UNICOR

CASE STUDY NO. 6
55TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

MANY NEEDS, MANY SOLUTIONS

Quickly meeting specific standards is all part of the job for UNICOR designers. For example, 55th Civil Support Team's base in St. Paul, Minnesota, is an Army unit on an Air Force base, which demands that special attention be paid to interoperability between units. Moving into a new building is always an inconvenience, but the 55th Civil Support Team had the added challenge of custom designing every area to meet the unique needs of each department. And, of course, it all had to be completed under a tight deadline.

The goal for the 4,500-square-foot space was to create functional private offices with a clean look. Freestanding furniture exposes anything placed under the desk, so the choice was made to use systems furniture, which has the potential to create a claustrophobic feeling. In this case, however, it works well due to using low panel heights wherever possible. According to First Sergeant Kevin Ferriby of the 55th Civil Support Team, "UNICOR provided quality, custom products as well as expert installation. Hitting each step in our schedule was a real test, and they passed every time."

In this space, multiple products are represented: workstations with Classic XXI System; break/vending area with 42-inch round Rhythm Tables each having Chorale flared-arm chairs; conference/classroom with a 12-foot Portico base boat-shaped conference table and Legacy I High Back arm chairs.

PROJECT FACTS

New Construction • 4,500 square feet • 25 workstations
Conference Room with Table and Arm Chairs
Break/Vending Area with Tables and Arm chairs
Classic XXI, Rhythm, Chorale, Portico, and Legacy Lines

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CUSTOM DESIGN AND COLOR COORDINATION

The base's on-site engineer met with all end-users to custom design each space. UNICOR's designer then produced drawings with custom furniture in place. The 55th Civil Support Team's Kevin Ferriby details the level of customization needed, "We needed a unique drafting table with specific requirements. It was no problem at all for UNICOR. And, for the communications section, every little piece and support section was customized."

Base standards were inflexible and numerous. For systems furniture, panels had to be at a low height (32") where there was no overhead storage unit. Also, panels falling along a hard wall were bottom open frame, allowing access to wall-mounted computer data and telephone jacks.

In addition to challenging design, furniture had to meet the base's very neutral color scheme. UNICOR's solutions include nonstandard laminates, sourced from Nevamar, not the standard Formica brands. Also standardized for the base, the vertical panel fabrics are "Universe – Gravel," which UNICOR was able to match.

First Sergeant Kevin Ferriby is pleased with his first experience with UNICOR. "Although the move was challenging on our end, UNICOR coordinated the metals and furniture so they arrived together, and they met every deadline. I learned a lot about UNICOR from this process. Great products, wonderful installation, timely delivery. Plus, the follow-up has been at that same high level."

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First Sergeant Kevin Ferriby,
55th Civil Support Team

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