



# Military Solutions

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## Operations Compound

Al Taqaddum, Iraq



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- USMC Operations Officer Major James Washburn

## Background

Soaring temperatures, oceans of sand as far as the eye can see and quicksilver sandstorms typify life in the average Middle Eastern desert. Under combat conditions, time is precious. In the Middle East, not only was the U.S. Marine Corps fighting the clock, but also the difficult climate. When the need was established to better outfit U.S. military vehicles to protect our soldiers in Iraq, the U.S. Marine Corps needed buildings fast to support these operations.

Universal Fabric Structures partnered with Futron Corp. of Bethesda MD to deliver the solution, a climate controlled operations compound for the Marines. Building structures in the desert to handle transitional operations requires a different approach than bricks and mortar buildings erected on home soil.



The Marines needed modern facilities-equipped with climate control devices and able to withstand the diversity of weather conditions notorious in the open desert- and they needed them quickly to retrofit military vehicles already at the site.

## Scope of Work

Two 21.9 M x 35 M TFS structures from universal Fabric Structures, Quakertown, PA.



### **Solution**

Two TFS structures were shipped to Al Taqaddum Iraq, which is 74 kilometers west of Baghdad. The compound is the site of an abandoned Iraqi Air Force Base and is being used as an operations assembly line center for armored vehicle modifications. A Universal Fabric Structures employee was in Iraq to install the two facilities from the sand up and both structures were erected by three employees in 14 days.





Once installation was complete, Marine Corps operations were housed away from the desert's unpredictable distractions. Specialized military teams could focus on the important task at hand: efficiently outfitting military vehicles like HUMVEE and 5-Ton troop transports for armored combat. The buildings are used daily to provide climate-controlled environments, where seven assembly line workstations can prepare the military vehicles.

Because of the modularity of the structure's components, they transported easily, and were readily available to meet the order. The insulated fabric allowed for ideal climate control conditions. The design of the TFS structure also lent itself to seamlessly integrate the necessary HVAC systems and electrical components.

"The fabric structures provided by UFS were easily configured and provided a significant amount of flexibility during the construction process. They were very durable and require low maintenance holding up well under the winds and sand," said USMC Operations Officer Major James Washburn. In addition to quick setup and low maintenance, Washburn said the access into and out of the structures was key. Sliding doors, 5 M x 5 M, offered a simple and efficient way to enter and exit the buildings. The beauty of the UFS solution is that once this mission is accomplished, the structures can easily be moved and converted to warehousing or storage in other theater operations.

#### **About Universal Fabric Structures**

Universal Fabric Structures, Inc. is committed to providing on a global basis high quality, cost effective, engineered fabric structure systems based on customer-driven needs. Established in 1993, the company has delivered on this commitment providing solutions for military, sport, industrial, and event applications. Projects include rapid-deploy, re-locatable military structures, Sporthall facilities for tennis, soccer, swimming, multi-sport and professional football teams, All-Site industrial applications for warehousing and containment, and Pavilion structures for events and gaming. ISO 9001:2008 certified

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