



Depot Completes 3,000th General Electric T-701D Conversion Engine

By Jaclyn Nix, Public Affairs

Corpus Christi Army Depot with partner, General Electric, celebrated the completion of the 3,000th T701D conversion engine overhaul with a small cake cutting ceremony in the Engine Test Cell area on February 23, 2012.

The U.S. Army plans to convert its entire fleet of UH-60M Black Hawk and AH-64 Apache helicopters to the T701D engine. At 2,000 shaft horsepower, the T701D features improved hot-section components that provide twice the hot-section durability and five percent more power than the current T700-GE-701C model engine.

“These engines support the most advanced fighting force the world has ever seen,” said Roderick Benson, Director of Engine Production.

CCAD completely rebuilds and upgrades these engines to like-new condition but with better performance and durability. There are three separate kits associated with these conversions. Each kit contains approximately 285 parts, totaling up to 855,000 parts for the 3,000 engines handled and installed for the upgrade.

The engine process is tedious much like anything done at CCAD. It is first inducted into pre-shop analysis, disassembled and cleaned before the parts are sent to the prime shops. There, the parts are evaluated for repair, cleaned and disas-



Tony Conrad, General Electric Site Manager; Col. Christopher Carlile, CCAD Commander; Brandy Gonzales, T-700 Division Chief; and Rod Benson, Director of Engine Production cut the cake Air Assault style with the depot's saber during the ceremony. Photo by Ervey Martinez

sembled further, depending on the part. The parts are then repaired, routed back to the assembly shop, reassembled into a whole engine, tested and packaged for its final sale. This process takes approximately 100 days or less.

“The partnership has reduced the average time needed to turn around engine projects from 261 days to 78 days, and the amount of time an engine stays in-use has increased 18 percent,” said Tony Con-

rad, General Electric Site Manager.

The 701D represents an affordable approach to increasing the performance durability of these proven engines. Since CCAD inducted its first 701D conversion in July 2005, the Army has saved approximately

\$6 million by upgrading engines at CCAD versus purchasing them new.

“Our profit is reducing cost,” said Col. Christopher Carlile, CCAD Commander. “That money we save goes back to the taxpayers.”

The CCAD Commander congratulated General Electric and the CCAD artisans who made this accomplishment possible. He passed out Commander Coins to key personnel involved in this milestone.

“Without everyone working to-

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Active Duty Dives into Black Hawk

By Brigitte Rox, Public Affairs Specialist

A group of Active Duty Master Divers needed Corpus Christi Army Depot's help to overcome the final hurdle to modernize the way the military does dives, 16 February.

A new diving system called the Extreme Lightweight Dive System, also known as XLDS, is part of a larger modernization scuba system the military hopes to incorporate in their dives. According to Dive Lab, XLDS is a complete surface supplied diving system.

At a total of 87 pounds, the XLDS is affordable, lightweight and compact, making it easily deployable.

Sergeants First Class Tracy Bower and Thomas Kneipp, both Master Divers, developed the new equipment and brought it down

"This system is contained in pelican cases so two men can pick it up and move it. Everything is in an individual box so you can move the entire dive system to the place where you need to go."

"Being able to put it in a Black Hawk makes us deployable anywhere in the world."

CCAD's Colonel Mike Kosalko, Deputy Director for Production Management, worked with George Kunkle, Flight Test Pilot, to secure a Black Hawk to meet the divers' last-minute requirements.

Master divers dressed in fatigues and diving t-shirts took notes and made comments as they

to Corpus Christi to try it out.

"The XLDS is cutting edge technology," said Sergeant First-Class Bower. "We can now move all over the world quickly."

"This new equipment is for rapid deployment of divers," said Staff Sergeant Shawn Dagley, 627 Engineering Dive-Readiness NCO.

loaded the system of about a dozen large boxes and oxygen tanks into a UH-60 Black Hawk staged on the CCAD flightline.

"This is the final requirement before we start fielding the equipment all around the world" said Master Diver Thomas Kneipp.

"CCAD stepping up and allowing us to come out here and put [the system] in one of their Black Hawks is one of the best things that has happened for us," said Staff Sergeant Dagley. "Being able to come here as a group really means a lot to the Active Duty and the National Guard."

Master divers perform procurement, research and development to find the best equipment for the Active Duty in the National Guard units.

Up next, the Active Duty Master Divers will take the XLDS on an actual mission.



Corpus Christi Army Depot employees were happy to accommodate Active Duty master divers' needs to see if the new XLDS dive system fits into a UH-60 Black Hawk. Now, this system is ready to deploy worldwide at a moment's notice. Photo by Kiana Allen



A group of Active Duty master divers visit the Corpus Christi Army Depot to test out their new dive system, the XLDS. By proving that the state-of-the-art diving system fits into a UH-60 Black Hawk, this new equipment is rapidly deployable worldwide. Photo by Kiana Allen.

CCAD Artisans Proudly Wear Blue Badge of Honor

By Nicole Plascencia, Public Affairs

An elite few are donning the blue badge in hangars across the Corpus Christi Army Depot.

The blue badge is a new symbol around the depot, recognizing highly skilled artisans at CCAD.

“The blue badge recognizes artisans who have devoted their professional lives to improving the product we produce for the Warfighter,” said Ty Harris, Chief of Aircraft Production Administration and Management Office.

In the military, uniforms typically denote the bearer’s rank by particular insignia attached to the uniform. Ranking systems have been known for most of military history.

CCAD is not necessarily the military but leaders are still getting the recognition for being su-

perior journeyman mechanics.

“What makes us a depot isn’t tools, machines, or equipment. What makes us a depot is the skill level of the people,” said Deputy

Commander for Production Bill Braddy.

“I feel like a team captain,” said Ruby Landeros, Compressor and GG Rotor Work Leader who likens the

ing badge and you know that person is the leader of the team and so that’s how I take it. I’m the leader of my shop,” she said.

Landeros has worked at CCAD for nearly ten years and attributes her success to her drive and quest for knowledge.

“The blue badge is a visual recognition of artisans who have achieved the highest standards of competency, integrity and dedication to CCAD,” said Harris.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to wear this and represent the engine division,” said Damasio Perez, Acting Supervisor for Engine Pre-Shop Analysis.

Perez hopes this badge will inspire incoming artisans and wishes to pass on his knowledge and experience.

Fuel Control Work Leader Steve Ortiz said “It’s definitely an honor.”



Ruby Landeros proudly shows off her blue badge. Photos by Nicole Plascencia



Deputy Commander for Production Bill Braddy explains the significance of the blue badge.

blue badge honor on an athletic level.

“Usually on a sports team you see a team captain wearing a distinguish-

T-701D, cont.’d

gether as a team we wouldn’t have been as successful producing the 3,000th conversion engine,” said Brandy Gonzales, T700 Engine Division Chief. “It’s very important that we all work together so that we can produce a quality product at a cost that works for the customer.”

“The people here in this organization all throughout CCAD put their best foot forward each and every day,” said Benson. “It’s the people on the floor that make it happen.”

General Electric (GE)

began its relationship with CCAD in 2000 with a Technical, Engineering and Logistical Services and Supplies (TELSS) contract for the T700 family of engines, modules and components.

“We have learned a lot from GE but they have also learned a lot from CCAD,” said Pete Barrientes, Production Tech Analyst.

“As we transition on, we will find new ways to continue to contribute to support the Sailors, Airmen, Soldiers and Marines that depend on us to do so,” said Benson.



Col. Christopher Carlile, CCAD Commander describes the impact the T701D engine (pictured) has on the Warfighter to a crowd of artisans. Photo by Ervey Martinez.

AH-64 Apache Gets Some Skin by Recycling

By Brigitte Rox, Public Affairs Specialist

A damaged helicopter is a step closer to being fully repaired due to some creative thinking by Corpus Christi Army Depot artisans aiming to be green and cost-effective.

The twin-engine attack helicopter suffered some structural damage to its tail during a recent deployment and found its way to CCAD for repair and return.

The tail boom needed a new skin but the depot bumped into trouble when they sought the skins through the regular supply chain.

“We couldn’t find the skins anywhere,” said Roland De La Fuente, Jigs and Fixtures Supervisor.

The Jigs and Fixtures Shop is in charge of producing the tooling needed to manufacture aircraft structural parts and components.

To manufacture a skin for the tail boom, Jigs and Fixtures would have to create a new form block from scratch. Sheet metal would then be molded to the form block to create the skin.

“If we couldn’t manufacture [the form block], we would probably have to buy a new tail cone,” said De La Fuente.

Instead, Jigs and Fixtures created new form blocks by recycling old tooling no longer used.

In 2011, CCAD retired its UH-1 Huey program but still had many of the tools used to repair the he-

licopter. Instead of demolishing these abandoned tools, artisans in the foundry decided to give them a new purpose. They melted two Huey forms and created new ones for the Apache tail boom.

Skilled artisans were then able to manufacture two top-priority AH-64 skins that were not available in the supply system. The skins then went through an inspection in Quality

achieves continual improvement of its environmental performance.

Consumption of raw materials is one of the chief environmental concerns at CCAD, along with energy consumption and regulated waste.

“We’re going to recycle as much as we can,” said De La Fuente.

This recycling initiative is going to save the government a lot of money, Garcia said.

“With the price of materials in today’s economy, the price of manufacturing tooling went up significantly,” said De La Fuente. By performing the work in-house, CCAD saves money typically spent on the product and transport.

If cost-efficiencies and environmental benefits weren’t enough, the new process also saves time since artisans don’t have to wait for funding approval and shipping.

The benefits of this new process will help CCAD personnel determine whether or not to utilize the same process for more manufactures in the future.

“We’re going to set aside a few more forms,” said De La Fuente. “Once we start reviewing them and demonstrate that we’re not going to make up that tooling anymore, we’re going to designate that tool to make tools we can use.”

Initiatives like this are just one of the many things CCAD is doing to posture itself for a greener and more cost-efficient future.



Arturo Garcia, a pattern maker in the Foundry, demonstrates how an Apache tail boom skin is made by molding it to special form blocks made in-house. Photo by Nicole Plascencia

Control before being reattached to the Apache and returned to its mission.

“Everything we put out has to be top quality,” said Art Garcia, a pattern maker in the foundry.

“This is one of the ways that CCAD is trying to support the Environmental Management System,” said De La Fuente as the depot works towards ISO14001 certification. This certification would designate Corpus Christi Army Depot as an organization that minimizes harmful effects on the environment and

CCAD Command Master Black Belt

By Rich Alvarado

If you're looking for the fast track to becoming a valuable resource to CCAD, there is a new class being offered that isn't your typical training course.

Two introductory classes were facilitated in February at the CCAD Learning Center to teach employees the basics of Lean Six Sigma philosophy and how to apply it in their role on a day-to-day basis.

Because of their new knowledge of Lean Six Sigma methodology including Process Mapping, Cause-and-Effect tools and simple data analysis, participants

who completed the course are now able to identify opportunities for improvement within their work areas and have become valuable resources within Leading Change Teams and their process improvement efforts.

Yellow Belt training is an 8-hour course open to all CCAD personnel conducted at the CCAD Learning Center. All supervisors and Leading Change Team members are encouraged to participate. Personnel inter-



CCADer identifies areas of improvement using Lean Six Sigma methodology.

ested in participating should contact their directorate training coordinator for the upcoming class schedule. We are currently offering the class once a month. If the demand is there for more, we will make an effort to ac-

commodate the command's request.

Lean embraces a philosophy of continually increasing the proportion of value-added activity to our business through ongoing waste elimination. A lean approach provides CCAD with tools that demand higher quality, faster delivery and lower prices.

Six Sigma is a philosophy of doing business with a focus on eliminating defects through fundamental process knowledge. Six Sigma methods integrate principles of business, statistics and engineering to achieve tangible results.

Opportunities for improvement are all around us. Yellow Belt training provides the basic tools and knowledge to take advantage of these opportunities.

Plant Air Improvement Project is a Breath of Fresh Air at Depot

By Sean Dust, Shawn Smith, Sharon Haynes. Edited by Brigitte Rox

A robust project to increase and improve plant compressed air is in its final stretch at the Corpus Christi Army Depot.

When the premier facility for helicopter maintenance, repair and overhaul was reduced to a single air compressor, the pressure was on for CCAD to restore supply.

In August 2011, CCAD had five inoperable air compressors and three in need of repair. This left the depot with only one air compressor and three dryers that were operating to supply the entire depot with compressed air capability. That was hardly sufficient for the massive industrial complex that supports critical aircraft for the Warfighter.

The depot supports a workload of \$2.5B made up of aircraft, component, rotor blade, transmission and engine production to support the UH-60 Black Hawk, HH-60 Pave Hawk, OH-58 Kiowa Warrior, AH-64 Apache and CH-47 Chinook.

Coupled with the issue of quantity was the issue of quality. Excessive moisture collected in the air supply, causing it to damage air tools. This eventually downed critical tooling needed to achieve the workload.

Dan Farias, Shawn Smith, and Sean Dust from Facilities Engineering and Maintenance Division put together a plan of attack to eliminate this issue for good. From there, the Plant Air Improvement Project was born. This project would improve the quality and the

life of power tools while supporting the heavy workload at CCAD.

The team purchased and installed new air water separators, filters, air quality monitors and corrected piping. FEMD still has plans to install additional air water separators, filters, monitors, replace compressed air pipe, close loops and add drip legs.

Today, the depot operates with 11 fully functional air compressors and seven dryers.

The estimated cost of the project is \$1M and is expected to be complete by early May 2012.

It is safe to say that FEMD and all who have supported the effort have taken the plant compressed air from poor to great with plans in the works to continually improve quality and operability.

Depot Initiates Pilot Program to Save Energy

By *Jaclyn Nix, Public Affairs*

Corpus Christi Army Depot is taking steps to go green and reduce energy consumption to save money with a pilot program.

Infrastructure Operations (S4) initiated a solar-powered scooter pilot program by installing a solar panel, or a sunray solar top, located above one of the electric scooters at the depot.

“CCAD has a total of about 219 scooters and 209 of those are actually electric scooters,” said James Spurgeon, Quality Assurance Specialist. “In the last two years we’ve increased our scooters by 50. That’s a pretty good increase of scooters.”

Club Car and Taylor Dunn are the primary scooter brands used at the depot. Club Car supplies 60% of the scooters. CCAD purchased the sunray solar tops from Eco Trans Alliance, who produced tops for Club Car.

Before the depot decides to put solar panels on the rest of the scooters, they must review the battery power on a day-to-day

basis and see how much power is being drawn. This is what the pilot program is all about.

The battery life of the solar-powered scooters is extended by 30% if the scooter is recharged in the sun. This reduces the need to constantly



CCAD explores environmental options through a prototyped solar-powered scooter. Photo by Jaclyn Nix

charge the battery at the end of the workday. Plugs will be more readily available for those scooters that still need them.

“Solar power does not eliminate the need to plug in for electric power to charge but it reduces the amount of time because solar power continuously provides power

to the battery,” said Spurgeon. “This is what we are looking at for lower electric costs.”

Driving distance with the solar panels is increased on an average of five to twelve miles per day. The solar panels are easy to install and require no maintenance.

There is one drawback to this environmental project. More parking spaces would have to be allotted for scooters to charge in the sun.

Even though these solar panels increase battery life by 30% it will only be effective if the scooter has a good, healthy battery. Eco Trans Alliance recommends replacing the old battery with a new one when solar panels are installed. However, if the people using the battery keep up

its battery maintenance, there is no need for new batteries.

“Probably 40% of our unscheduled maintenance calls at Motor Pool are due to batteries that we had to replace,” said Spurgeon. “If you don’t maintain your vehicle, solar

Energy Savings, see pg. 8

Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-273-TALK, Veterans Press 1

The Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) <http://www.va.gov/health> has a national suicide prevention hotline to ensure veterans in emotional crisis have free, 24/7 access to trained counselors.

To operate the Veterans Hotline, the VA partnered with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Veterans can call the Lifeline number, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), and press “1” to be routed to the Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline.

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Our Products Reflect Our Pride

Awards Around Your Depot



Ben Huff receives AMCOM Coin.



Caleb Cole receives Commanders Award for Quality Performance.



Justin Walls receives Safety Award.



Marco Garcia receives Cribbins AAAA Armed Scout Helicopter Award.



Merced Lopez receives Commanders Award for Quality Performance.



Jonathan Cloyd receives Safety Award.



Mark Benson receives Collateral Duty Inspector Certification.



Michelle Vasquez receives Commanders Award for Quality Performance.



CW4 Christopher Hertzig receives Aviation Safety Award of Merit.



Raul Reyes receives Collateral Duty Inspector Certification.



Joe Moreno receives Safety Award.



Robert Martinez receives AMCOM Certificate of Appreciation.



Eric Dougherty, Rick Rossel, Carlos Rossel and Alonzo Garza Jr. were recognized by Boeing during the Quarterly Executive PMR, for their efforts to support the Boeing team during the MH47-G Model repairs. Boeing wanted to identify the group that stood out from the rest of the workforce for their commitment, skill and attention to details. The project took about a year and they never gave up or walked away even when everyone wanted to push the bird in the bay, very challenging. There was never re-work and their product quality was high. Their attention to detail and knowledge sharing enabled the rest of the team to be proactive in repair efforts which made forecasting repairs and modifications possible.



Linda Stanley receives Length of Service Certificate for 30 years.



Alfonso Rodriguez receives Length of Service Certificate for 30 years.



Luis Collazo receives Length of Service Certificate for 35 years.



Chris Ryz receives Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.



Energy Savings, cont.'d

power is not going to help.”

If the program is approved, the next step is to determine the potential cost savings for the depot followed by acquisition logistics and usability analyses.

“CCAD has an energy conservation plan that’s a big deal and we all need to look at ways in our work centers to try to improve our power usage,” said Spurgeon.

Artisans Proudly Wear the Blue Badge



2012 Work Leaders and Top Journeyman Mechanics



This workplace has been recognized by the American Heart Association for meeting criteria for employee fitness.

The CCAD Scoop!

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION: What is the best kept secret of the Corpus Christi Army Depot?



Gary Green
Management Analyst at Lean Six Sigma

"I think the MWR services like the gym here on-base and the gyms off-base that we are able to use. The support that they supply for the cost factor is excellent."



Matt Garcia
Composite Worker

"One of the best kept secrets is the little hamburger stand behind Hangar 8. It's changed owners but it's still the same great hamburgers and most people don't know about it."

Ed Slonaker
I.T. Specialist and Webmaster

"The depot's best kept secret is its resilience. When faced with challenges or crises, the employees at the depot always rise up and meet those challenges. The blood donor programs, Toys for Tots or even conflicts going on around the world with production schedules. The employees are always there."



William Roca
Program Management Analyst
"There is no best kept secret at CCAD. Everybody knows what's going on."



Lisa Cantu
Production Controller
"The extent that we have to go through to get an aircraft from beginning to end is amazing."

Isauro Maldonado
Avionics

"A lot of people don't know but this is one of the biggest facilities for rotary aircraft production in the world. I think that's the best kept secret."



PREVENTION... In The News!

National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week March 18-24, 2012

Most parents are in the dark regarding the popularity and dangers of inhalant use. Children are quickly discovering that common household products are cheap, easy to hide and produce mind-altering effects quickly. According to national surveys, inhaling dangerous products is becoming one of the most widespread problems in the country. It is as popular as marijuana amongst the youth. More than a million people used inhalants to get high just last year.

What is inhalant use? Inhalant use refers to the intentional breathing of gas or vapors with the purpose of achieving a high. Inhalants are legal, everyday products which have a useful purpose, but can be misused. You're probably familiar with many of these substances -- paint, glue and others. You probably don't know that there are more than 1,000 products that are very dangerous when inhaled -- things like typewriter correction fluid, air-conditioning refrigerant, felt tip markers, spray paint, air freshener, butane and even cooking spray.

Who is at risk? Inhalants are an equal-opportunity method of substance abuse. Statistics show that young, white males have the highest usage rates followed by Hispanics and American Indian populations.

What are the signs? If your child has paint stains on their fingers and mouth, excessive vomiting and watery eyes, he may be abusing inhalants. Nearly one in five kids has abused them by eighth grade.

What can inhalants do to the body? Nearly all abused products produce

effects similar to anesthetics, which slow down the body's function. Varying upon level of dosage, the user can experience slight stimulation, feeling of less inhibition or loss of consciousness. The user can also suffer from Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome. This means the user can die the 1st, 10th or 100th time he or she uses an inhalant. Other effects include damage to the heart, kidney, brain, liver, bone marrow and other organs. Inhalants are physically and psychologically addicting and users suffer withdrawal symptoms.

What should I tell my child about inhalants? It is never too early to teach your children about the dangers of inhalants. Don't just say "that's not my kid." Inhalant use starts as early as elementary school and is considered a gateway to further substance abuse. Parents often remain ignorant of inhalant use or do not educate their children until it is too late. Inhalants are not drugs. They are poisons and toxins and should be discussed as such. There are, however, a few age appropriate guidelines that can be useful when educating your children at www.inhalants.org.

What can I do if someone I know is huffing and appears in a state of crisis? If someone you know is huffing, the best thing to do is remain calm and seek help. Agitation may cause the huffer to become violent,

experience hallucinations or suffer heart dysfunction which can cause Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome. Make sure the room is well-ventilated and call 911. If the person is not breathing, administer CPR. Once recovered, seek professional treatment and counseling.

Can inhalant use be treated? Treatment facilities for inhalant users are rare and difficult to find. Users suffer a high rate of relapse and require thirty to forty days or more of detoxification. Users suffer withdrawal symptoms which can include hallucinations, nausea, excessive sweating, hand tremors, muscle cramps, headaches, chills and delirium tremens. Follow-up treatment is very important. If you or someone you know is seeking help for inhalant abuse, you can contact the

National Inhalant Prevention Coalition at 1-800-269-4237 for information on treatment centers and general information on inhalants. Through a network of nationwide contacts, NIPC can help (but not guarantee) finding a center in your area that treats inhalant use.

CCAD's Prevention Coordinator encourages our community to become

informed about the dangers everyday products pose to our children and loved ones.

Resource: <http://www.inhalants.org/about.htm>





Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes...

a free program for people with type 2 diabetes.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service, in collaboration with the Nueces County Commissioners Court and Wesley Nurse Health Ministries™, will be offering "Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes", a series of **free** diabetes education classes taught by a Registered Nurse and a Registered Dietitian for Nueces County residents with Type 2 Diabetes.

Wednesdays *
April 25 – May 30
1:30 – 3:30 PM
Ethel Eyerly Community Center
654 Graham Road
Corpus Christi

*This is a series of classes, all classes must be attended.
The class is limited to 15 people with Type 2 Diabetes.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!!!

To register for the class or for more information contact:



Talma D. Benavides
County Extension Agent—FCS
(361)767-5216

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Fun Facts for March!

**March 4, 1933*- At the height of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt is inaugurated as the 32nd president of the United States.

**March 9, 1959*- The first Barbie doll goes on display at the American Toy Fair in New York City.

**March 13, 1942*- The Quartermaster Corps (QMC) of the United States Army begins training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps."

**March 16, 1802*- The United States Military Academy-- the first military school in the U.S.-- is founded by Congress for the purpose of educating and training young men in the theory and practice of military science. Located at West Point, New York, the U.S. Military Academy is often known as West Point.

