

CASE STUDY

July 2013

Construction and operation of the Helmand Regional Distribution Center

Creating an integrated logistics hub for Southern Afghanistan.

THE SITUATION

For many years, Supreme supported British and American military clients deployed in Afghanistan from a centrally located main distribution center in Kabul.

In 2009 the British troops relocated their operational base from Kandahar province to Camp Bastion in Helmand province. At around the same time, 12,000 additional US troops were deployed to Camp Leatherneck, adjoined with Camp Bastion.

THE CHALLENGE

The rapid increase in the number of troops strained the existing supply chain; increasing the timeframes and associated risk of moving the supplies from Kabul along the notorious 'Highway One' to the new base at Camp Bastion.

Furthermore, the Helmand province is one of the most volatile areas in Afghanistan, with ongoing conflict in the area. In addition, the harsh clay terrain, extreme environmental conditions, poor transportation and infrastructure networks and limited water resources make Helmand a very difficult area to operate in.

THE SOLUTION

Supreme identified an opportunity to improve the supply chain by shifting the distribution center from Kabul to a site located only five kilometers outside of Camp Bastion.

The Helmand Regional Distribution Center (HRDC) was proposed; designed as a dedicated distribution hub for the delivery of services to UK and US military clients operating in and around the Helmand province. The Center would occupy a huge area of more than five football fields and would be located totally "outside the wire", meaning beyond the perimeter and safety of the military camp.



Aerial view of HRDC

Construction on the project commenced in August 2009. More than 115 employees were required to construct the facility; with all components procured and constructed utilizing Supreme's in-house expertise. Independent security providers ensured the safety of Supreme's team, who successfully built all aspects of the facility within 18 months.

Upon completion in 2010, HRDC was a state-of-the-art center that incorporated one of Afghanistan's largest freestanding structures. Components of the facility include:

- A 27,000 sqm warehouse including 7,000 sqm of freezer space temperature controlled to -25 degrees
- A 400-seat dining facility
- A bulk fuel installation with a capacity of 11 million USG of liquid fuel storage
- Direct underground pipelines to Camp Bastion, carefully designed to mitigate risk
- A fuel testing laboratory operated according to world class standards
- Accommodation, recreation and office facilities to support up to 2,000 people
- Generator farms
- Sewerage, waste and water treatment facilities
- 800 truck/trailer parking slots
- Helicopter operating and servicing area
- Medical grade incinerator.

Construction and operation of the Helmand Regional Distribution Center

THE SUCCESS

Building a new warehouse closer to troop locations improved the supply chain and enhanced the service provision to clients by reducing delivery timings. The risk of service disruption was also mitigated by the ability to maintain large stocks of food and fuel onsite.

The construction and operation of HRDC demonstrates Supreme's commitment to providing fully integrated supply chain solutions, and also reflects our site service capabilities. We can transform a barren piece of land in one of the world's most hostile environments into a fully operational, completely secure, self-sustaining outpost, quickly, efficiently and independently.

We are proud to provide the creative solutions, infrastructure and life-sustaining support services that enable clients to focus on accomplishing their missions, anywhere in the world.



The warehouse at HRDC is one of the largest structures in Afghanistan



The Helmand Regional Distribution Center (HRDC) is a dedicated distribution hub for the delivery of services to UK and US military clients operating in and around the Helmand province.