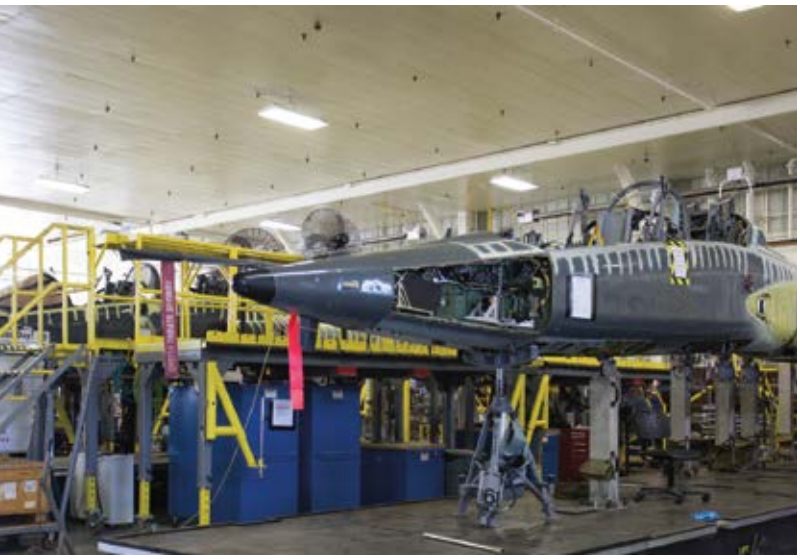
Improving efficiency in an aircraft MRO operation



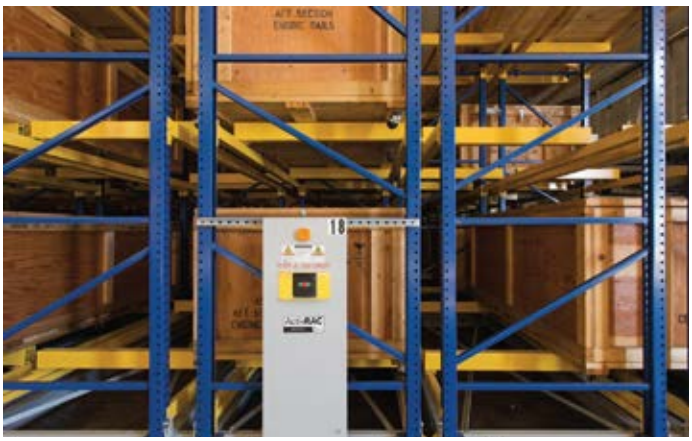
THE PROBELM: CROWDED CRATES

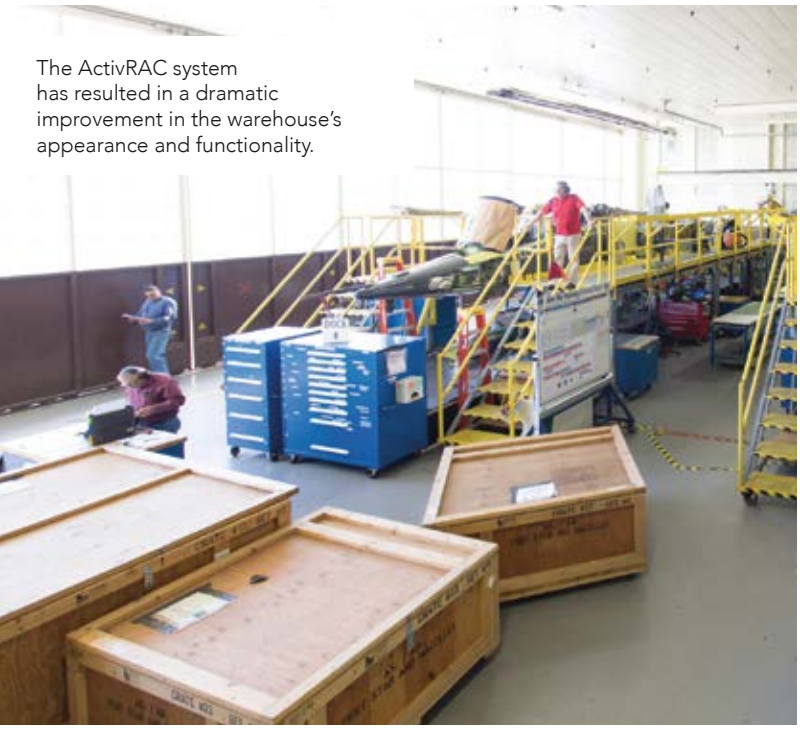
A U.S. Air Force base is home to a modification program for an aircraft that has been in service for more than 50 years. The modifications are intended to extend the aircraft's service life until 2029, and the facility supports the modification process by storing and providing access to numerous wooden crates filled with expensive parts. The parts are stored in 360 crates that are divided into 15 sets of 24, with each set being assigned to each aircraft. The crew needs to move an average of 18 crates into and out of the storage area each week to support the production line.

Problems began to arise when the storage area became filled with crates that were difficult to find and retrieve. If a crate was stacked in the back of a set, three people with forklifts needed 45 minutes or more to move crates around to retrieve the needed crate. This labor-intensive retrieval system consumed 42 man-hours per week and extended the program's production schedule as facilities waited for delivery of the required crates.

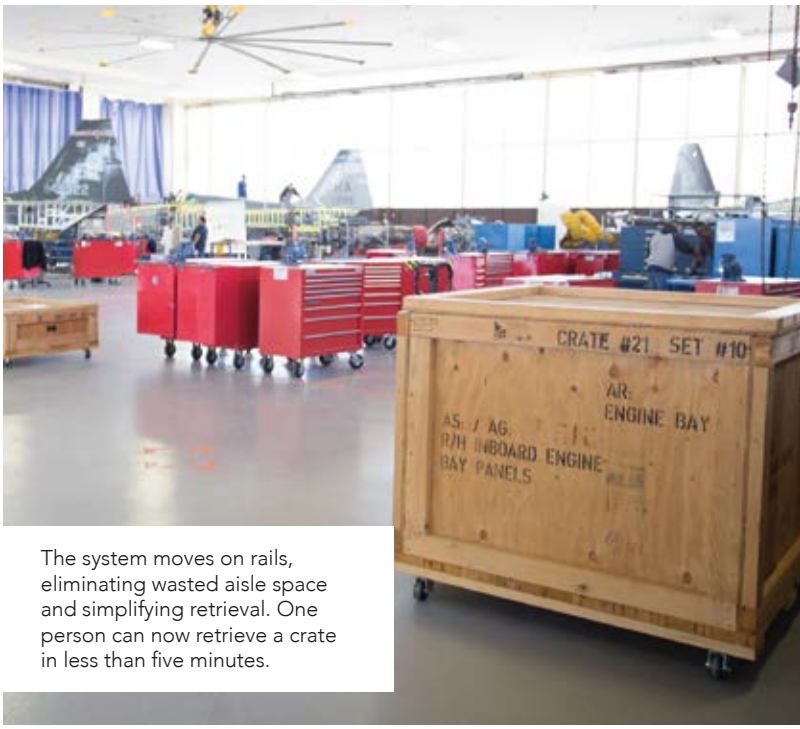
THE SOLUTION: MOBILE PALLET RACKING

In order to save time, save space, and improve efficiency, a Spacesaver ActivRAC 16 storage system was installed in the storage area. The system consists of 13 carriages fitted with 14' tall three-tiered shelf racks. Each carriage is 9' wide and 47' long, holding between 20-30 crates and bearing up to 39,000 pounds. The system moves on rails, eliminating wasted aisle space and simplifying retrieval. One person can now retrieve a crate in less than five minutes.





The ActivRAC system has resulted in a dramatic improvement in the warehouse's appearance and functionality.



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THE RESULT: SAVING TIME AND MONEY

The ActivRAC system has resulted in a dramatic improvement in the warehouse's appearance and functionality.

According to an Air Force article about the project, "The new system has reduced labor hours 97 percent and is projected to save almost $40,000 per year. Additionally, the system decreased the storage footprint by approximately 5,700 square feet, netting more savings and benefi ts. Most important is the immediate benefi t of just-in-time delivery of crates to production facilities."

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