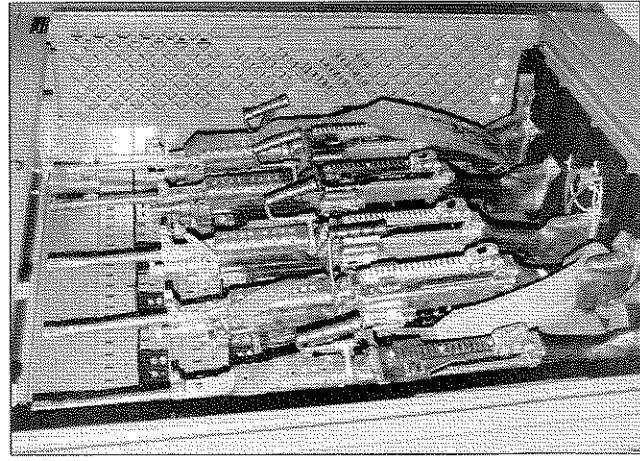


# 2-6 installs new space-saving weapons rack

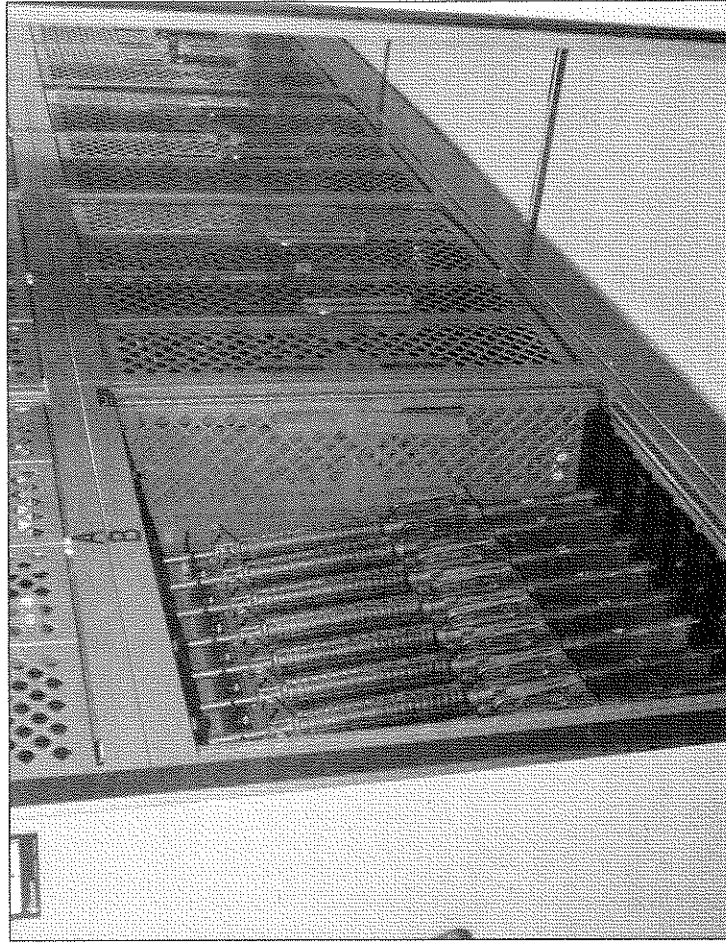
**SPC. STEVE BAACK**  
*Monitor Staff*

Units all over post may soon have more room should they decide to follow the example set by 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

Much like a growing number of units Army-wide, the 2-6 ADA Bde. has switched from conventional, singularly-typed weapon racks to the Universal Weapons Rack system that accommodates multiple types of weapons and gear at once. The 2-6 ADA Bde. is the first to install the racks at Bliss.



**M249 squad automatic weapons stand ready for use in 2-6 ADA Brigade's newly installed weapon racks.**



**The arms room of 2nd Battalion, 6th ADA Brigade displays the first Universal Weapons Rack system on post.**

**SPC. STEVE BAACK**

"There are entire bases that have converted to the Universal Weapons Racks nationwide," said Trisha Alba, a representative from Western Office Systems. "But the 2nd Battalion, 6th ADA Brigade is the first at Fort Bliss to install the system, setting the trend for the post."

Although the system has been around for about two years, it has only recently started to take off, said Alba. And while the racks were designed by Spacesaver Corporation to store the weapons that the battalion already has, the company custom designs around the weapon inventory.

"The best advantage with the rack is that they don't have to keep re-investing when their weapons change," said Alba. "The second advantage would be you could store a lot of weapons in a small amount of space."

The system was originally created when the Marine Corps approached Spacesaver Corporation to help them store weapons and equipment more efficiently in a smaller amount of space.

"They not only needed something that would protect and secure their weapons, they needed flexibility in design when their weapons changed," said Alba. "Reinvestment was getting expensive. They also needed something that could store all of their gear and optics. Finally, it needed to be transportable."

"A few bases got them and now everyone wants them," said Sgt. 1st

Class Mariano Go, who was the one to introduce the system to his battalion. "I just wanted to show them the new system."

"It saves a lot of space and they work better because we don't have to have chains running through the weapons rack," said Staff Sgt. Felicia McCoy, battalion S-4, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-6 ADA Bde.

These particular racks, installed for

M-16 rifles, MK 19 grenade machine guns, M249 squad automatic weapons, M240B machine guns, M2 .50-caliber machine guns and M60 machine guns, were designed for the Officer Basic Course that is scheduled to move to McGregor range, along with the racks, this year.

The 1st Bn., 56th ADA is now installing its own, with 3rd Bn., 43rd, and 11th ADA Bde. soon to follow.