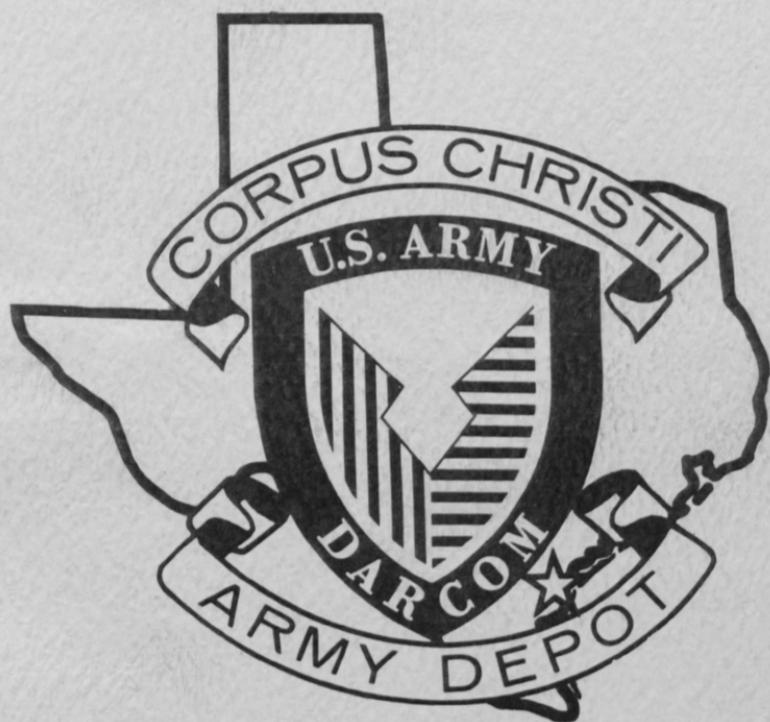


CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT



CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

16 APRIL 1977

**Dedication
of the**

First Sergeant Benito Perez

Supply Operations

and

Storage Building

16 April 1977

Ten o'clock a.m.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Posting of Colors

National Anthem

Navy Band

Invocation

Chaplain Walter Ebarb, USN

Introduction of Dignitaries

LTC Thomas M. Harper

Biographical Sketch of First Sergeant
Benito Perez (English and Spanish)

LTC Harper
SGM C. L. Kemple

Building Memorialization

COL Francis J. Toner

Unveiling of Plaque and Portrait

Mrs. Lucia Perez

First Sergeant Benito Perez Supply
Operations and Storage Building -
Inception through Completion

COL Robert Dillard

Benediction

Chaplain Ebarb

Retire Colors

Tour of Building

CPT Randolph F. Crone



Benito Perez was born in Corpus Christi. He attended schools here, among them Roy Miller High School. He enlisted in the US Army when he was 17 and finished high school in the service.

By the time he was 21, Benito Perez was a Sergeant First Class. He was appointed Platoon Sergeant in 1962 while serving at Fort Carson, Colorado. Three years later, he was a First Sergeant - serving in Hawaii. From there, he volunteered for duty in Vietnam, where he met his death on the battlefield.

Among his numerous awards and decorations, First Sergeant Perez held the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with "V" device (awarded posthumously), and the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge. For gallantry in action on 2 August 1966, against a numerically superior force, First Sergeant Benito Perez was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

In July of 1961, Corpus Christi Army Depot began its operation with a program of three engines and four airframes. Since that time the depot has become a leader in Army repair, overhaul and maintenance of helicopters, with a projected overhaul program for FY 77 of 486 aircraft. The depot is under the command of the US Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command, Washington, D.C.

Including outside storage area, the depot occupies 108 acres leased from the Naval Air Station. With nearly 1 million square feet of maintenance shops in five hangars, and a fully automated 340,000 square foot storage and retrieval system, it boasts nearly 2 million square feet of inside working space.

From basic cleaning to sheetmetal fabrication, from precision tool and die works to plexiglass, the highly specialized shops within the depot are too numerous to mention individually. However, one that deserves special attention is the engine test cell area. Currently undergoing a \$12 million modernization program, to be completed this month, the test cells will be able to provide "cradle to grave" engine care for every type of helicopter engine now in use or on the drawing board.

CCAD has its own laboratory with four distinct concerns: chemical, metallurgical, spectrographic, and metrological. With the newest and best equipment available, analyses are performed in spectrographic oil analysis, calibration, maintenance engineering, and failure analysis not only on helicopters, but also on tanks, trucks, and other large equipment.

The depot's Bearing Facility, the most modern of its kind in the Department of Defense, examines every bearing used in helicopters repaired at the depot. Using precision investigative equipment, the Bearing Facility insures that each bearing placed in a depot-repaired helicopter meets rigorous standards of quality.

Current depot programs include the UH-1 "Huey" series used by troop lift, medical evacuation, and cargo; the AH-1G "Huey Cobra", two-man gun ship; the OH-58A "Kiowa" and the OH-6, observation and reconnaissance; and some parts for the CH-47 "Chinook", the large troop lift, recovery ship, and heavy cargo carrier.

With approximately 3,500 civilian employees, Corpus Christi Army Depot is the largest employer in South Texas, playing a vital role in the economic and social life of the community.



In 1974 construction began on a building which would consolidate the 14 separated areas of Supply scattered throughout the depot. The result is the First Sergeant Benito Perez Supply Operations and Storage Building which now houses all supply activities in 160,000 square feet of environmentally controlled space.

Built with entries at dock height, the one-story building has 25-foot ceilings and a high tier storage area of approximately 57,000 square feet.

The new supply building will be instrumental in the effective fulfillment of the directorate's primary mission of providing repair parts support to the depot's aircraft overhaul program.