is responsible for making sure the Army's messages are delivered to legislators on the hill in a timely fashion, said Col. Wayne Sauer, who heads that office.

"The Army wants Congress to know what's going on so they can do something about it during the congressional cycle," Sauer said.

That involves working closely with congressional staffers. If legislators have questions on the Army budget, for example, OCLL makes sure they get answers. When newsworthy events happen – the Army's Comanche program being canceled, for instance – OCLL makes sure Congress knows about it before reading it in the newspaper, Sauer added.

"If they read something in the newspaper and the information doesn't match up, they already have our data on it," Sauer said.

In the Office of Strategic Communications, the mission to deliver the Army story is similar to OCPA. Whereas OCPA focuses informing Soldiers, family members and the public at large through the media, STRATCOM's audience is expanded to target senior Army leaders – active and retired – business and social executives, and academic and think-tank representatives.

"We are trying to instill a culture of engagement so that everyone at all levels tells the Army story the same way," said Patti Benner, STRATCOM director.

Benner's department works to develop long-term themes and messages, and how to deliver them over time periods that range from months to five years. OCPA focuses more on getting information out according to daily and weekly news cycles, McCouch said.

How messages are delivered by OSC falls to its outreach program, headed by Kay Stephenson. The program is tasked with building and strengthening relationships with national security decision makers or those with influence; the private sector and not-for-profit organizations; and academic institutions and communities. Its mission also involves providing information to the Army family.

Anyone who gets the Army message, understands it, supports it and passes it along, in essence becomes a partner with the Army, Benner and Stephenson said.

"We are arming our Army ambassadors," Benner said.

(See "Focus" continued on page 6)

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...Adam Saenz, sheet metal worker (l), Fermin F. Garza, aircraft overhaul trades helper (c), and Robert Kuzma, sheet metal worker (r), from the preservation shop...



...and Sandra Diaz, engine aircraft mechanic in the T700 engine assembly shop.

## Investment in Comanche program not necessarily a loss

*(“Comanche” continued from page 1)*

Apache attack helicopters each; a battalion of 30 Black Hawk helicopters; a utility battalion with eight light utility, 12 Chinook heavy utility and 12 Black Hawk helicopters and a number of unmanned aerial vehicles – for reconnaissance and possibly combat; and a maintenance battalion.

The Army plans to divert part of the terminated Comanche funds to buy more Black Hawk and Apache helicopters for the Army Reserve and National Guard. The study also recommend that the Army replace the OH-58D reconnaissance helicopter with something more current as well as replacing its aged cargo aircraft and creating another light utility helicopter. The Army is setting up programs to determine what the new requirements are and part of the diverted Comanche funds will be used to buy those aircraft, said Lt. Gen. Richard Cody, deputy chief of staff, G-3.

The study and recent lessons learned identified aircraft survivability as a major issue that needs to be addressed. Again money diverted from the Comanche program could upgrade a significant portion of the

Army aircraft fleet with the latest flare and chaff defense systems. In total, the Army plans to buy approximately 800 more aircraft and upgrade another 400 beyond what current funding allows with diverted Comanche funds.

Not all of the approximately \$6.9 billion invested in the 20-year-old Comanche program will be a loss. Technologies learned during the development of the helicopter will be added to the Army's technology base for use in future aviation programs, perhaps the Joint Multi-Purpose Helicopter or Joint Cargo Aircraft, Brownlee said.

“If you told me six months ago that I would be standing here saying the Army no longer needs the Comanche helicopter, I wouldn't have believed you,” Cody said. “It is the most flexible, most agile aircraft this country has ever produced with leap ahead technology. The makers of the Comanche should be justifiably proud of what they have accomplished.”

However, Cody said he has determined that the Comanche is a niche-capability aircraft whose funding would be better spent upgrading the current fleet.

*(“Focus” continued from page 5)*

As technology continues to drive everyday life, the Internet proves to be a reliable tool for giving Soldiers, their families and friends, and the general public anything they could possibly want or need to know about the Army, where it's heading and how it plans on getting there, said Lt. Col. Mark Wiggins, director of the Army's Web page ([www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)) and senior leaders' page, accessible to select personnel through Army Knowledge Online. The web site operates under the STRATCOM umbrella.

“Whatever has been released to the public, it's on the Web site,” Wiggins said. “It's the place all of our audiences come to read about the Army.”

Careful thought goes into how all of that information is presented. This is a nation at war, so the main stories and photos will reflect that, Wiggins said. The lead photo will have a Soldier in it. Every effort is made to portray the joint effort of the war. Wiggins is proud of the fact that there are links to each of the other service branches on the home page of the Web site.

The Army has had a presence on the Internet since 1995. The site was last overhauled in 2001, around the same time the “Army of One” brand was introduced. It

averages just over 4 million hits a month from more than 140 countries, he said.

“We pay close attention to third-party evaluations and we are routinely ranked in the top 1,000 Web sites in the world,” Wiggins said. “When you have a global audience, you can't help but be strategic.”

The ultimate success of strategic communications relies on all three departments working together to synchronize their efforts, officials said.

“The good news story in all of this is that with strategic communications, we have the methodology and plans to communicate to Army leaders, the Hill and the public what their Army is doing for America,” Sauer said. “And that we're doing it in a very succinct and timely fashion.”

(Editor's note: The Army's 17 immediate areas of focus include: [The Soldier](#); The Bench; Combat Training Centers/Battle Command Training Program; Leader Development and Education; Army Aviation; [Current to Future Force](#); The Network; [Modularity](#); [Active Component/Reserve Component Balance](#); [Force Stabilization](#); Actionable Intelligence; [Installations as Flagships](#); Authorities, Responsibilities, and Accountability; Resource Processes; Strategic Communications; Joint Expeditionary Army with a Campaign-quality Capability; and Logistics. To view a brief synopsis of each area, visit [The Way Ahead](#).)