



SUPPORTING A NATIONAL DEFENSE PRIORITY

On Time, Without Compromise

In May 2024, the Department of Defense (DOD) announced the opening of a new production facility in Mesquite, Texas, designed to scale up the output of 155mm artillery shells in response to the production demands of the Ukraine War. The DOD aimed to increase their output from 25,000 shells per month to 100,000.

Built as part of a nationwide effort to revitalize and expand the defense industrial base, the Mesquite branch of the Universal Artillery Projectile Line (UAPL) is one of several new facilities. These facilities incorporate high-output manufacturing technologies, advanced automation, and digital tracking. According to the DOD, the UAPL plays a critical role in meeting increased demand for 155mm shells and serves as a cornerstone of modernized production capability.

Getting that facility operational required more than steel and schematics. It demanded precision logistics, global coordination, regulatory compliance, and unwavering timelines. That's where our team came in.

CHALLENGE

Interstate was tasked with coordinating across multiple countries, each with its own regulations, languages, and logistics hurdles, to provide the necessary materials for production plant stand-up. Routing had to adhere to U.S. Flag requirements under the Cargo Preference Act, with full documentation and security protocols in place at every stage.

The mission was clear: transport hundreds of ocean containers from international suppliers located in Turkey, South Korea, Italy and Germany to the U.S. on time, under pressure, and in full compliance with federal shipping laws.

SOLUTION AND EXECUTION

Interstate served as the control tower for the operation, managing freight across borders, coordinating timelines, and maintaining the visibility needed to keep production moving. Materials originated from international manufacturing partners with routing strategies customized to navigate both local constraints and U.S. compliance requirements.

But our responsibility didn't end at the port. We tracked every container, ensured proper documentation, and aligned shipments with production milestones to avoid bottlenecks at the build site.

Since 2023, our team has routed over 700 ocean containers, including specialized ocean equipment such as flat racks, breakbulks, and open top containers designed for custom-built pieces. In short, 9.5M lbs of highly sensitive US government cargo has been transported door to door through a myriad of modes; ocean, rail, and air all to the Mesquite production facility site.

Each cargo piece was strategically timed and deployed to support mission critical milestones by our client. Our disciplined and efficient supply chain operations ensured large weapons manufacturers could meet the Army's activation timelines for UAPL.

THE RESULTS

- Maintained 100% compliance with U.S. Flag and Cargo Preference Act requirements.
- Enabled uninterrupted schedule execution for a state-of-the-art defense manufacturing program.
- Delivered freight on time to support build-out of the UAPL facility in Mesquite.
- Established a replicable logistics framework for similar, future contracts.
- Enacted tight chain of custody controls to align with our commitment to US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CPAT) program.

KEY DIFFERENTIATORS

- Full-scale international logistics with U.S. Flag vessel routing.
- Command tower approach to milestone-driven freight operations.
- Precise compliance with U.S. Cargo Preference Act.
- Global operational integration across U.S., Turkey, and allied regions.
- Direct support for infrastructure tied to national defense initiatives.
- Direct Executive Leadership involvement to facilitate elevated client reporting.
- Created a roundtable, real-time problem-solving approach with key project stakeholders to educate and execute.

Learn more about the Universal Projectile Artillery Line
visit the original press release [here](#).