

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## Army Reserve Unit in Georgia Modernizing for Better Storage and Mobilization

### CHALLENGE

For as long as it had existed, an Army Reserve Unit in Georgia stored hundreds of parachutes in cardboard boxes. Those boxes sat on skids; some were loaded onto pallet racking. This presented a number of challenges. Being stored in boxes sometimes led to crumpling and possible damage during loading/unloading.

The boxes were also relatively small and did not allow for any type of security measure to safeguard the parachutes inside. Additionally, the poorly designed pallet racking occupied too much floor space.

### SOLUTION

Patterson Pope Sales Representative Bob Tyler has extensive experience working with military bases. After touring this facility and talking with the CW2, plans were devised to open up the storage area. The pallet racking was removed. It was replaced with 48 Parachute Storage Containers. Constructed of high-quality steel, they could each hold 42 T-11 parachutes and be stacked three high.

The containers' four-sided cage design includes a padlock hasp to allow the parachutes to be protected and secured. These cages also boast built-in bases offering easy access by forklift from any side when transportation is required.

They can easily be lifted and loaded onto trucks for their journey to the nearby airport. From there, they are distributed to various military units around the world.

Each of the containers features heavy-duty perforated panels, which increase visibility and ventilation. With factory-installed number plates on each container, inventory assessments, pack dates and parachute tracking processes have become much easier.

In addition, four sections of cantilever shelving were installed in the Reserve Unit to accommodate parachutes that remain on site.



By purchasing these containers, this unit has also increased the number of chutes that can be transported around the country on their trucks.

## ACHIEVEMENT

*"There were a lot of benefits of going this way," said Tyler. "We improved their operation significantly, especially from a logistical standpoint." The Spacesaver containers offer 35 percent more capacity; they're also easier to load and unload. By purchasing these containers, this unit has also increased the number of chutes that can be transported around the country on their trucks. When they receive an order to transport the packed chutes, they pull the containers down, secure the panels with heavy-duty padlocks and load the truck. Inventory assessments, keeping track of pack dates and tracking the chutes throughout their network is also easier thanks to number plates added to each container.*

*"A lot of the work we do with the military comes from word-of-mouth and past experiences," added Tyler. "There's an inordinate amount of churn on the bases. They call it Permanent Change of Station, or 'PCS.' When our servicemen and women PCS to a new base, they'll often call us up and ask us to come replicate a project we've done elsewhere, or they'll ask us to look at a new application. We're happy to help."*

Knowing that we, in some small way, help the U.S. Military perform its heroic duties around the world on a daily basis is a pretty awesome feeling. At Patterson Pope, it's the kind of "stuff" that drives us.

