

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Air Force Base Para-Rigging Unit

Military Para-rigging Unit Jumps into New Storage Solution

CHALLENGE

Even with 3,500 square feet of storage space across two buildings, a U.S. military para-rigging unit found itself strapped for adequate shelving. Already tight with existing gear, the addition of 250 new RA-1 parachutes taxed the available footprint beyond what was deemed safe – or allowable – by military brass. What’s more, the four “mobility tables” used to fold and pack hundreds of chutes every month were showing signs of age, including splinters and cracks that could far too easily snag parachute materials, leading to tears and other unacceptable damage.

SOLUTION

Something old, something new! The mobility tables were replaced with four brand new worktables, each featuring 40-foot long solid-surface tops. Reinforced and treated for long-lasting effect, they were sealed to help prevent the development of flaws down the road. Underneath each, open areas allow for the storage of 88 popped chutes per table. In addition, the military unit’s own Aircrew Flight Equipment Flight Chief contributed to the design of a new double-sided parachute storage cart with the capacity the carry 20 packed chutes, each measuring 2½ feet tall and 1½ feet wide. Also, a new product called the ProPac Rack™ was created to help soldiers easily pack chutes while those chutes while standing.

ACHIEVEMENT

A total of eight individuals help fold and pack as many as 400 parachutes every quarter for the unit’s operators. Now able to safely do so without fear of damaging the expensive equipment, it’s a job done with pride. What’s more, the additional space and new parachute carts help the team separate the unit’s packed chutes from its popped chutes and safely and quickly move them from the para-rigging area to waiting trucks for deployment. The increased efficiency leads to smoother operation, faster turnover and more cohesive systems.



“The assistance we received – and the final result – has been phenomenal.”

Aircrew Flight Equipment Flight Chief
Para-rigging Unit