



# AIRCRAFTSMAN

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2021



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U.S. ARMY



# 16th Luther G Jones Army Aviation Forum

Article by Kathleen (Kat) Pettaway-Clarke, Lead Public Affairs Specialist

Photos by Ervey Martinez and Della Adame

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas - Another indication of Texas resumption to normalcy was the Army Aviation Association of America hosting the 16th Luther G. Jones Army Aviation Depot Forum at the Solomon P. Ortiz International Center Dec. 7-8. This year's theme was "Modernizing Depot Maintenance in Sync with Army Aviation."

Retired Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, AAAA executive director, emceed the event. The last forum was held in 2019.

The forum was named after former Corpus Christi Army Depot commander and Corpus Christi mayor. Col. Luther Griffin Jones Jr. served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1939 to 1945 and the Vietnam War from 1958 to 1973; he then served as the mayor of Corpus Christi from 1979 to 1987.

During opening remarks, CCAD Commander Col. Joseph H. Parker complimented the dedication of CCAD workforce for their support of the warfighter throughout the pandemic.

"We have a great workforce, with outstanding members who perform great things daily - they are people from this community," Parker said. "We can't thank them enough. Every day CCAD has been open for business to keep the Army flying."

Attendees received updates on CCAD's current and future workforce, modernization efforts and readiness plans. Industry partners, potential partners and military elements were able to gather once again and discuss technological advancements of each organization.

Industry leaders in attendance were Bell Textron, Sikorsky, General Electric, Elevate Systems, Wichita State University, Digi-Flight, Parker Hannifin Corporation and the University of South Carolina.



## OPENING

"We have a lot of public private partnerships that allow us to work together with industry and our local educational institutions," Parker said. "By working together, CCAD produces fantastic aircraft. CCAD is an original equipment manufacturer with partnerships that transform the UH-60L to UH-60V."

In a prerecorded video message, Rep. Michael Cloud, Texas 27th Congressional District, said, "Army aviation is vital to national defense. The work at CCAD - the products and the value of the artisan's work - is being noticed on a national level."

U.S. Army Materiel Command Soldier of the Year Spec. Christian Kerkado-Colon served as an escort to Corpus Christi Mayor Paulette Guajardo. "As mayor of the city, our support for our base and their tenants will remain strong. As one of the largest

employers in our city, the relationship must also be seamless."

One out of 100 people in the Corpus Christi area is employed at CCAD. The depot has an economic impact of \$1.7 billion to the local community.

Guajardo said, "I'm very proud to report that over the last five to seven years, the City of Corpus Christi has partnered with the state of Texas for over \$11.5 million in infrastructure improvement and encroachment protection projects that help to protect our military installation."

Maj. Gen. Todd Royar, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command commanding general, delivered the keynote address.

"Processes, policies and procedures in place will ensure CCAD's viability moving into the future," he said. "That includes its organic industrial base possessing the capacity and the capability for large scale combat operations."

CCAD will take possession of a robotic blade repair machine, known as Joint Autonomous Repair Verification and Inspection System II. Blade repair time will be reduced from 30 days to less than one week.

Royar expressed the importance of protecting intellectual property and traceability for accountability purposes in modernization technologies.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Commander's Corner



Team CCAD:

As you drive on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and enter the CCAD footprint, you can see the continuation of our modernization efforts. These projects are an important part of the collaboration being implemented across the Army's OIB. The Topping Ceremony for the Dynamic Component Repair Facility, Phase 3, held last December is evidence of the commitment to a project tied directly to the plan for the Army's 23 depots, arsenals and ammunition plants.

I am CCAD. We are CCAD.

Joseph H. Parker  
Colonel, Aviation

## Three Generals Attend LGJ Aviation Forum



It was a rare event in our city - not one, or two, but three Army generals, Lieutenant General Thomas Todd, Deputy Commanding General, Acquisition and Systems Management for Army Futures Command; AMCOM Commanding General MG Todd Royar; and Program Executive Officer, Aviation, Brigadier General Robert Barrie were in attendance at the LGJ Aviation Forum.

ABOVE: (L-R) BG Robert Barrie, Program Executive Officer, Aviation; LG Todd, Deputy Commanding General, Acquisition and Systems Management for Army Futures Command; MG Todd Royar, Army Aviation and Missile Command, Commanding General.



# 2020 and 2021 Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisans of Year

Story by Della Adame, Public Affairs Specialist

Photos by Ervey Martinez



## JOSE E. ZEPEDA, JR.

The Army Aviation Association of America awarded the 2020 Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisan Award to Mr. Jose E. Zepeda, Jr.

Mr. Zepeda distinguished himself as an aircraft paint subject matter expert at Corpus Christi Army Depot.

As the result of a new standard implemented by the Occupational Safety Health Administration, CCAD was selected as the starting point for hexavalent chromium reduction for Army aviation platforms. A primary depot team was assembled, and they projected the study to take over two years to complete. Mr. Zepeda joined the aircraft platform team four months into the project, subsequently submitting over 19 engineering changes for approval and holding meetings with Army Aviation and Missile Command, engineers from the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, Defense Logistics Agency, and DLA Hazmat to

ensure CCAD alignment with the Army goals for hexavalent chromium mitigation.

He was instrumental in the depot's success at the removal and reduction of Class C Primer from all depot paint shops and six work centers, well ahead of the projected timeline. His efforts also resulted in its removal from 174 Army technical publications and set the standard for Air Force and Navy publications. The process has changed the face of Army aviation rotary wing coatings for the UH-60 Black Hawk, AH-64 Apache, and CH-47 Chinook

## LAURO MOYA, JR.

Mr. Lauro 'Larry' Moya, Jr. was named the 2021 Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisan Award recipient.

Mr. Moya distinguished himself as a Work Leader painter and subject matter expert at Corpus Christi Army Depot. He was instrumental in the planning and movement phases of the Airframes paint operation from two

locations to the new Aircraft Corrosion Control Facility (ACCF), a project eight years in the making. He took charge of twelve team members and, as a result of his technical skill and leadership, ensured the safety of personnel, protected the environment, and achieved quality of the assets during the relocation and release for production of the ACCF. He was directly responsible for the first UH-60L and UH-60V RECAP aircraft coated with the class N primer being ahead of schedule – a milestone for CCAD and the Army in the removal of heavy metals from painting operations. He ensured shut down of the old paint facility met all safety and environmental requirements.

Mr. Moya is a shining example of the talent and dedication upon which the future of the depot will rely. He is a mentor and leader, who motivates his teams, subordinates and peers through his actions and his accomplishments clearly identify him as the 2021 Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisan of the Year.



## Artisan Breakfast

Command Sergeant Major Bradford Smith, AMCOM Sergeant Major, was guest speaker during the 2021 Artisan Breakfast at the Catalina Club on Corpus Christi Naval Air Station.

CSM Smith reflected upon a previous visit from 1999 and was impressed with the continuous evolution of the depot. He emphasized how the modernization at CCAD, from the robotics to advanced manufac-

turing will need operators.

“The machines will need programmers, those machines will need an artisan who knows more about what’s going on with a component than the machine does. A machine is as smart as we tell it to be” said CSM Smith.

The CSM Smith said not be afraid of modernization or growth because of the opportunity it creates to grow and



CSM Smith coined Javier Garcia, machinist, who was preparing for retirement after 40 years of service.

learn, as well as an opportunity to share valuable experience and pass it along to future workforce members.

## Topping Off the Latest Modernization Milestone

Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) reached another milestone in modernization efforts as the last beam for Phase 3 of 8 was put in place during a Topping Ceremony Nov. 18. The milestone was reached ahead of schedule despite weather delays, COVID-19 pandemic and global supply chain issues. “I love watching construction-especially a building that we can place our artisans and people in a state-of-the-art building, with the most modern equipment and techniques and the best-trained workforce,” said CCAD Commander, Joseph Parker. Phase 3 of Bldg. 1700.3 adds 234,234 sq. ft. to the Dynamic Component Repair Facility (DCRF) and will eventually house Powertrain-Front End.



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## Hitchings Recognized by AMCOM's General Royar

AMCOM Commander, Major General Todd Royar recognized a Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) employee.

Clarence R. Hitchings, received a coin from General Royar. Hitchings was unable to attend the July 2020 presentation to key players responsible for the inaugural edition of the AMCOM policy on advanced manufactured parts for Army aircraft.

Mr. Hitchings supervises the Systems Readiness Directorates (SRD) globally-dispersed liaison engineers and was truly instrumental in developing the process through which Liaison Engineers receive and vet unit requests for additive and advanced manufactured shop aids, tools, and non-flight critical parts. His recognition for his ongoing efforts to expand the utilization of additive manufacturing across Army Aviation was overdue and truly deserving.



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## U.S. Army DEVCOM Maintenance Airworthiness Engineering Division Chief Kevin Rees Retires



Kevin Rees, Chief of the Maintenance Air Worthiness Engineering Division, retired in December after four-decades of service to the federal government. At his retirement ceremony held at the chapel on NASCC, Kevin thanked everyone at CCAD for helping him be successful. He is now looking forward to spending quality time with his family and grandchildren. We congratulate Mr. Rees on a wonderful career and thank him for his contributions to the Depot. We wish him the very best on his future endeavors.

Thank you, Kevin Rees,

for your commitment and devotion to a career in Army Aviation at DEVCOM and CCAD! You can read more about Mr. Rees' career in a story on Army.mil. Copy/paste the link into your browser:

[https://www.army.mil/article/252580/civilian\\_says\\_farewell\\_to\\_career\\_devoted\\_to\\_army\\_aviation?fbclid=I-wAR14gCol3pl6rrxG1yqxxk09SZ9Up00X4IW0qSY7nTi-XPAMmPxXtBFIDuUA](https://www.army.mil/article/252580/civilian_says_farewell_to_career_devoted_to_army_aviation?fbclid=I-wAR14gCol3pl6rrxG1yqxxk09SZ9Up00X4IW0qSY7nTi-XPAMmPxXtBFIDuUA)



(Continued from page 2  
Army Aviation Forum)

"Additive manufacturing components should be cataloged for traceability," he said. "So if a part is manufactured accurately and cataloged, we'll be able to identify whether CCAD, Rock Island [Arsenal] or elsewhere produced the part. Ideally, the label would read 'produced by Corpus Christi Army Depot.'"

"As far as working together, our industry partners help [Army aviation] to increase the product quality."

### PANEL DISCUSSIONS

In the future, CCAD will support sustainable strategic depth for the aviation enterprise. A recurring sentiment at the forum was having a unified or standard approach to the industry and Army prognostic predictive maintenance throughout the forum – in other words, have similar products that fit in all aircraft to benefit the maintainer.

Think tanks assembled to brainstorm how organizations could modernize and partner to benefit the warfighter. Collaborative opportunities with military leaders, government civilians, industry leaders and academic institutions were part of the panel discussions that mutually supported the depot's modernization plans was the key.

Some modernization topics included augmented virtual reality and digital dashboards/ digital demands; additive manufacturing and blue light technology, thermoplastics, plating and cold spray. Additional modernization topics were rapid prototyping, advanced blade repair and manufacturing innovations.

During a panel discussion, AMCOM Logistics Center Executive Director Brian Wood expanded on predictive maintenance. "It in-

volves correct data as a key point of communication, changes to on-boarding item managers, more in-depth processes for contracts and further supply engagements with partners," he said. Additive manufacturing data collection points can also be an information resource to fix aircraft, ultimately shortening maintenance periods. The 'complexity' issue is the need for all depots and partners to communicate to work better collectively, but, ultimately, the end-state is to sustain the readiness of our nation.



The CCAD commander chaired a panel discussion on the simulation training environment. The idea is to conduct training and actual work implementing virtual reality with artificial intelligence. For instance, donning safety goggles is a safety requirement. Imagine in the future completing maintenance with goggles that could provide step-by-step instructions and project aircraft schematics.

Another aspect of Army aviation modernization is the expectation of our customers. How they will think and react to the need for technological upgrades of helicopters. Customers expect quality, cost-effectiveness and timely product delivery.

Dina Halvorsen, at Lockheed Martin Sikorsky program director, said, "[In] the work we do, speed and agility are important. We've talked a lot about the manufacturing side, but from the contract process side, Defense Logistics

Agency has provided a lot of speed and agility to the job."

"Variation is what challenges us every day. So we have to find innovative ways to solve problems," said Rod Benson, CCAD chief of operations. "Sometimes variables such as funding and supply chain trade-offs set limitations."

Other panel discussions were based on CCAD's future workforce efforts towards sustainability. One idea discussed was customizing a training program that artisans can refine skills before entering the work center.

### 2020 and 2021 ARTISANS OF THE YEAR

Two CCAD artisans were awarded the AAAA Donald F. Luce Depot Maintenance Artisan of the Year: Jose E. Zepeda for 2020 and Lauro Moya, Jr. for 2021. (For the *Artisans of the Year* story go to page 4.)

This national award is presented to people who have made outstanding individual contribution to Army aviation in depot maintenance during the award period commencing July 1 to June 30.

### LOOKING FORWARD

A possibility for next year's event is to have a Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group partnership meeting as a pre-forum event.

Parker broached the possibility of involving all end-users in conversations about modernizations as part of the process of developing the technology needed in combat operations.

"During the forum we have made connections, established and reestablished contacts," Parker said. "We are moving forward together."

AAAA will host the 17th Luther G. Jones Army Aviation Depot Forum Dec. 6-7, 2022 in Corpus Christi.



## Human Capital Management Workforce Management April -September 2021

### Awards & Recognition



#### CIVILIAN SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDALS

Audrey Foust  
Luis A Garcia  
Robert Lucio  
Kevin Martin  
Jose L. Robledo  
Reynaldo G. Rodriguez  
John Smith  
William A. Anthony  
Joe Diaz  
Eric Luce  
Aaron Shephard



#### CIVILIAN SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS

Jacqueline Allen	Brandon M. Cox
Joshua Allen	Guadalupe A. Garcia
Haider Al-Shukoor	Manuel Garcia III
Louis Alvarado	Luis M. Garza
Kevin Barker	Kala Glover
Cary Christenson	Ricky G. Glover
Jeannie Clark	Mary Ann Hinojosa
Juan Cruz	Stephine T. Hinojosa
Paula De La Garza	Arlene Jimenez
Deborah Digesti	James L. Kitchens
Josilyn Flowers	Abel Lopez
Carlos Garcia	Marisa Lopez
Hector Garcia	Anthony Mann
Robert Garcia, Jr.	Jose A. Olmos
Ramijio Gonzales	Reynaldo Ortiz, Jr.
Michael Hernandez	Carlos Pagan
Barbara Mircovich	Lyndon M. Ploeger
Arnoldo J. Moreno	Ruben Rivera
Jimmie Moya	Andrew L. Saenz
Michael Paddack	Ruben Sanchez
Raheem Plazz	Jason J. Schumacher
Troy Snyder	Richard O. Serna
Guadalupe Solis	Susan Sphabmisay
Thomas Weister	Daniel J. Sudell
Jay Whitlock, Jr.	Noel C. Varela
Marty Whittington	Jamie Villanueva
Abel Acosta	David Wacker
David Ayala	Timothy C. Wallock
Robert E. III Bell	Jennifer A. Wilke
Christopher L. Brown	Jonathan Williams
Scott I. Bryant	Gabriel J. Zielinski
Brian J. Charles	



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# CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT RETIREMENTS

**April - September 2021**

**Paula de la Garza** retired on 30 April after 10 years of federal service as CCAD's occupational health nurse. Mrs. De la Garza was a contractor for a number of years prior to hiring on as a federal employee.

**Cary B. Christenson** retires as an equipment specialist with the directorate of production engineering after 40 years of dedicated service.

**Deborah J. Digesti** retired on 30 June, having dedicated 36 years to the country. She served as a supervisory maintenance systems analyst with planning & supply management.

**Robert Garcia, Jr.** worked as an aircraft mechanical parts repairer in powertrain production until his retirement on 30 June.

**Angelica Salazar** retired on 3 July 2021 after 43 years of federal service.

**David S. Ayala** retired on 31 July with 36 years of service. He worked as a composite fabricator in aircraft production.

**Ricky G. Glover** a production controller for planning & supply management, retired on 30 July after 13 years of federal service.

**Gerald W. Smith** served 16 years as a civil servant before retiring on 31 July. Mr. Smith worked as an aircraft mechanical parts worker for accessories & rotor blade.

**Ramiro Trevino** retired on 31 July, having been with the Corpus Christi Army Depot since February of 2003. He received his lean six sigma certification, black belt and a commercial master black belt, facilitating numerous lean event, kaizen and 6s events. He is also responsible for the teaching of the Department of the Army LSS curriculum, and coaching/mentoring others thru certification. Ramiro is a 20-year U.S. Army veteran.

**Francisco de los Santos, Jr.** spent 38 years serving his country before retiring on 25 September. He completed his federal career as a production machinery mechanic with the directorate of infrastructure & risk management.

**Deborah K. Villarreal** retired on 30 September with 13 years of federal service. She completed her career as a pneudraulic systems overhaul inspector with quality management. She started at CCAD 14 years ago as an L3 contractor and worked her way up to quality control inspector.





## Around the Depot

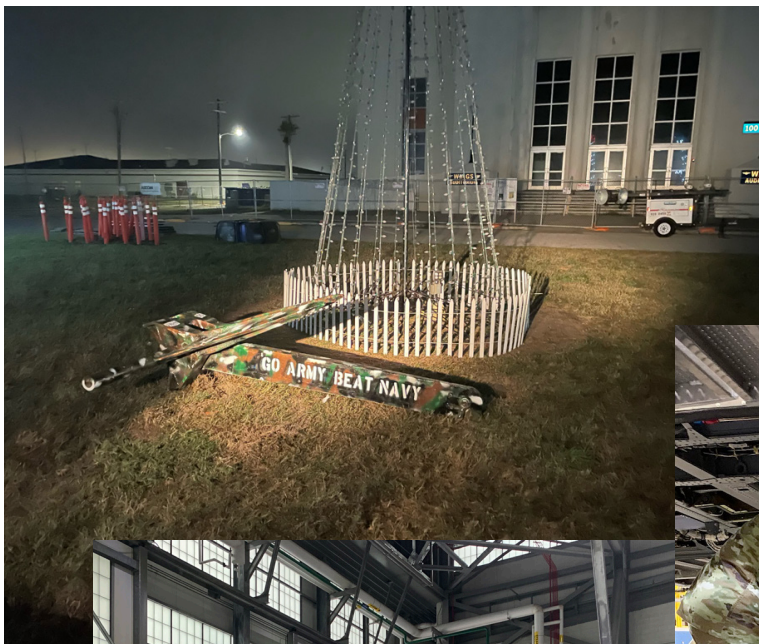


Photo (Left):  
The Army had to do some work on the foreign object debris (FOD) that was left by the Navy before kindly returning it. #ArmyVsNavy





## Awards



Patrick Maxwell,  
35 years of service



Jamie Felgenhauer,  
40 years of service



Gloria Rodriguez,  
Black Belt Award



Art Gomez,  
Civilian Service  
Achievement Medal



Black Hawk pilots and Flight Test Crew  
receive coins from CCAD Commander



Crespin Cortez, Process Improvement Specialist  
for DMPP, and Roy Hollins, DMPP Director pre-  
sented the certificates to the new Yellow belts.

Members of the Directorate of Manufacturing Process Production (DMPP) - Composite/Cowling and Machine shop received their Yellow Belt Certifications. More than 30 artisans in the shop have attended Yellow Belt Training, participated in an event and/or completed a Process Improvement Project to gain certification.



## Tours





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## SECURITY CHECK-UP: Free DISA Antivirus Software

What's our most important asset?

Our people, their family, and their information.

That's why our Information Technology Directorate spends countless hours protecting CCAD's network and computers.

Are you doing your part?

Keeping our home networks and social media accounts properly secured is a good start! Especially those teleworking.

Home network security tips:

<https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/tips/ST15-002>

DISA Home Use is being offered to government employees and defense contractors with an approved .mil email address.

Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

<https://storefront.disa.mil/kinetic/disa/service-catalog#/forms/antivirus-home-use>

Protect our Information – Think OPSEC.

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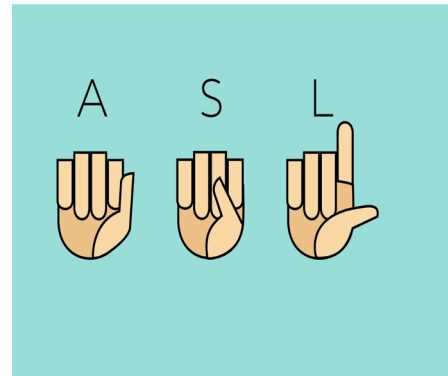
## American Sign Language (ASL) Service Now Available

Did you know that CCAD has an on-site sign language interpreter on the EEO Staff?

Beth Moss has joined CCAD to assist members of the workforce who need sign language services.

The EEO office is located in Building 1727-Room A102a. Please use the main entrance on Midway Street to enter the building.

POC: elizabeth.n.moss2.civ@army.mil



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## Protect Information and Practice OPSEC

*Article by Cynthia Flores-Wilkin, Garrison OPSEC Program Manager,  
Director of Plans, Training Mobilization and Security Operations Specialist, Fort Carson, CO*

Open-source intelligence (OSINT) is when a person uses publicly available or published sources of information, such as eavesdropping or engaging in casual conversations. Many people choose a public place such as a restaurant for a meal and can be overheard or engaged in work-related conversations where they have discussed sensitive household information.

Social engineering is tricking people into providing sensitive information or access. The most common type of social engineering is phishing. This scam uses a seemingly legitimate email where scammers trick people into installing malware or sending sensitive information.

Consider how easy it might be for an adversary to collect critical information on personal information. Ensure loved ones are protected against social engineering and understand what critical information to protect.

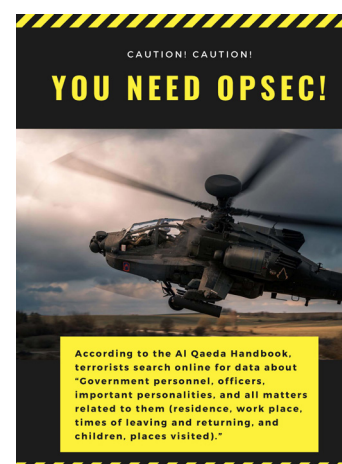
Learn how to protect critical information and keep it safe. Learn what the families' vulnerabilities are in order to protect them. Vulnerabilities can be observed in many ways, so practicing OPSEC is a good habit.

The most common vulnerabilities include:

- Use of email, social media and the internet
- Access to mail, trash and recyclables
- Predictable patterns and procedures
- Lack of awareness of threats and vulnerabilities
- Increased connectivity on unsecure devices

Use countermeasures to reduce the risk of critical information being exposed. Countermeasures reduce the likelihood that critical information will be lost. These include learning threats and vulnerabilities, using traditional security precautions such as physical, personal and cyber, and enforcing policies.

Learn and practice OPSEC to keep the household safe.





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Twitter: @CCADPAO  
LinkedIn: The Corpus Christi Army Depot

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**Commander**

SGM William Peden  
**Sergeant Major**

Mr. Rod Benson  
**Chief Operations Officer**

Ms. Marci Bischak  
**Chief Business Operations**

Mr. Tom Bamford  
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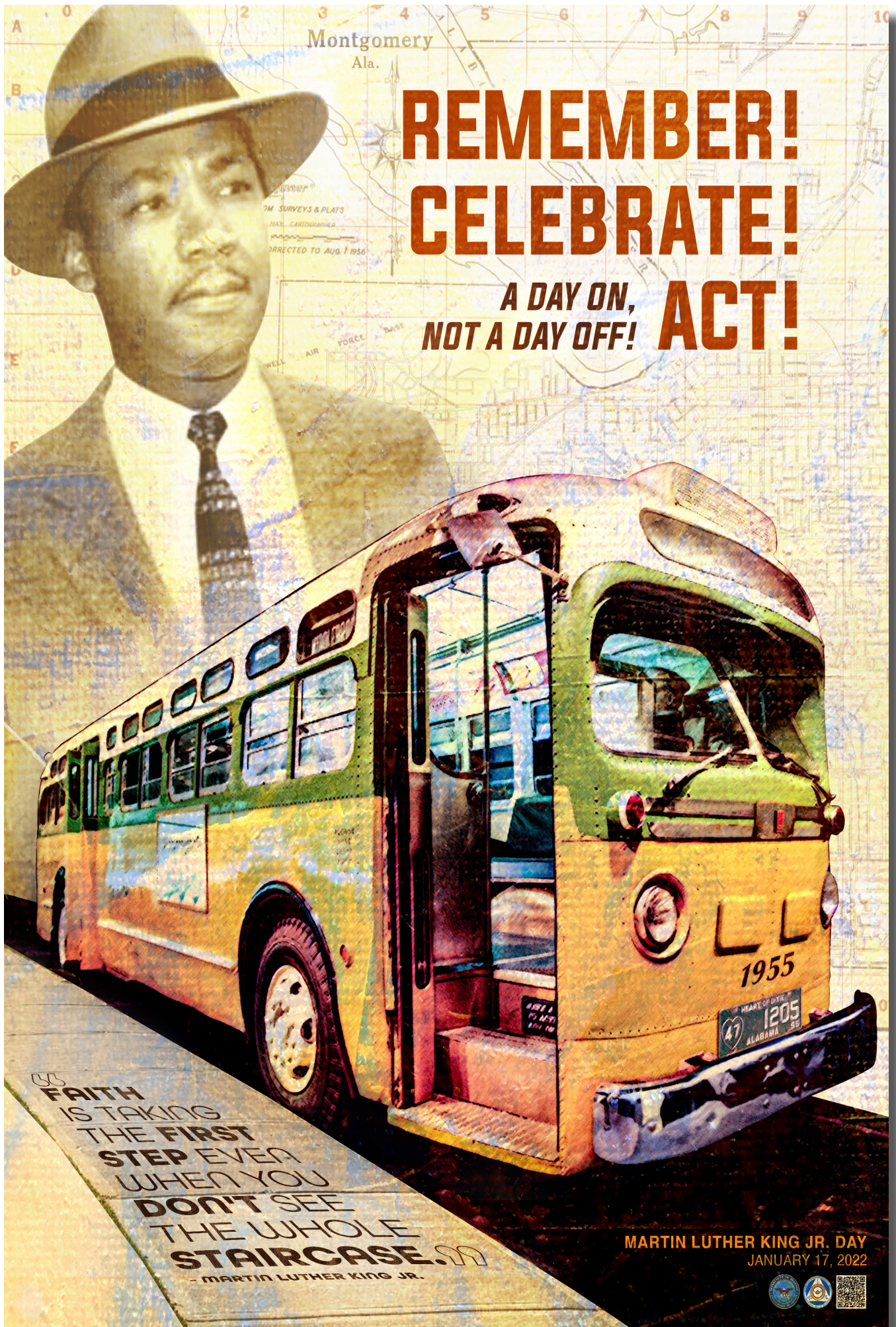
Mr. Jerry Duenes  
**Audio Visual Specialist**



It's a tradition for CCADers to wear  
RED shirts on Fridays to  
**Remember Everyone Deployed.**  
We are proud to show solidarity and support  
for all military personnel regardless of rank.  
Whether military personnel are stateside or  
stationed abroad, we salute all our Warriors.  
#TillTheyAllComeHome #REDFriday  
#RememberEveryoneDeployed

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# REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!

*A DAY ON,  
NOT A DAY OFF!*

FAITH  
IS TAKING  
THE FIRST  
STEP EVEN  
WHEN YOU  
DON'T SEE  
THE WHOLE  
STAIRCASE.

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY  
JANUARY 17, 2022

