

# **USAF - RED SUPPORT - HOW WE WORK TOGETHER**

The United States Air Force (USAF) is a long-standing customer of Polstore. Together, we support the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath with their storage challenges at base and on deployment. In this case study we take a closer look at the storage solutions we have provided the 494th Fighter Squadron – "Red Support" team.

## MOBILE & STATIC STORAGE BAYS

Organisation is power. In large industrial units, like the one occupied by Red Support Section, mobile shelving bays help to divide up the floor space into designated areas for certain types of equipment and kit required for the maintenance of the fighter jets. The mobile compactor bays of racking create zones and increase storage volume with the elimination of the aisle space and vertical storage heights achieved. These zones help to maintain order as well as the clear access space for moving equipment around the unit and ultimately out onto flightline.

For Red Support, we have installed pallet racking and longspan shelving supported on mobile bases increasing their floor space capacity by over 60%. Each bay is fitted with height adjustable beams with steel panels and wood infills which can be height configured to suit the equipment being stored such as Peli cases, aircraft parts and covers. The shelves are built for heavy use and load capacity can reach up to 1200kg per storage level.

## DRAWER STORAGE CABINETS

Static storage cabinets are floor standing, utilised within the racking bays and fitted under worksurfaces creating store issuing counters. Polstore cabinets are NATO approved for use by the Armed Forces. Even with 40 years heavy use, Polstore cabinets continue to be in active use in engineering workshops, which is why Polstore has a trusted reputation within the military sector.

Storage cabinets are manufactured from high quality steel and are of a fully welded construction, purposely designed for heavy use in demanding environments. We do not use pop rivets or clip systems which avoids distortion or twist under load. Finished in the Squadron colours we prime and paint inside and out ensuring a non-corrosive coating.

All drawer cabinets are covered by our 10-year warranty and as an added confidence boost all our drawer slides and guide rails are covered by a Lifetime Warranty.







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## FLIGHT LINE MOBILE TOOL BOXES

Another use of our tool cabinets is transporting a tool maintenance kit from the stores out to flight line to work on the fighter jets. The challenge is to support continuous daily use, to overcome the elements as they are wheeled 100's of metres on to flightline and to have a strong element of inventory and quick access selection for the user. To do this Polstore converts a standard tool cabinet into a solid, robust, FOD free tool box ready for action. With the addition of a stainless steel support frame and push / pull handles, external vertical lock bar, upgraded swivel/braked wheel sets, a ladder holding area, routed tool foam inserts to organise the inventory and a padded PVC cover with embroidered ID numbers and Squadron logo all requirements are fulfilled.

## MAXI FLIGHT BOXES

When working outside of the unit, onsite with aircraft, Red Support utilise Maxi Flight Boxes which USAF commissioned from Polstore. The Maxi Flight Box is a heavy-duty mobility trolley which can house fully equipped toolboxes with drawers and routed tool foams. Like the drawer storage in the unit, the Maxi Flight Box uses different configurations to match the needs of the tools and assets being stored, with or without foam shadow boards. The worksurface is 2mm thick stainless steel, folded with polished edges.

A custom chassis base with tow hook supports the tool cabinets with heavy duty axles fixing to wheels with run flat tyres on re-enforced rims which removes the need for a spare wheel and saves time and costs from changing tyres as a result of a puncture.

In total, USAF commissioned a number of Maxi Flight Boxes so identification is key. Like all storage solutions supplied to Red Support, their Maxi Flight Boxes are now powder coated and finished in non-corrosive red paint. Weather proof padded covers protecting the boxes from the elements are also personalised with an ID number and embroidered 'Black Panther' patch. They are manufactured from heavy duty red PVC material with 5mm padding. A heavy duty rubber mat is sewn into the top as added protection. Additional tie down straps and Velcro are also added.

Red Support have marked out bays for each Maxi Flight Boxes to easily identify which one is in use onsite, and of course be alerted if a toolbox is missing. With a hand brake and disc brake system they are securely and safely parked ready for action.

## EXCEPTIONAL STORAGE SOLUTIONS FOR THE MILITARY

We've been providing high end military storage and tool solutions for the armed forces since 1964. We understand your needs and recognise the storage challenges you face. Polstore can help you create efficiency, reduce waste, lower overheads, improve attitude and motivate military personnel within the workplace.



# ORGANISATION IS POWER

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# MILITARY STORAGE SPECIALISTS SINCE 1964

Since 1964 Polstore has been providing high end military storage & tool solutions helping Armed forces prepare for the way ahead. Whether it be land, air or sea our aim is to create efficiency, reduce waste, lower overheads, improve attitude and motivate military personnel within the workplace.

- · CONTAINER CONVERSIONS
- MOBILE TOOLBOXES
- WAREHOUSE FIT OUTS
- CUSTOM FOAM INSERTS
- STORAGE CUPBOARDS
- WEAPONS STORAGE
- STEEL MESH CAGES
- SHELVING & RACKING
- TRAILERS & TROLLEYS
- · COVERS/ BAGS
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