

# Modern Parachute Storage Helps a Southeast Airborne Unit Improve Safety, Flow, and Readiness

## CHALLENGE

At an airborne training unit in the Southeast United States, the primary parachute storage facility was struggling to keep pace with operational demands. In a 140-by-65-foot space, both T-11 main chutes and reserve chutes were stored in wire cages stacked up to four high.

Years of daily use had taken their toll. Bent metal edges snagged parachute fabric, creating tear risks that no one could afford to ignore. Accessing the gear was equally challenging. Because the wire cages had to be moved by forklift, retrieving a single basket meant rearranging several others – a time-consuming process that slowed staging and created bottlenecks during training cycles.

Rotation tags were difficult to read due to inconsistent stacking and cage orientation, making it harder to maintain proper chute cycling. As the pace of training increased and new soldiers rotated through, the margin for error grew thinner. The facility needed a safer, more organized system that could protect the chutes, support high-tempo drop schedules, and reduce the risk of damage or mismanagement.

## SOLUTION

Recognizing the stakes, the unit partnered with Patterson Pope to develop a fully modernized approach to parachute storage, one designed for safety, efficiency, and mobility. At the heart of the upgrade was a rugged, lockable steel Parachute Container, constructed from heavy welded steel with perforated sides for ventilation and visibility. Each container was engineered to hold up to 42 main chutes or 150 reserves, with a smooth, snag-free interior that protected sensitive canopy material.

Dozens of these containers were placed on a powered ActivRAC® Industrial High-Density Mobile Storage System, complete with built-in safety features and wide forklift access aisles. With the push of a button, operators could open a rack and retrieve the exact container they needed. Designed for seamless transport, the containers could then be loaded directly onto flatbed trucks, strapped down securely, and moved to aircraft or training drop zones with minimal handling, creating a straight path from shelf to sky.

“It may seem like a simple thing,” said one logistics officer, “but it really is thrilling to see the way technology and a bit of innovative thinking can change an area. It’s made a big difference for me and for everyone who accesses this area. We love it.”



## ACHIEVEMENT

The transformation addressed every major pain point. The facility now stores 20,000 main chutes and 15,000-18,000 reserves without overcrowding or excessive shuffling. Staff can locate, retrieve, and rotate chutes quickly and with far less risk of damage.

Training schedules stay on track. Inventory moves faster. Drop preparation takes fewer personnel and less time. And the entire space now supports a cleaner, safer, more disciplined workflow. "Having been here since 2000, and seeing the way it was before, I'm really amazed by the transformation," the officer added.

From improved visibility to simplified transport, the new system strengthened readiness and reduced operational strain. Everyone from seasoned riggers to new recruits can work more efficiently in a space built for both safety and speed.

***"I'm amazed by the transformation."***



## ABOUT PATTERSON POPE

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