

Munitions members make improvements

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Staff writer

The following is the third article in the "Self-help/quality improvement" series.

The 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron munitions flight has been working overtime, not on building bombs, but making their buildings "the bomb." Personnel in the squadron have used their skills along with supplies from the base Self-Help Store to make their work spaces more appealing.

"Doing the work themselves fosters a positive working environment and improves their surroundings," said 2nd Lt. Erik Saracino, 20th EMS munitions materials officer in charge.

They made cosmetic improvements to include painting walls and adding carpet. The munitions personnel also tore down areas of drywall in shops to expand rooms and make better use of the available space.

In the munitions storage element, Master Sgt. Leonard Shields, 20th EMS munitions storage element chief,

and his crew redecorated their office with paint, wallpaper border and trim.

"We started in February and did most of the work during breaks and a little after the duty day," said Sgt. Shields.

He said the old wall paper had been there for 12 years.

While old wallpaper was an issue for one office, close quarters was an issue for another.

"The room was small," said Senior Airman Jeff Stanley, 20th EMS munitions support technician.

In the flightline delivery building, members dropped a ceiling in, painted walls and removed drywall in the break room.

He and two others worked on the break room and even set up an area with a computer. In addition to transforming the break room, Airman Stanley also headed up the construction of an outdoor shed.

Airman Stanley said before he entered the military he used to be in the construction business and did not think those skills would come in handy while

he was in the Air Force.

He had experience, but not everyone did.

"These self-help projects are hands-on," said Staff Sgt. Phillip DeVault, 20th EMS munitions handling crew chief. "You never know your hidden talents."

"Mine haven't come out yet," said Airman 1st Class Kyle John, 20th EMS munitions handling crewmember.

Though Airman John had no professional building background and still wonders about his talents, he contributed his efforts.

Members of the munitions flight said they worked between flying schedules to accomplish the self-help projects and are proud of what they have done. The Self-Help Store offered assistance to them.

"We rely heavily on Self-Help," said Lt. Saracino. "It saves the government money, and it is easier for us to get supplies we need fast."

The Self-Help Store provides planning and materials to support organizations with minor construction. For



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

Sgt. DeVault (left) and Airman John assist with renovating in the munitions handling element.

more information, call 895-5314.

In the future, flight officials said they plan on constructing new buildings in the munitions area to make them current with other munitions bases in the country.



Spirit Spotlight



Staff Sgt. Jondrea Speaks



Organization: 20th Medical Operations Squadron

Duty title: Medical service technician

Job duties: Perform and assist in direct patient care

Hometown: Beaufort, S.C.

Time in service: Six and a half years

Off-duty interests: Reading, traveling and spending time with family

Words I live by: "Life is about choices, good and bad. You have to deal with the consequences."

Senior Airman Michelle Wise



Organization: 20th Operations Support Squadron

Duty title: Intelligence analyst

Job duties: Brief pilots and assist in mission planning, pre-mission briefs, mission debriefs

Hometown: Helena, Ala.

Time in service: Two years

Off-duty interests: Swimming, running, reading and spin class

Words I live by: "You make your own fun in life."