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Camcar Aerospace Founded on an Engineered Fastening Solution for a World War II Heavy Bomber

ROCKFORD, III. (March 25, 2008) – Camcar® Aerospace, a new operation devoted to researching, designing and producing value-added fastening solutions for advanced materials used in 21st Century aircraft, is built on the broad shoulders of the Consolidated Aircraft B-24 Liberator heavy bomber that helped lead the Allies to victory in World War II.

Introduced in 1943, the B-24 Liberator experienced rudder control problems, grounding hundreds of the 32-ton aircraft while frustrated military brass searched for a solution. Three ambitious young engineers got wind of the dilemma and were confident they had the answer.

They pooled \$16,000, bought a 40-year-old heading machine, rented space in a corner of a factory in Rockford, Ill., and went to work fabricating a part that others said couldn't be made. The cold-headed rudder control cable terminal they developed got the Liberators back in the air, and by the end of the war in 1945 18,000 of the big bombers had been produced.

During the next four decades, Camcar (derived from the first syllables of the surnames of company founders Bob Campbell and Ray Carlson) supplied threaded fasteners to many of the world's largest aircraft producers and their principal suppliers. Camcar bolts were used extensively on Pratt & Whitney engines and NASA's Lunar Rover Vehicles that explored the moon's surface during the 1970s.

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In 1983, Camcar departed the aerospace business to concentrate on global automotive, industrial and electronic markets. Acument's decision to bring the Camcar brand back to the aerospace industry through Camcar Aerospace is the direct result of a critical shortfall in worldwide production capacity of threaded fasteners for aircraft and component assembly.

Camcar Aerospace marks a new chapter in Rockford's long history as a center for aerospace systems and technology. Some 90 firms in the region are either aerospace-qualified or have the equipment and capability to supply the industry. Together they comprise an established network of critical supply chain partners for commercial and military aircraft.

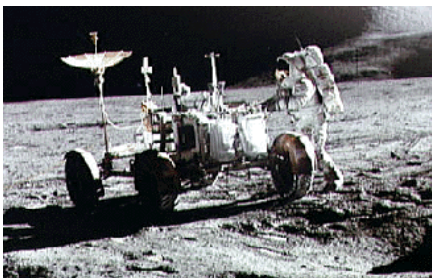
Camcar Aerospace will outsource heat treating and plating processes to local firms, and will assist other area companies in becoming qualified aerospace suppliers.

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Consolidated Aircraft B-24 Liberator Bomber

The cold-headed rudder control cable terminal Bob Campbell and Ray Carlson produced got the B-24 Liberator flying again and led to the formation of Camcar Products Co.



NASA Lunar Rover Vehicle – Apollo 15 Mission

During the 1970s, Camcar produced aerospace fasteners used in the assembly of the NASA Lunar Rover Vehicles that explored the surface of the moon on Apollo missions 15–17.

(Photo permission of NASA)



TORX PLUS® Flat Head Aerospace Machine Screw

Built on a 65-year heritage of fastening solutions for thousands of customers, Camcar Aerospace reenters the business with a line of high-strength, heat-resistant A286 stainless steel threaded fasteners for use in hundreds of different applications in modern aircraft assembly and maintenance, repair and overhaul processes.

Note to Editors: Download 300 dpi versions of the photos shown here from the Acument newsroom:

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