



Case Study



Pope AFB improves accountability and organization while efficiently storing test equipment and tools

Pope Air Force Base, located in the middle of Fort Bragg Army Base in Fayetteville, North Carolina, continually struggles with limited space and uses mobile systems in more than ten areas on the base. The 75th Fighter Squadron's maintenance support operation moved into a new building but was utilizing old storage equipment relocated from base closings and was faced with a space and organization predicament. They, too, introduced Spacesaver shelving and a mobile system into their operation and discovered the positive results.

The 75th Fighter Squadron's maintenance support operation uses Spacesaver shelving in their service counter area and a mobile system for storing tools, parts and manuals.

The local Spacesaver representative, **Dick Willard** of Carolina Spacesaver Systems, worked with the squadron to solve its efficiency and organization problems and supplied a mechanical assist mobile system and a custom designed counter area.



Every item is tracked and accounted for.

Technical Sergeant Tucker-Thurman in charge of the maintenance support area explained the predicament. "The 75th Fighter Squadron provides support and airlift for Fort Bragg.

Our area maintains control and security of more than three million dollars of test equipment and tools for the flight-line maintenance crew that works on the A-10s, C130s and weapons. It is critical

that we are organized and can issue items quickly."

"Safety of the pilots is our greatest concern. That is why it is important for us to account for every item at all times and to provide quick response," explained Technical Sergeant Tucker-Thurman. "The mobile system has allowed us to maintain control and present a sharp image."

Previously, the walls were lined with file and storage cabinets and the crowded floor space caused tripping hazards. It was difficult to locate things and, more importantly, difficult to account for tools and equipment.

The maintenance operation runs a strict policy to track every item issued to

technicians, including the smallest screw. If tools or hardware are discovered missing, an aircraft can be grounded due to possible



The mobile system replaced dozens of cabinets and keeps the maintenance operation highly organized and efficient.

operational hazards. In this case, first a visual inspection of the support area is done and then a flight-line search. This process can be detrimental to the operation and very costly. The increased organization in the area has helped to improve accountability and speed the retrieval of misplaced items.

Tools and equipment are stored both in a mobile system and under custom-designed counters.

The front service area (see photos on front side) was designed with a counter that helps the staff maintain security in the supply area and is used to issue equipment. There is also a central counter that is utilized for inspecting and logging all incoming and outgoing equipment and tools. Beneath the countertop, divided shelf space stores specialists' toolboxes and drawers contain cords and headsets. Open space

below is used to stow-away large wheeled tool chests.

The mobile system, located in an adjacent room, stores aircraft and weapons replacement parts, test equipment, protective covers, and new tools. Back-to-back shelving was designed into the first stationary unit for convenience in storing and locating maintenance literature. The front side stores manuals, trouble-shooting guides and checklists. The back side stores replacement book parts and office supplies.

Tucker-Thurman said that the Spacesaver mobile system provided them flexibility in design and allowed them to accommo-

date all of their test equipment from small hand-held items to very large, heavy items. It keeps the floor area clear and easy to move around and, in the case of deployment, it makes pack-out into a container very easy.

Because the system stores more in less space, it allows them to store back-up equipment and provide a designated space for each aircraft so that "everything has a place, and there is a place for everything." The system's locking feature provides additional security to protect costly test equipment.

Because the mobile system keeps everything organized, it accommodates easy staff rotations. The maintenance supply operation is open every day and staff is rotated in and out three times during its 24-hour operation. In addition, troop assignments to the area are typically brief and the improved storage situation makes it easy to train and orientate new people and minimizes errors.

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"People have been so impressed that other squadrons are taking VIPs through the area. During a recent tour, a general commented that he had never seen such a nice support section." •



A combination of drawers and open shelving provides flexibility to store small parts and large equipment.

