



CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT

Aircraftsman

Bearing facility gives depot a definite edge

by Jason Contreras

For nearly 40 years, the CCAD bearing facility has been operating with exceptional output and benefit to the depot. Manual Torres, who has been working in the shop since 1967 and supervising since 1981, describes the bearing facility as an invaluable commodity to the Army.

Having a bearing facility onsite gives CCAD a distinct advantage over original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). The OEMs repeatedly have to send out for repairs and replacements of bearings when dealing with transmissions, engines, and gear boxes, but the CCAD bearing facility can handle the needs of all local and national customers. This results in a 60-80% savings over purchasing new bearings.

The bearing facility consists of eight major workstations with a 24-person crew utilizing over 700 operational codes in their production reporting. Though stations are specialized, each technician is trained in operating any of the workstations at any given phase of production. "This ensures production will remain constant and efficient even in the absence of key production technicians," says Torres.

Workers at the facility undergo training in all aspects of bearing reconditioning and are fully certified in quality inspection during a training period that can range from 42-60 months. As a result, they are the only facility at CCAD that does not require outside qual-



This is a complete bearing kit for the Apache transmission, valued at \$58,850. Kits such as these are an integral part of the success rate of the Apache transmission surge at CCAD.

ity control inspectors. Shop technicians are also responsible for the regular calibration of instruments, which involves measurements as minute as one millionth of an inch.

The facility also implements an extensive tracking system of all items serviced, which includes both computer and hard copies which must contain bearing serial numbers and invoice information, among other data.

The shop has consistently maintained a 1-3 day turnaround on all service orders (including the Apache transmission surge) and has a less than one-tenth of 1% complaint/return rating. In addition, Torres follows up the shop's impressive technical output with weekly visits to his customers.

(See "Bearings" on page 6)

CCAD receives second Compass Award

by Lois Contreras
CCAD Public Affairs

Corpus Christi Army Depot was one of 17 area companies and organizations honored with a Compass Award by the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation (CCREDC) at its third annual Compass Awards Luncheon. Col. James J. Budney, CCAD commander, accepted the award, the second of its kind for

CCAD, on behalf of the depot employees.

The award is presented to organizations that have brought more than 25 new jobs into the area. CCAD partners GE Aircraft Engines and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation were also recognized at the luncheon held at the Solomon P. Ortiz Center on Aug. 21. The two aircraft companies brought new jobs to the area in support of the partnerships with the depot.

Since receiving the first Compass Award in 2001, CCAD has increased its number of employees from 2800 to 3000.

The award is part of CCREDC's ongoing effort to keep the community aware of the impact CCAD, its partners, and the other organizations have on the local economy.

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First recapitalized/rebuilt UH-60 rolls out on schedule

by Lois Contreras
CCAD Public Affairs

The first UH-60 Blackhawk to undergo the recapitalization (recap)/rebuild program at CCAD rolled off the production line on schedule and on cost, meeting all performance requirements. Inducted on September 9, 2002, the aircraft was completed on August 4. On August 20, CCAD held a ceremony in Hangar 46 to commemorate the event. During the ceremony, Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander, thanked the depot production directorate employees for getting the aircraft out on time.

“People’s lives are dependent on the quality of work done on this aircraft,” said Budney. “I know that the quality has been built in.”

“This first aircraft is going to Ft. Rucker to ensure the readiness of our pilots,” stated John Johns, deputy commander for systems support at AMCOM during his remarks at the ceremony. “CCAD is truly in transformation,” he continued, referring to the Lean initiatives implemented into the recapitalization program.

The UH-60 Blackhawk is the workhorse of the Army’s utility helicopter fleet with missions including air assault, general support, command and control, combat search and rescue, special operations, and aero medical

evacuation. The Blackhawk’s mission history includes Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia/Kosovo, Afghanistan,

for 193 Blackhawk aircraft undergo the process during FY02-FY13 to sustain the UH-60 A fleet until induction into the UH-60M program. Program objectives include mitigating safety issues, improving aircraft readiness, arresting O&S cost rate increases, improving component reliability, and reducing maintenance burdens.

While undergoing the recap/rebuild process, aircraft are disassembled and undergo detailed inspection with complete repairs, application of corrosion prevention, installation of structural kit, and then are reassembled

using recapitalized components which means a “like new” condition aircraft is delivered to the customer at a tremendous savings over the procurement price of a new aircraft.

Among the significant accomplishments the recap/rebuild program has seen to date is the induction of 15 of the 19 planned aircraft (3 during FY02 and 16 in FY03) into the program. The depot’s incorporation of Lean initiatives into



Photo by Gus Gonzalez

Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander (right foreground), turns over the log book on the first UH-60 to undergo the recapitalization/rebuild program at CCAD to LTC(P) Howard Killian, commander, Aviation Center Logistics Command, Ft Rucker, Ala. (second from left) after a ceremony to commemorate the event on Aug. 20. Also in photo are Jerry Sawyer, 27th Congressional District Office Manager, and Col. William Lake, Utility Helicopter Project Manager (third from left), and John Johns, deputy commander, systems support at AMCOM (right background).

and Iraq, among numerous other contingencies.

Twenty-five percent of the Blackhawk fleet has seen over 20 years of service and the remainder averaging 18 years of age. Nine hundred eighty-two aircraft were produced between 1978 and 1989. Fleet age contributes to declining readiness rates and increases operational and sustainment (O&S) costs and maintenance burdens.

The recap/rebuild program calls

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Photo ops at CCAD



Annual training (photo left) – SGT Hayden Brown (l) and SSG Ernesto Santiago, U.S. Army Reserves (r), members of the 150th Aviation, West Trenton, NJ, are seen working on the special project “Snowbird”, the USAF crash-damaged Pavehawk in CCAD Hangar 43. Richard Quiroz, aircraft mechanic supervisor in the directorate of aircraft production, is partially seen at lower right.

Farewell flight (photo right) – Rear Adm. John Boyington, former Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) and Commander, Navy Region South, gives the “thumbs up” prior to takeoff in a CH-47 Chinook. Partially seen next to Boyington is Harry Champagne, pilot with the CCAD flight test office. Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander, accompanied Boyington on the flight. Danny Ramos, crew chief with flight test, is seen standing in the door.



Ceremony marks first UH-60 rollout

(“Recap” continued from page 2)

the program resulted in manufacturing and workflow process improvements to include a dedicated recap hangar (Hangar 47), work station requirements, and configuration of a tracking system which enables the depot to follow a realistic path to achieving a reduction in the turnaround time from 327 days to 150 days per aircraft.

The collateral benefit of the recap/rebuild program includes continued work for CCAD with a \$1.2 billion recapitalization effort. The induction schedule is 19 aircraft in FY04 with an increase to 20 aircraft in FY05 and subsequent years. Additionally, the CCAD-Sikorsky partnership streamlines the logistics infrastructure and provides more responsive, timely, and reliable H-60 product support to the depot, and ultimately, to the warfighter while

The first recap Blackhawk was flown to Ft. Rucker, Ala. on Aug. 20, by a crew from Ft. Rucker. Pictured in front of the aircraft are (l- r): Sgt. Daniel Ray, crew chief, with ACLC at Ft. Rucker, Maj. Enrique Ortiz, Jr., co-pilot, and Lt. Col. John G. Alvarez, pilot-in-command, both with the U.S. Army Aeromedical Laboratory at Ft. Rucker. An unidentified CCAD employee is seen on top of the aircraft performing final check.



leveraging the core competencies of CCAD and Sikorsky to obtain the best combination of business and process practices.

“The airframe contract with Sikorsky Aircraft will ensure 100% parts availability

for the next UH-60s scheduled to undergo the recapitalization/rebuild program,” stated Budney.

“The UH-60A to A recap/rebuild program is a “win-win” situation for everyone—AMCOM, CCAD, Sikorsky, the utility helicopter project manager’s office, and most importantly, our warfighters,” said Col. William Lake, utility helicopter project manager with the aviation program executive office.



Col. Budney, CCAD Commander, is interviewed by Darcy Jones, (center) reporter with KRIS TV after the UH-60 recapitalization rollout ceremony.

Retired warrant officer gives to AAAA scholarship foundation

by Annette Cross
VP for Benefits, Corpus Christi Chapter, AAAA

As most Corpus Christians were busy with hurricane preparations in anticipation of Hurricane Claudette in July, one local businessman took time from his busy schedule to visit Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD). Developer and builder Jimmy Johnston, who retired from CCAD in 1978, met with depot commander Col. James J. Budney, Jr., to announce the establishment of the CW4 Jimmy B. Johnston Family Scholarship Fund through the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA). One thousand dollars will be made available annually to active duty and retired military members and their dependents to help defray the cost of college tuition.

Johnston was assigned to Corpus Christi Army Depot in 1970 following his second tour in Viet Nam, where he flew Cobra helicopters for the 1st Air Cavalry Division. He was assigned to Charlie Battery, the "Blue



Photo by Lois Contreras

Col. Jim Budney (2nd from right), CCAD commander and president of the Corpus Christi Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA), accepts a check for \$1,000 from CW4 (Ret.) Jimmy Johnston for the AAAA scholarship fund. AAAA National Board Member, Joe Guzman (left), and Annette Cross, CC Chapter vice president for benefits (2nd from left) and Amado Garza, CCAD retiree and AAAA member, joined the group at the presentation. Johnston, who retired from his last assignment at CCAD, said he wants to give back some of what he's received from the Army Aviation community.

Max," flying many combat missions along the Cambodian and Laotian borders. During his first assignment at CCAD, Johnston worked as a test pilot before returning for a third tour in Viet

Nam. In December of 1972, Johnston returned to CCAD as a test pilot. During his career at CCAD, Johnston was instrumental in cross-training members of the National Guard and Army Reserve.

Johnston's generosity is firmly rooted in his appreciation for his successful military career and years served at CCAD as a test pilot. As Johnston explained, "The Army and CCAD have been good to me. That's where everything started for me, and now it's my turn to pay it back. This is my opportunity to do something for the organization that was so good to me."

Johnston has been an active member of AAAA for thirty years.

Interested applicants may contact Annette Cross, Corpus Christi Chapter, AAAA Vice President for Benefits, for additional information. Cross can be reached at (361)961-6373, Mail Stop #80, or by email at across@ccad.army.mil.

Energy savings program contract equals big savings for depot

by Michael Bartlett
Project Mgr, Chevron Energy Solutions Company

Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) is partnering with Chevron Energy Solutions Company to design, build, operate, and maintain a \$10.1M energy and infrastructure improvement project through its United States of America Corp of Engineers/Huntsville Center 46-state Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC). Under this contract, the government incurs no up-front capital cost and uses cash flow generated by implemented savings measures to pay the project's monthly amortized expense.

Within the scope of this project, Chevron ES will decentralize CCAD's

current steam system by installing new boiler equipment and controls to fulfill both steam and hot water requirements at the depot. Several steam coil air handlers will be replaced with new hot water coil units and piping and valves will be modified to complete the distribution system conversion. To meet CCAD's requirements for cost-effective and reliable compressed air, several new air compressors will be installed with real-time control capabilities to optimize the efficiency of the new distributed system. In addition, new piping, vessels, pumps, and dryers will be installed to further enhance sys-

tem performance and compressed air quality.

This bundled ESPC project is expected to generate nearly \$1.4M in annual cost savings, which will be used to pay for the project over its 18-year finance term. At the end of the project's term, CCAD will have benefited in cumulative net savings of more than \$4.4M in addition to having received \$6.1M of capital improvements. Operation and maintenance responsibility for all installed equipment is also included for the full 18-year term. Equipment and buildings will be appropriately

(See "Energy" on page 6)

Awards around the depot - Length of Service



Dir, Engine Production - Art Martinez, chief, T700 division, presented Courtney Bennett a 5-year certificate and pin.



Glen Williams (left) received his 5-year certificate and pin from Martinez as Michael Johnson, chief, T700 compressor shop stands ready to congratulate him.



Dir, Resource Management - Col. Jim Budney presented Pete Rivera a 35-year certificate and pin.



Dir, Components Production - Col. Jim Budney presents Oscar Lopez his 40-year certificate and pin.

Awards around the depot - Sick Leave Savers



Douglas Spear



James Fiscus

500 HOURS!



Robert Ramon



Gilberto Garza

1500 HOURS!

Thomas Keener



Pete Rivera

2500 HOURS!

Dir, Security & Industrial Risk Mgt - Col. Jim Budney presents the Commander's Award for Civilian Service Certificate to Rodolfo Ramos, supervisor of environmental support branch for his work in implementing the hazardous waste module of the hazardous materials management system.



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Our Products Reflect Our Pride



Partnering saves depot dollars

("Energy" continued from page 4)

placarded with prominent signs advising that the equipment is operated and maintained by Chevron ES and a trouble call number to report problems.

Construction for this project is very near completion with the remainder of tasks being mostly startup and commissioning of equipment. Two follow on projects are also in development. The first involves closed looping the industrial waste water stream and lighting upgrades. This project is currently in the design and feasibility stage with an anticipated construction start date of May 2004. The second project involves heating, ventilation, and air conditioning controls and various mechanical upgrades. It is being studied at a preliminary level to determine what energy savings are achievable to pay for the capital improvements. The viable projects will be going into the advanced design and feasibility stage and should start construction sometime in early 2005.

These projects will not only increase reliability and eliminate redundancy by substituting outdated and maintenance-intensive equipment with highly efficient replacement systems, but will also reduce long-term production costs, create a more comfortable work environment for personnel, and reduce the level of harmful fossil fuel emissions generated at the facility.

State-of-the-art bearing facility a money saver



Mark A. Cortez, in the CCAD bearing facility, checks hard copies of the tracking system implemented by the shop that allows items to be tracked as far back as 15 years.

("Bearings" continued from page 1)

The impact and importance of the bearing facility recently left its mark on the Apache transmission surge. Not only did having a bearing reconditioning and repair facility onsite expedite the production process, it also saved CCAD over \$4.3 million over having to buy new bearings. Without the bearing shop, CCAD would have completed only 30% of the Apache transmissions to date and done so at a much higher cost.

If the bearing repair facility has one area of concern, it pertains to personnel. There is a very high turnover rate of workers due to the WG-8 ceiling, and training can take as long as five years. Moreover, in the next 2-3 years, one-half of the current staff will be eligible for retirement. Torres feels that a for-



Manuel Torres, supervisor, directorate of components production bearing facility, sits at his desk displaying various coins from high-ranking officials who have toured the facility. Among those he is proud to show off are former Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Eric Shinseki and Gen. Paul Kern, AMC commanding general.

mal training program and a higher grade could help alleviate this situation.

Whether it is the processing of 55,000 bearings during FY03, a complete audit trail, the supplying of 200-300 reconditioned bearings daily to other depot shops, or the skill and certification of bearing shop technicians, CCAD is truly lucky to have one of only three sites in the nation certified for complete bearing recon-



Luann A. Dunn stacks trays of bearings that have undergone the cleaning process in the CCAD bearing facility. The facility is one of only three throughout the Department of Defense and is the only process shop at CCAD that does not require "outside" quality control inspectors.

ditioning. With all of the tracking, training, and coordination between technicians in mind, Torres stated, "Bearing processing is not a trade, it is an art."

Jason Contreras, a 1993 graduate of Carroll High School graduated Texas Lutheran University with a minor in journalism and is currently teaching high school algebra and drama classes at Brawley Unified High School in Brawley, Calif. The article above was written during a recent visit to CCAD while home on vacation.