



## “AMCOM Express” delivers critical parts

by Al Schwartz  
AMCOM PAO

It's being called "AMCOM Express" and according to Charles Reeves, the A M C O M Transportation Officer, if the concept works as planned, units in Iraq will get critical Class IX parts quicker.

"We have arranged to have an Air Force C-17 fly from Defense Distribution Depot-Corpus Christi Texas (DDCT) to Balad, Iraq," said Reeves. The plane will carry large items, such as engines, helicopter blades and transmissions that support all the Aviation systems. Some of the items being shipped have been repaired at Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD).

Materiel is being gathered and palletized at both DDCT and Defense Distribution Depot Red River, TX. (DDRT) The pallets being built at DDRT will be trucked to DDCT and staged to meet the

plane. CCAD has made arrangements with host installation, Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi to use some part of Hangar 58, which houses the NAS-CC flight operations, for staging the palletized materiel until it's ready for loading onto the C-17. Once the plane is unloaded in Iraq, it will return to DDCT the next day with critical retrograde parts.



Maj. Dave Edson, CCAD command group (right), hands a care package prepared by the command group for Soldiers in Balad to MSgt. George Zabrac for loading through the passenger door.

The first flight at the end of September is a test to prove out the concept; if it works well, the plan is to fly monthly. The focus is on quickly getting critical aviation parts to units that need them with minimum handling once the materiel leaves the Depot. It became clear early on according to Reeves that the materiel would have to be held for 3-4 weeks if the plane was going to be

*(See "Express" continued on page 3)*

## New Capabilities Implemented to "myPay"

Restricted Access Personal Identification Number (RAPIN). The RAPIN allows the member to provide a spouse or trusted individual with a view-only PIN. This is a great tool for deployed members.

- The member can set the RAPIN by signing into myPay and from the main menu and click-

ing on the "Personal Settings" page.

- Then click on the "Restricted Access PIN".

- Input the RAPIN and provide it to your spouse/trusted individual.

- For the spouse/family member to use the

RAPIN, they simply sign into myPay with the member's SSN under "LoginID" and then enter the provided RAPIN. With the RAPIN the spouse or family member can view and print the LES and W2 but CANNOT make pay changes.

myPay now allows you to provide a personal email address for future correspondence. The email address will be used to keep you apprised of future events and capabilities, such as, email notification of pay changes and other items of interest. Provide your email address by setting up your "Personal Preference" page.

Don't have a myPay PIN? Go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. Click on "Need a New PIN". Request the PIN, and a temporary PIN will be sent directly to your email account.

### Inside this issue:

Rise and fall of aircraft "Snowball"	2
Retiree receives award	4
False rumor	4
Hispanic heritage luncheon	5
Commander begins orientation tour	6
Around the depot	7
Aircraftsman is published for....	8
Letter to the Aircraftsman	8

# The rise and fall of aircraft “Snowball”



**Rescuing the rescuer** - The USAF H-60 Pavehawk in photo above after being transported from the crash site by a U.S. Army National Guard CH-47. The Pavehawk crashed and rolled down the side of Mt. Hood in Oregon during a rescue attempt in June 2002.



**Arrival at CCAD** - The USAF MH-60 Pavehawk is shown above upon receipt at CCAD Hangar 43 in June 2003 and became known as “Snowball”



The tail section seen in photo left shows some of the damage sustained during the roll



**Snowball is fit for flight once again** - On Oct. 4, “Snowball” was seen hovering over the CCAD flight line behind Hangar 46 during a test flight.

# Success story for CCAD and our customers

(“Express” continued from page 1)

filled with only parts from Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD). “That was totally unacceptable to us,” he said. “We want to move the parts faster to Iraq and holding the materiel until we could fill the plane didn’t make sense.”

AMCOM parts are stored at several depots, so Reeves and his organization in AMCOM’s Integrated Materiel Management Directorate worked with RRAD to move their critical parts to CCAD and those parts would also fly to Iraq. “It’s a great cooperative effort and hopefully a success story for our Soldiers.”

AMCOM is working closely

tions to the Consolidation and Containerization point at New Cumberland, PA, then trucked to Charleston AFB, South Carolina and then flown to Balad. With AMCOM Express, they go directly from CCAD to Balad. According to Reeves, that’s why this is a test. “We think we can reduce the overall delivery time by shipping directly from CCAD,” he said, “but that is one aspect we’ll study carefully.”

The cost for the plane and crew to fly the round trip mission will also be factored into the



Palletized aircraft blades are seen tied down on the floor of the C-17 along with crew and passenger baggage. A total of 16 pallets of critical items which included rotor blades, engines, and transmissions, were loaded for delivery to Balad, Iraq.



Pallets containing aircraft components are seen in the storage area (photo left) in NAS-CC Hangar 58 where they were pre-positioned awaiting arrival of the USAF flight that would carry them to Balad for distribution to waiting units. The AMCOM Express delivers critical parts to units in considerably less time than it would take to ship through normal logistical system.

with the Theater Aviation Single Manager (the central point of contact who coordinates all AMCOM efforts in theater) and with the 13<sup>th</sup> COSCOM in Iraq so they can get the plane unloaded and prepared to fly back with retrograde items.

“It’s really going well,” said Reeves. “There had been some resistance primarily because this is being intensively managed and is not routine. But we all realize the bottom line is to get parts quickly to our troops and when we work toward that common goal, any resistance falls away.”

Today the repair parts are sent from DDCT and other storage loca-

CCAD into the Theater and all the way to the customer,” said Reeves. “Then we’ll analyze the process and the results and present a recommendation to MG Pillsbury in mid-October.”

*(Editor’s note: This article has been edited for local publication. The “AMCOM Express” departed NAS-CC at 8:30 P.M. local time on Fri., Oct. 1 and returned on Mon. Oct. 4. See next issue for “success” story.)*

analysis.

“We’ll track the repair parts from



Defense Distribution Depot – Corpus Christi, Tex. (DDCT) workers load containers of blades onto the cargo section of the C-17 for shipment to Iraq.

## Aircraft engine mechanic/examiner retiree receives awards

Robert S. Saenz, aircraft engine mechanic/examiner has retired after 40 years of federal civil service. During a ceremony held on Sept. 30, Saenz was presented various awards, including a U.S. flag which was flown over the U.S. Capitol, a CCAD Commander's Coin, the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and a CCAD lapel pin. Joe Herrera, director of engine production, presented the awards.

In addition to the awards mentioned above, Mike Briseno, chief of the



Robert Saenz, directorate of engine production (3<sup>rd</sup> from left in front row above), retired on Sept. 30 after 40 years of federal service. Seen in photo are (front row, l-r) Mike Briseno, chief admin and management office; George Garcia, chief, PSA/records, E&E disassembly branch; Saenz; and Emilia Saenz. Back row, (l-r): Pete Barrientes, chief, engine induction/final sell and T55 assembly division, and Joe Herrera, director of engine production.

directorate administration and management office presented Saenz a letter of appreciation signed by Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz. George Garcia, chief, pre-shop analysis/records, examination and evaluation disassembly branch, presented Saenz an on-the-spot award for his 40 years of distinguished service. Finally, Pete Barrientes, chief, engine induction/final sell and T55 assembly division, presented Saenz his certificate of appreciation and certificate of retirement.

Attending the ceremony was Emilia Saenz, Saenz's spouse of 33 years.

(Editor's note: *The following article was taken from the Army Retirement Services Home Page. Visit the new Army Benefits Tool for info on all stages of the Soldier/retired Soldier life cycle. AKO is at <https://www.us.army.mil>. ABT is in the "Self-Service Section" under "My Benefits."*)

### **False Rumor regarding destruction of Veterans' records hinders National Personnel Records Center's ability to answer Veterans' reference requests**

Washington, DC...There is a false rumor circulating on the Internet, in e-mails, and among veteran service organizations that official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, will be digitized and then destroyed. This rumor is **NOT TRUE**.

Neither the Department of Defense (DOD) nor the NPRC intend to destroy any OMPFs stored at the Center. The purpose of any electronic scanning would be to help preserve the originals and increase efficiency in handling reference requests.

The National Archives and Records Administration preserves and protects OMPFs that were transferred from the military service departments because they are permanently valuable records that document the essential evidence of military service for the veterans of our nation. NPRC stores and services OMPFs for retired, discharged, or deceased military personnel.

The NPRC responds to approximately 4,000 requests pertaining to military records each day, totaling more than one million requests each year. Many of those requests are for Separation Documents (usually DD Form 214) and the Center answers the majority of those inquiries in ten days or less.

Requests resulting from this false rumor will have a negative impact on NPRC's ability to respond to requests from veterans with real immediate needs, such as medical treatment, employment, retirement, etc.



CCAD-NASCC combined Hispanic Heritage committee members are pictured above. Front row (l-r): Yolanda Garcia, Irene Vidal, and Rosie Rodriguez; back row (l-r): Al Moreno; Art Andrade; Carlos Valdez, guest speaker; Joey Garcia; Gilbert Lopez; Diana Zavala, and Chief Felix Mata, both with the NAS-CC Hispanic Heritage committee. Unavailable for photo were Helio Perez, Dino Garza, and Juan Valdez, Hispanic Employment Program manager.

## Hispanic heritage luncheon

Members of the combined NAS-CCAD Hispanic Heritage committee hosted a luncheon celebrating National Hispanic Heritage month on Wed. at the Corpus Christi Bay Club. Close to 200 attendees were entertained by a live Tejano band, Pueblo, composed of CCAD employees. Guest speaker, Carlos Valdez, Tri-County District Attorney for Nueces, Kleberg, and Harris County, shared experiences from his childhood, growing up in a family of 14 children, his love for his country, and his philosophy that with hard work and determination, anything is possible.



Al Moreno, co-chair of the CCAD Hispanic Employment Committee, presents a token of appreciation to Carlos Valdez, guest speaker at the Hispanic Heritage luncheon held on Wed, Oct 6th.



Yolanda Garcia, committee member; Al Moreno, co-chair and Art Andrade, chair, Hispanic Employment Committee pose by one of the displays set up as part of the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.



**Depot commander begins orientation visits to directorates** - One of the first things a new depot commander undertakes is the directorate orientation process. Due to pressing commitments, these orientations have had to wait until Col. Timothy Sassenrath's second month in command. On Thurs., Sept. 30, the commander spent the day with the manufacturing/process production directorate. Mo Asaad, director, and his divi-

sion chiefs started the day with briefings on their areas of responsibility in the conference room and concluded with a tour of their respective areas. On hand to welcome Col. Sassenrath to their workplace were: Front row (l-r): John Rios, night superintendent, Marissa Arredondo, management/program analyst, Eddie Fernandez, chief, metal process division, Sylvia Garcia, management/program analyst, Yvette Lichtenberger, admin-

istrative assistant, Stan Stewart, chief, industrial process division, Bonnie Cooper, secretary; Annette Cross, chief administration & management office; Mo Asaad, director of manufacturing/process production. Back row (l-r): Enrique Garcia, chief fabrication & coatings division, Dwight Martin, equipment specialist, Joe Putnam, production technical analyst, and Col. Sassenrath.

## MSgt. re-enlists for seventh, final time

With almost 40 years as a member of the U.S. Army/Army Reserve, MSgt. George Zaborac will serve his country for another three years. In a re-enlistment ceremony held in the CCAD commander's office, Maj. Gen. James Pillsbury, commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, administered the oath as members of the command group looked on.

"MSgt. Zaborac is taking the oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States,"



Maj. Gen. James Pillsbury, commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Command (right), is seen conducting a re-enlistment ceremony for MSgt. George Zaborac.

said Pillsbury prior to the ceremony. "There are a lot of people who do not like our Constitution because of the freedoms it provides."

Zaborac, who hails from Ft. Worth, Tex., has been married to spouse Bobbie for 22 years and has a son and a daughter and three grandchildren.

"It's been a good 40 years and I'm looking forward to the next three being just as good," commented Zaborac. "I hope they will all be here, working with CCAD personnel."



**Flag etiquette** – Larry Jobe, chief of staff at CCAD (l), and Lew Ashley, special assistant to the commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command (r), display proper etiquette as they place right hand over heart in salute during the playing of our National Anthem. Civilians should remove headgear, stand, and face the Flag or the music, in cases where the Flag is not visible. Jobe and Ashley were part of Gen. Paul Kern's party during his visit to CCAD in Sept.



**Commanding general's coin** – Alfredo Torres, sheetmetal mechanic in CCAD Hangar 43 (seen at left), was the recipient of an AMCOM CG coin for his work during his deployment with his US Army Reserve unit in 2003. Torres is seen shaking hands with Maj. Gen. James H. Pillsbury during his visit to Hangar 43 on Sept. 28.

# Around the Depot



MG James H. Pillsbury, commanding general, AMCOM, visited CCAD to attend the monthly depot maintenance review. Prior to the meeting, Pillsbury took time for a tour of Bldg 22, the OEM warehouse, CCAD Hangars and selected areas where Lean processes have been implemented. In photo above, Pillsbury thanks OEM warehouse personnel Tony Conrad (c), and Bill Bridges (2nd from right), both with General Electric Aircraft Engines, after his tour of Bldg 22. Also seen in photo are COL Sasenrath (2nd from left) and MAJ Robb Walker, aide-de-camp to Pillsbury (r).



Omar Valenzuela, aircraft overhaul trades helper in CCAD Hangar 43 (seen at left), expresses his amusement at a comment from MG Pillsbury during his visit to the structural/electrical repair hangar on Sep 28.

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT

Col. Timothy A. Sassenrath, Commander

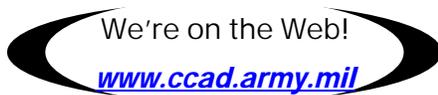
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**The Aircraftsman is published by and for employees like...**



...**Larry Dewey**, video production specialist, in the directorate of resource management, seen here working in the CCAD TV studio...

and...



...**Brian Holden**, aircraft trades helper (r), in Hangar 43 seen here chatting with Maj. Gen. James Pillsbury, CG, AMCOM, during the general's visit to the hangar on Sept. 28.

(Editor's note: The following "letter" was received via email from the president of the USS Albemarle/USNS Corpus Christi Bay Reunion Association with a request to publish in our newsletter in the hopes that it may reach personnel who served on the USNS Corpus Christi Bay.)

Letter to CCAD from the USS Albemarle/ USNS Corpus Christi Bay Reunion Association

We remember the good times in Corpus Christi and "ARADMAC" which is now CCAD. We remember the training that we received before going over to Vietnam to "the Ship" Some of us remember leaving Corpus Christi on the ship and some remember coming back on the ship.

Now, 30 years or more later, we have a home for our memories and the friendships that were just thoughts in our head, along with the eternal question: "I wonder what ever happened to my friend...?" The GIs of the Corpus Christi Bay have joined with the sailors of the USS Albemarle, which before conversion, was the seaplane tender serving in WWII and from 1957-60. They had been holding reunions for many years and kindly invited us to be part of the family. We now have a newsletter and data bases of contacts which grow as we connect with our buddies. We have an annual reunion, which will be held in Mobile, Alabama next May. The numbers of the Corpus Christi Bay crew are growing each year at the Reunion.

There are probably a lot of former members of "The First and Finest" who live in Corpus Christi, and maybe even working at CCAD. Maybe we've got some Albemarle folks in the area, too. We'd like to hear from our crew and say "Join the Association!!" Feel free to contact me at ccbaypiper@iserv.net or write to me at 1985 West C. Avenue, Kalamazoo Michigan, 49009.

Also, I'd like to thank the folks at the Depot for the kindness and training that I received in 1968. I trained in the Chemistry lab and have fond memories of the staff.

Cheers,

Bruce Binns, President

USS Albemarle/USNS Corpus Christi Bay Reunion Association

**Blood Mobile to visit CCAD , Wednesday,**

**October 13 from 0830 – 1300**

**Locations: In Front of Building 8 and at Hangar 47 in the grassy area (walk ins)**

**To schedule an appointment for Bldg 8, visit link at**

**<http://appointment.bcentral.com/storefront/coastalbendbloodcenter>**

**Walk-ins are also welcomed.**

**DONORS WILL RECEIVE  
A FREE T-SHIRT!**