CORPORUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT
THE CORNERSTONE OF AVIATION READINESS
Activated 10 March 1961, Corpus Christi Army Depot was established as the U.S. Army Transportation Aeronautical Depot Maintenance Center (ARADMAC). The Army Transportation Corps recognized the need to establish an in-house capability to perform depot-level maintenance of Army aircraft.

At that time, the Army had no facilities for the overhaul and repair of rotor wing aircraft. This work was being performed by contract or cross-service agreements. Justification for an Army depot maintenance capability was based on three main points.

The Army needed its own depot-level maintenance facility for use as a yardstick by which it could measure overall maintenance performance it needed its own experienced nucleus to provide a base for rapid expansion in case of national emergency and it needed a base for training critical Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) skill requirements.
Vision:
CCAD must be postured to ensure we are synchronizing aviation assets, materiel support and enterprise resources to increase speed, accuracy and maintain quality in order to meet Army readiness goals.

End State:
CCAD is postured to meet our Nation’s future requirements in peacetime, surge during war and enable Army Readiness.

Mission:
Provide our Nation the best value for modification, repair, and overhaul of rotary wing components and aircraft. On order, repair forward-deployed aircraft and components world-wide.
The first six employees, Nancy K. Stratton, Caroline F. Beach, Emma M. Holley, Dorothy Sheehan, Joe Z. Hale, and Eloita C. Perry were brought on board March 1, 1961, to help process job applications and do other administrative work.

By June 30, nearly 600 employees were on the payroll.

By October 1961, nearly 800 employees had been hired.

On January 7, 1962, the one-thousandth employee was hired at ARADMAC.

At the end of the first year of operation the workforce totaled 1,249 civilians and 14 military.

In one year’s time, the depot had hired a workforce, set up shop, laid out a production plan and overhauled 28 Army aircraft and 153 engines.
Vietnam Conflict

The Albemarle (AV-5) a reserve fleet seaplane tender was outfitted at Charleston, S.C. as a floating maintenance unit capable of providing fixed base repair facilities at critical overseas areas.

Providing major repairs and maintenance for Army helicopters and fixed wing aircraft wherever needed, the new USNS Corpus Christi Bay also served as a backup for overseas land-based facilities.

Through the 1960s, ARADMAC was busy due to the Vietnam Conflict. Birds and components were arriving almost daily increasing the workload considerably.

The Bell UH-1 Iroquois known as the “Huey” was the workhorse in Southeast Asia and became a major part of ARADMAC Business.
In August 1970, Hurricane Celia rapidly intensified in the Gulf of Mexico from a tropical storm to a major hurricane in an afternoon and headed directly toward Corpus Christi. Moving inland on August 3 with winds reaching as high as 160 mph and spawning tornadoes throughout the area, Hurricane Celia was one of the most destructive storms to ever hit Texas, with damages estimated at $2.6 billion (in 1990 dollars).

ARADMAC employees cleaned up the debris to get everything back to working order. It was business as usual just six days after the storm. While not all the repairs were complete, the Depot was operating and repairing aircraft and components on August 11, 1970.

Forty-seven years later, Hurricane Harvey would test the resilience of the CCAD family with the same results!

In 1974, ARADMAC was re-designated as Corpus Christi Army Depot. The new name was mounted on the front of Hangar 8, and unveiled on Friday, June 28th, 1974.
1980’s: Chinooks, Apaches and Black Hawks

Realignment, Capability and Milestones

In 1983, CCAD officially welcomed the Chinook CH-47 workload. The decision to move the function from New Cumberland Army Depot in Pennsylvania to CCAD came more than 8 years after a study by DoD on the feasibility of realigning the Army's aircraft maintenance missions.

In 1985, the AH-64 Apache was the newest addition to the Army's inventory. The depot had already established capability to repair the Apache engines because of the similarity to the T-700 engines CCAD had been repairing since 1984.

In June 1986, CCAD inducted its first Black Hawk helicopter. By October 1987 the aircraft was ready to return to Army Service. It was a milestone because the depot faced and overcame challenges such as new unfamiliar complexities for mechanics, missing hardware, and qualified, yet untrained, test pilots.
1990’s: Toward a New Century and Beyond

Five Decades

December 1994 - Waterjet Metal Spray Stripping System replaced three chemical stripping processes.

February 1998 - Aircraft logbooks computerized in 15 aircraft.

2000 - New whirl tower for Black Hawk, Pave Hawk and Seahawk blades transported to CCAD.

2000 - $4.4M bill to establish an Apprenticeship Program. Del Mar College cooperative education program instituted to employ skilled technicians.

2001 - 40th Birthday

2007 - CCAD won the Shingo Prize Bronze Award for the H-60 Pave Hawk Joint Depot Level Maintenance (JDLM) Program

2011 - 50 years of dedication to the Warfighter!
World’s Largest Helicopter Repair Facility

CCAD’s Strengths

- Premier helicopter repair facility in the world.
- Largest industrial employer and economic engine in South Texas.
- Profit and loss organization operated with robust Lean Six Sigma programs.
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) - First U.S. Army depot to automate shop floor.
- Highly skilled, highly trained workforce.
- Return crash damage aircraft to fully mission capable flyable status.
- Repair unserviceable turbine engines to like new condition.
- DOD Level 1, 2, and 3 Bearing Reclamation Facility.
- Additive manufacturing and new technologies, including Hot and Cold Metal Spray.
- Six high bay paint booths, supporting all U.S. Army helicopters and tri-service work.
- Largest electroplating facility in South Texas.
- Automatic 5 axis machining, shot peening, and advanced welding systems.
- Flexible Smart Transmission Test System, capable of testing any gearbox.
- Advanced composites.
- AS9110 certified facility for aerospace industry maintenance repair and overhaul.
Community Relations

Kolda Elementary School Education Partnership

Food Drives

CCAD Alumni Luncheons

Pilot For A Day

Buc Days and Independence Day Parades

Toys for Tots

Military Appreciation Nights
CCAD has become a critical asset in Army readiness since helicopters first took center stage of combat operations during the Vietnam War.

The Depot has proven its mettle in every military operation and mission it’s been called to serve.

CCAD will continue to focus on the success of the mission to support strategic readiness of the Army with speed, accuracy and quality.

CCAD remains the largest tenant organization on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi with more than 158 acres and 2.2 million sq. feet of industrial space.

Offering virtually year-round ideal weather for flight testing, the depot is DoD’s primary facility for rotary wing repair.

With a workforce of more than 3,500 and annual revenue of more than $800M, CCAD is a major employer and economic engine for the South Texas region.