America’s Aviation Depot
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COVER PHOTO:
Jonathan Langford, a sheet metal artisan at the Corpus Christi Army Depot, works alongside Pennsylvania National Guard Staff Sgt. Asdrubal Cedeno, Eastern Army Aviation Training Site (EAATS).
Internship Offers Students Opportunity to “Be All You Can Be!”

Story and photos by Della Adame, CCAD Public Affairs Specialist

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas – CCAD’s ability to deliver on its commitments has long been centered on the talents of its workforce, and building pipelines through academic institutions is key to attracting the next generation of dedicated employees.

Earlier this year, Dr. Jianzhi (James) Li and Dr. Douglass Timmer, manufacturing and industrial engineering professors at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, informed CCAD of an opportunity to receive interns under the support of I-DREAM4D National Consortium.

The consortium is a network created by the Department of Defense for Innovation Driven Research/Education Ecosystem for Advanced Manufacturing for Defense. It comprises five higher education institutions: UTRGV, UT Austin, UT San Antonio, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, as well as national research centers, defense labs, defense manufacturers, local high school districts and community colleges. The goal is to promote advanced, additive manufacturing and smart manufacturing, and support innovations for the defense industries.

“Internships can often be a vital steppingstone in the journey toward a successful career,” said Rod Benson, CCAD deputy and chief operations officer. “[Internships] provide the opportunity to gain insight into real-world problems, gain tangible experience, and develop both personally and professionally while increasing the students’ chances of future employment success.”

Mario Cazares and Jorge Barron, engineering students from UTRGV, reported to the depot as 30-day interns in early August.

Cazares and Barron were assigned projects that would improve workflow processes and fixtures used in the repair and maintenance of helicopters. They found themselves in a learning environment working with artisans, work leaders and professional engineers, obtaining various levels of experience and exposure to real-world situations.

Thomas Sandoval, director of production engineering, is optimistic about the depot’s long-term strategy to ensure that the next generation is mentored and trained by professionals with knowledge and expertise.

Sandoval said, “Having students eager with new perspectives injects energy into an organization and shifts to teach and learn moments. Often, looking at challenges with a fresh perspective will provide practical solutions.”

One of Barron’s projects fostered valuable hands-on experience with an aircraft.

Story continues on page 14
Team CCAD:
During the recent Town Hall, I was asked, “What is CCAD doing to retain talent?” Here are three things: the health improvement program, the 5-4-9 schedule, and the new supervisor coaching program.

The health improvement program enables employees to create better habits and behaviors. YOU have the option to execute this benefit—the opportunities are vast and open. Although supervisors have some authority to dictate when you can execute this benefit, they cannot dictate what you do, how you do it, or when it occurs. It is not to be modified at lower levels of management.

The change in the schedule to 5-4-9 was designed to provide some predictability and opportunity to leverage every other Friday to conduct personal business without taking leave. Think doctor visits, an extra day of vacation travel or vehicle maintenance.

Lastly, the new supervisor coaching program. There are two exciting mandatory classes for new supervisors. The classes provide another level of support and development that was customarily provided to only the most senior leaders.

KYLE M. HOGAN
Colonel, Aviation

Commander’s Corner

New Chief of Staff Reports to Depot

Pete J. Dillon is the Chief of Staff at Corpus Christi Army Depot; he has been serving in this position since September 2023.

A native of Texas, Dillon has an expansive career spanning the private sector, academia, and the DoD.

Dillon’s previous DoD assignment was an overseas tour where he served as the senior N4 civilian for Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central (EURAFCENT). He was formerly assigned as the Director of Base Operations and Energy at Navy Installations Command (CNIC) and functioned as the Navy’s president of the Energy Mission Integration Group.

Prior to that assignment, Dillon was detailed as OSD’s first Deputy Director for SOF Maritime Programs at the Secretariat for Special Operations, where he stood up the Secretariat’s functional office for oversight of all SOCOM Maritime SOF programs and supported coordination on security cooperation programs.

Dillon is Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Level 2 certified, Level III Defense Acquisition Workforce Institute certified, and he is a member of the Logistics Management Defense Acquisition Corps.

He attended the United States Coast Guard Academy and studied mechanical engineering prior to graduating from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Dillon is also a member of many professional and special affiliations and accolades including the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Alumni Association. He enjoys hunting, fishing, the ocean, fine art restoration, and repairing watches. He is involved in various fitness, volunteer, and church activities.
CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas - The biggest challenge to those who wish to understand Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) is understanding the Army Working Capital Fund (AWCF) structure.

CCAD is part of the nation’s Organic Industrial Base (OIB). According to the Congressional Research Service, some organizations comprising the OIB are responsible for operationalizing the end-to-end supply chain to repair and remanufacture weapon systems and defense equipment (CRS reports/congress.gov). Those unfamiliar with CCAD view it like any other United States Army organization that receives funding from Congress through authorizations within the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). CCAD gets funding through a different program called the Army Working Capital Fund (AWCF). As an entity within the OIB and guided by the AWCF program, CCAD must generate revenue by selling its products and services, effectively operating like a business.

Units operating under a Working Capital Fund (WCF) (Continues on page 15)

CCAD IT On Industry Connect Panel at TAMUCC

Members of the CCAD IT Directorate recently attended the TAMUCC Fall 2023 Industry Connect Meeting at the Island University. They participated in an engaging discussion addressing major challenges facing the IT workforce industry.

The panel, which consisted of representatives from Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority, City of Corpus Christi, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, Celeix Digital and Kiewit, discussed ways to address the existing talent gap and what educators and industry players can to prepare for accelerated automation and AI.

Cybersecurity Division Chief Andrew Saenz, IT System Support Division Chief Chad Hammer, Plans Architecture & Services Division Rick Bensley & Director of Information Technology(A) Cheryl Green attended the event.
NEW CUMBERLAND, Pa.

Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Corpus Christi, Texas, plays a vital role in supporting CCAD’s airlift missions that transport helicopter airframes around the globe. Strategically co-located with the Corpus Christi Army Depot, the DDCT airlift team successfully completed three airlift missions July 27-28.

The DDCT airlift team uploaded two UH-60V Black Hawk helicopters destined for the U.S. European Command. One of the helicopters was uploaded at night, adding an additional layer of complexity, but ensured the limited amount of airlift assets kept moving to ensure warfighter readiness. The final leg involved unloading three UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters destined for CCAD’s maintenance line for repairs and upgrades.

Led by Elyse Atoe, deputy operations manager, the airlift mission has matured through the years as DDCT has learned and evolved to maximize loading efficiency. Ad-hoc help was a part of the original proposal, which called for the construction of wooden approach ramps that were labor-intensive, taking up crucial aircrew time. Instead, DLA invested in modular aluminum ramps, saving the team hours and making construction safer.

Atoe ensures the airlift team is trained, resourced and rehearsed prior to every airlift operation. She frequently highlights the team’s pride, dedication and tenacity as they can directly see the results of their hard work and the impact to warfighter readiness.

DDCT provides a vital link between the CCAD’s organic industrial base facility, that maintains, repairs and modernizes rotary wing aircraft and the warfighter. Without this strategic logistics bridge, the warfighter would be left with less efficient options for support.

DDCT also serves as an interface between the cargo aircraft and the maintenance team. To enable the quick and secure upload or download of any kind of military helicopter, DDCT offers special air load equipment and expertise. This local expertise and professionalism keeps DDCT at the forefront of delivering lethality to the warfighter.

Other critical services provided by DDCT include loading and unloading helicopters and other priority cargo from strategic airlift assets operated by the Air Mobility Command. DDCT’s unique capabilities and expertise to support strategic airlift missions is another example of why they are the, “Lifeline to the Flight Line.”

DDCT serves as the primary wholesale distribution point for major components to support helicopter repair missions for Defense Department and foreign military sales customers worldwide. Its mission is to receive, store, pack, preserve, issue and arrange transportation for assigned supplies and equipment as directed.
Celebrating the Trades at America's Aviation Depot

Stephanie Jacinto
Sheet Metal Mechanic

I have worked at CCAD for three years.

My advice for anyone looking to join the trades in a career at CCAD is:

- Don't be afraid to ask questions,
- Don't give up and throw in the towel if you don't get a certain position,
- Keep learning and growing your education in aviation.

The best thing about working at CCAD is building and working on Black Hawk helicopters that support our members in the U.S. Army.

Justin Hanson, Aircraft Sheet Metal Mechanic

I have worked at the Corpus Christi Army Depot for over 18 years.

I was 18 years old when I started my own career at the depot.

The best advice I could give to someone who is interested in a career in the trades at the depot is:

- Learn as much as you can about aviation.

- Choose a trade that you are interested in, and focus on training and learning the basics of that trade.

Most importantly, don't give up on applying for positions here at CCAD, the possibilities and opportunities are endless.

I have always felt pride in doing my part to help support the man and woman who place their lives on the line to protect our country.

Ray Brooks
Sheet Metal Worker

I have worked at the Corpus Christi Army Depot for three years and previously at the Distribution Logistics Agency (DLA) on base.

I am currently a carpenter with Facilities Maintenance Branch 1.

I am an Army Veteran, and have also worked with the United States Postal Service and the U.S. Border Patrol.

My advice for anyone looking to join the trades in a career at CCAD is to make sure your resume includes every tool you know how to use.

Be sure to list all the different jobs you know how to perform.

A lengthy resume is not a bad thing for a tradesman to have.

The best thing about working at the Depot are the benefits and hours.

You may come in very early but you also get out early too, and still have plenty of day left to do other things.

You also make some pretty good friends since most people tend to stay for a while.
Celebrating the Trades at America's Aviation Depot

I am a retired U.S. Navy Veteran, working at the Corpus Christi Army Depot for more than 10 years, currently as a sheet metal worker.

I have four pieces of advice for anyone looking into a career in the trades at CCAD:

- Take college courses in aviation maintenance and/or management.
- Get an airframe and powerplant (A&P) license.
- Have a basic familiarity with tools and their uses, especially any measurement tools.
- Be prepared to work different shifts and overtime as necessary to meet production goals.

The best thing about working at the depot is the opportunity to promote within your trade and to pursue other jobs within the depot.

I have been employed at the Corpus Christi Army Depot for four years. The best advice I would give someone who is looking to work at the depot is that seeking a job within a trade is to learn as much as you can about your vocation and have each and every skill that you have mastered on your resume.

The depot is a great place to work with plenty of opportunity to advance or change job fields.

The possibilities are there for everyone who wants to put in the work.

If you show up late and do your job, you will have a great career with CCAD.

The best things about working here are the benefits and the people we get to work with.
#CCADSalute to Mr. Rodolfo “Rudy” Cervantes, Jr. for his outstanding dedication and contributions as the pre-shop analysis technician. Mr. Cervantes went above and beyond his responsibilities, demonstrating exceptional attention to detail and thoroughness in his work. Rudy is a true asset to the U.S. Army Team. Thank you for your exceptional work, congratulations, Rudy!

CCAD Outstanding Performer

Rodolfo “Rudy” Cervantes, Jr.

CCAD Outstanding Performer

Judith
CCAD Outstanding Performer

Carlos Garza

America’s Aviation Depot recognizes DFPM’s Carlos Garza! He corrected issues which restored test cells back to operation. His work included replacement of a water pump, repairs to a fuel pump, replacement of a test cells LDS unit and repairs to the engine testing monorail system. In addition, he was an integral part of the successful expedited repair to the heat treat drop furnace. Mr. Garza’s exceptional work is the norm, but his consistent contributions in keeping the engine testing branch operational have earned him laudatory recognition. Congratulations, Carlos!

Outstanding Performer

Suminski

This month’s Outstanding Performer is Judith Suminski, a member of the Directorate of Facilities and Property Management, who single-handedly monitors and receives all facility and equipment work orders. Over 1,000 work orders, planned and unplanned HVAC, electrical, plumbing, suppression fire, and water outages come in through the call center. She simultaneously coordinates with Navy personnel on facility related issues without any interruptions in production or sacrifice in the quality of work.

During Tropical Storm Harold, she coordinated nearly a hundred identified facilities related requests. Her organizational awareness and knowledge of DFPM areas of responsibilities resulted in rapid notification of technicians to evaluate and work on damage reports as they came in.

#CCADsalute and congratulations, Judith!
Honors - Awards - Recognition

The 2nd/3rd quarter FY2023 awards, recognition & retirements will be published in the next Aircraftsman issue.

Army Combat Fitness Testing for CCAD Soldiers
America’s Aviation Depot has a Wall of Honor display in the mini-mart (former Subway) lobby to recognize CCAD Veterans and document their roles in the defense of our nation.

The Honor Wall is open to all Veterans, of all branches, currently working at the Corpus Christi Army Depot, including contractors.

Submit hard copy photos and descriptions/captions, to the Public Affairs Office between 0600-1530 Monday thru Friday, excluding RDO Fridays.

Original photos should be submitted in a sealed envelope with POC information clearly written on the front of the envelope.

Please note that we cannot guarantee the return of your photos without your valid POC information.

The veteran(s) in the photos must be identified either on the back of the photo or on a separate piece of paper with

- name
- highest rank achieved
- branch(es) of service
- duty dates served (years only)
- current CCAD work area
- career highlights (major events, campaigns, accomplishments)

Digital submissions will be accepted and should have all of the same identifying information requested above when sent via email to the PAO mailbox address below:

usarmy.corpuschristi.usamc.mbx.pao@army.mil

Send 3-5 photos of you in your uniform and a current photo too. Your photos may be group photos, individual photos, photos with your battle buddies, etc. We do reserve the right to choose photos to adhere to size and quality requirements.
Around the Depot and in the Community

WE ARE CCAD

The Aircraftsman - Corpus Christi Army Depot
Around the Depot and in the Community
component process prep that required him to use his skills to create special fittings for a gear. The preparation was time-consuming and tedious. His solution was to print 3D masking covers out of polycarbonate to protect non-targeted areas as a re-usable, reliable and efficient alternative.

Cazares was assigned to the weldment stand project, which would enable component stability during the repair process. The current stand was too low for artisans, and support was inefficient to carry the weight of engine components properly. The solution was to raise the height of the stand to ergonomic standards and add two middle supports made with a stainless-steel sheet metal to hold the engine component securely.

The interns also collaborated with a CCAD team on a significant project involving drilling a 308 beam. The part is a major component used in rotary-winged aircraft to support the frame of the UH-60 Black Hawk. The interns assessed opportunities to improve particulate reduction, heat, and ergonomics during the drilling process. They recommended using special HEPA tools and portable air-conditioning units to mitigate exposure to dust particulates.

Their experience gained at CCAD through the I-DREAM4D Program enhanced their future. Barron wants to return to college to pursue a higher-level degree and become a professor. Cazares is seeking employment in the engineering field.

Cazares has wanted to be an engineer since high school. He had a knack for figuring out how things function and finding solutions to problems. The interest stuck with him as he learned more and could apply skills to projects.

“I’m excited about using engineering to create useful things and help the world around us,” he said. “During my internship at CCAD, I worked on real projects using the skills I’ve learned. This experience motivated me to actively pursue more opportunities to apply what I’ve learned in the future phases of my career.”

For Barron, his interest in engineering started in middle school, but it was in high school that he learned that engineers could help society by inventing and creating tools, roads, machines, and many things we use daily.

“I thought that was very cool and decided to pursue my early college career during high school.”

Barron spends his free time continuing his education and working toward his doctorate. He wants to open a ‘maker-space’ in the Rio Grande Valley — where anyone can come and use machinery to complete their creative designs without buying expensive machinery for their homes.

Following their time at the depot, the interns gave a presentation to UTRGV educators and CCAD leaders on the results of their projects.

Benson said, “The engineering solutions provided by the
two UTRGV interns have proven highly effective, showcasing their technical acumen and ability to adapt in a complex environment. Their innovative approaches and collaborative efforts addressed challenging real-world problems but also provided a fresh perspective to our depot, elevating Army readiness.”

CCAD and UTRGV are looking to expand the scope of the program next year by increasing the number of interns and time spent on location.

For more information, students can visit the Office of Personnel Management website, https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-information/students-recent-graduates/

The WCF assists managers and decision-makers at all levels to better understand the generation of expenses in the Depot’s complex repair, recapitalization, and overhaul mission. Furthermore, trust and confidence from the Depot’s customers improve when organizations within the OIB operate more like a business than a government entity because the revolving fund structure encourages cost-effectiveness, flexibility, and adaptability to meet changing workload requirements.

As described earlier, Major Commands within the Army’s operational force receive appropriated funding as authorized in the NDAA when the fiscal year begins. They use these funds to purchase required materials and components and order repairs from the depots that comprise the OIB.

CCAD repairs assets using its resources and sells those assets back to organizations that use their appropriated funds for the purchase. For example, when the Depot sells an engine, the buyer spends dollars allocated to them through the NDAA for the machine, reimbursing CCAD for their expenses. This business method is like taking a personally owned vehicle into a dealership for service or repair. The dealership does not ask for money upfront but instead uses its own resources for the service or repair, only billing the customer upon completion.

Customer orders drive the Depot’s workload. Those orders inform the Depot’s operational requirements, enabling a better forecast of revenue and expenses. Expenses include material, contracts, training, and workforce requirements.

CCAD realizes income when the costs incurred against the customer-funded orders settle through the invoices.

“CCAD doesn’t receive funds to spend yearly like other federal organizations. We must have a high level of business acumen to deliver a product and generate revenue,” said Larry Adams Jr., workforce development division chief. “Army Working Capital Fund training begins with understanding the need to function as a self-sustaining business per governing requirements. Our employees, especially our organizational leaders, need to know where our funding comes from, laws, and specific restrictions on how to use our funds.”

CCAD forecasts two-year workload projections and then develops a budget for the next two years based on those projections. The resulting product is known as the Budget Execution Submission (BES). The operating budget for CCAD includes expenses from salaries to lightbulbs and the projected revenue from all workload sources. Leadership determines how many artisans and support staff will be required to execute operations based on the information resulting from creating the BES.

All organizations within the AWCF are legally required to break even financially. There is no motive for profit. This requirement allows the revolving fund to price a fixed labor rate to the customer throughout the year. If CCAD realizes monetary gains, customers benefit through lower rates the following year. Conversely, if CCAD realizes an economic loss, those financial losses are recouped through higher rates the following year. With CCAD’s $1.6 billion annual operating budget and approximately 450 projects, the AWCF enables the Depot to operate more efficiently, reducing costs, improving quality, and increasing customer satisfaction.
CCAD Deputy and COO Roderick Benson attended the official opening of the new VA facility, Corpus Christi West Point VA Clinic, located at 925 South Padre Island Drive, August 31.

It replaces the existing Corpus Christi Outpatient Clinic, and allows for expansion to serve the growing Veteran population of the coastal bend region.

The Veterans Administration broke ground in 2021 for the 65,000 square foot facility, to collocate primary care, blood draw, and imaging services under one roof and provide a one-stop shop for Veterans and feature numerous green initiatives."

The facility will serve close to 15,000 local veterans and house 14 primary care teams, along with a homeless program and dozens of other healthcare services.

The clinic is also designated as a Purple Heart facility, honoring the Veteran heroes who have received this prestigious distinction.
Tips for Viewing the AC

The Aircraftsman has moved into the digital realm, allowing us to feature more of our content with higher resolution photos and to present information via two-page spreads for an easier to read and view format.

The official Aircraftsman PDF is best viewed in Adobe Acrobat reader. We recommend setting your preferred PDF viewer to two-page scrolling for the best viewing of the Aircraftsman digital publication.

You can view and download copies of the Aircraftsman from our external website: www.ccad.army.mil.

On The Glide Slope

-24 thru 28 OCT: Red Ribbon Week
CCAD ASAP will be at Martin Middle School on 24 October and Veterans Memorial High School on 25 October.

-7 NOV: CCAD Voting Location
The Depot will serve as an official voting location for the Constitutional Amendments, state and local elections. Anyone with base access may vote from 7am-7pm at the building 8 former Subway hallway.

-10 NOV: Veterans Day Observance
Federal holiday. Veterans Day is on 11 November.
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.

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