

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## Big Changes Make Big Difference for Rockdale County Sherriff's Office

### CHALLENGE

Like many law enforcement agencies around the country, the Rockdale County Sheriff's Office in Conyers, Georgia faced ever-increasing amounts of evidence, including drugs, guns and biologicals that required refrigeration. Storage areas were cramped, overcrowded, and inefficient. Dorm fridges were being used for

biological evidence. These were sufficient to get the job done, but everyone in the department knew that as accustomed as the team had become to the way the evidence lockers and adjacent "Gun & Drug" (G&R) room were set up, upgrades were necessary.

### SOLUTION

*"We updated these areas front to back, focusing on achieving CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.) certification,"* said Steve Goldsmith, account manager at Patterson Pope. *"Strict adherence to these guidelines was imperative."*

In the main evidence room, Patterson Pope used a mix of 4-post shelving with a 42-foot-long powered, high-density shelving system. Reinforcements were added for the top to allow for high storage where feasible, along with widespan for larger items. Hamilton Sorter Casework – counter space only – was used behind the evidence lockers as processing space.

In the Drug & Gun room, 4-post shelving with special parts was added so that the shelving

would function as a weapons rack. The addition of mobile systems allowed for additional space, while Rollok doors provided added security.

Convenient, lockable pass-through lockers allow staff to book evidence into the processing area carefully, one item at a time. Technicians working in the processing area on the other side of the wall simply unlock the compartment from the back, take out the evidence, and process it without leaving the room and without risking contamination. A pass-through refrigerated compartment ensures that biological evidence is kept at the proper temperature.

In the longer-term storage areas, space-saving high-density storage systems were installed to help maximize the area's usefulness.



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## ACHIEVEMENT

The law enforcement professionals at the Rockdale County Sheriff's Office now know that evidence entrusted to their care is secure and accounted for at all times, from the point of collection through the completed trial. The work done by Patterson Pope gave them capacity for 432 hand gun boxes, 148 long gun boxes, and 48 standard boxes in the D&G room. *"We more than doubled their storage capacity,"* said Goldsmith. *"Now, they have a max capacity of more than 2,100 boxes."*

*"It's definitely made things a lot better,"* said Captain Duane Day. *"The increased storage area, the organization and the added security all make for a winning project. It's a noticeable difference. It's so much easier to manage."*

The Rockdale County Sheriff's Office is happy to use its renovated evidence storage area to better serve and protect the citizens who call the area home.

