

CASE STUDY: Western Pacific's Work Platform supports U.S. military's unique storage solution designed by McMurray Stern

The U.S. military has storage containers in which they keep weapons, all manner of munitions, equipment and supplies at the ready. The special containers can be loaded onto a ship, plane or truck to immediately support troops practically at a minute's notice.

They're completely stocked according to individual battalions and each battalion's specific needs.

Rather than having the containers stacked on top of each other, the military wanted to be able to service the top one without having to take it down with a fork-lift.

So, they came to design-build specialty contractor McMurray Stern to solve the problem of creating a work platform from which containers could be reached by stairs and a cat-walk system. Randy Hacker, Senior Design

Consultant at McMurray Stern explained, "The armed forces wanted to more easily service and refresh the containers to keep them ready to go at all times."

Randy continued, "The military had a platform and container system already in existence in another portion of the country where it is not seismically active. Therefore, the pre-existing platform was not nearly as robust as the work platform needed in an area where earthquakes are frequent." This is another reason why the military turned to McMurray Stern—they service Central and Southern California and are recognized as being a comprehensive service provider with the ability to deliver turn-key storage solutions.

"To engineer such a structure in earthquake country that could be compatible with containers from other parts of

the country required some engineering ingenuity." Senior Designer Randy further explained. So, McMurray Stern chose to collaborate with Western Pacific Storage Solutions and their Industrial Structures' work platforms. Randy said he enjoys working with the



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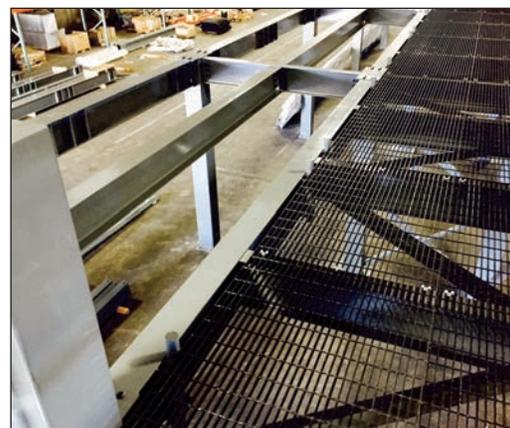
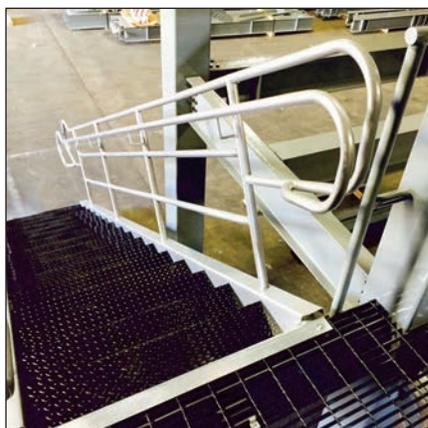
Western Pacific team because they are easy to work with and responsive. He knew this challenging project would require plenty of responsiveness.

Randy described the project's major hurdle to overcome, "The military's fork lifts had a specific length of reach, giving us only about 4" of space between the beam above it and the container. This was a most difficult feature of the customer's requirement. But Western Pacific's VP of Engineering, Mike Guerrero and his team, worked with us to develop an impressive solution."

WPSS Industrial Structures' work platforms (mezzanines) have withstood the 1990 San Francisco earthquake (7.1 on the Richter scale) and the 1994 Northridge earthquake (6.8 on the Richter scale) without failure. Their Rigid Frames maintain a right angle between the column and beam, therefore minimizing the effect of impact loads, seismic loads, and accidental overloads, by transferring excessive loads to beam and other columns in a multi-span environment.

Owner Linda Stern shared, "We've installed four out of the six structures ordered by the military—the other two systems will be going in soon. Because the customer has expressed their happiness with their newly found ease of use and greater efficiency in terms of getting into and out of these storage containers, McMurray Stern has been hired and we are now working on an out-of-door structure."

Western Pacific's Regional Sales Manager Bill Whitehouse commented, "Working with Linda, Randy and everyone at McMurray Stern to solve the military's storage requirements, was a fascinating and engaging process. Their fully integrated design-build process ensures projects are well managed from concept to execution."



We welcome your inquiries.
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