



Photo by Brian H. Temple

Welcome to Logistics ARENA

Story by Andrew Stamer

There have been many engineering successes with building great, ostentatious projects. From the Panama Canal to the Roman Coliseum, engineers have designed, and constructed, buildings that leave an impression.

One warehouse at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, may not be a super dome enclosing a sports arena, but its capacity can hold several football fields; a site many of the customers consider impressive.

The Logistics Readiness Warehouse, however, is not used for off-season training.

Here it is all about logistics – getting needed equipment to where it needs to be in a fast and

efficient way with one goal – supporting the Warfighter.

“It (the Logistics Readiness Warehouse) will improve our readiness. One of the key factors in the construction of this facility was that it gave us the ability to merge our operations from at least four different facilities into one,” said Air Force Maj. Todd Cheney, commander, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

In the past, these operations were done in separate buildings and in separate areas of the base.

But a few year’s ago, the Air Force transformed the logistics operations. The three separate squadrons: transportation, supply and logistics/plans, were all merged into one squadron,

but they still maintained separate facilities at Incirlik until the Logistics Readiness Warehouse was built, he said.

“This is a great step for our squadron locally to really merge,” said Cheney.

The merger of the squadron into one centrally located building to perform all the functions may also save money.

“We don’t have to track parts all over the base anymore,” said Senior Master Sgt. Gary Hamm, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron. “It is cost savings, it is man-hour savings, and it is saving costs on vehicles because we put less miles on vehicles.”

When the squadron’s leadership changed, they brought

new ideas they felt were essential to their operation, which directly affected the building's original design. And, it was the Corps' mission to give the new customers a building that would accommodate their needs.

"When the project began there was a whole different chain of command in place; a whole different set of people who were going to be the users," said Capt. Tyler Faulk, The United States Engineer Group (TUSEG).

Halfway through the construction of the Base Supply Warehouse, these new leaders came in and took ownership of the facility that was to be theirs.

"They identified things that the other guys didn't see, or wasn't an issue to them," said Faulk. But this challenge presented itself as an opportunity for the Corps to show its flexibility.

"The Corps has been very good and flexible with us," said Cheney. One of the things squadron leadership did when they first arrived at Incirlik was to check out how this building was going to meet their needs.

It was important to the new leadership to know what changing bits and pieces of the design late in the game would do. Cheney said they were concerned about cost overrides, but

they engineers did a lot to make these changes work.

To get the warehouse built and in working order it took cooperation from the customer and the Corps of Engineers. The team had to

work together to find options that would deliver the quality and functionality that are expected out of TUSEG office.

And so began modifications from the original conception of the building.

Hamm brought in storage experts from the Air

Right: Contractors prepare the future site of the Logistics Readiness Warehouse by tearing up concrete.

Opposite: The new Logistics Readiness Warehouse houses four logistical functions that were once in separate buildings and is as large as two and a half Sam's Clubs.



U.S. Army photo

Force Materiel Command to help with a new design and worked to get it to TUSEG engineers.

"We asked the Corps if they could flex to move these shelves around for us to better meet our mission; they adjusted quite a bit for us," said Cheney.

But it was the customer's active involvement to help find a solution that made it possible for the Corps to help fit the squadron's needs in a timely manner.

"Two weeks later, I came in and the racks were all moved," said Hamm.

Operationally, the new warehouse is now sound and the squadron's primary storage space has doubled with the new building, said Cheney. This building houses customer service, individual equipment, storage and issue, receiving, and equipment management operations, using the space to its full potential.

Cheney was also impressed by the entire engineering team, which included team members from the Corps and USAFE, because they explained a lot of the technical aspects of the engineering that the squadron leaders didn't know about.

Hamm was impressed by the Corps' responsiveness to the squadron's needs.

While the warehouse is not the first of its kind, it is one, if not the largest throughout U.S. Air Force Europe.



U.S. Army photo

Francisco "Cisco" Colon, construction quality assurance representative, Europe District, climbs the Logistics Readiness Warehouse's ladder for roof access.