

## Project : Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida

Location : Pensacola, Florida



### Background

The Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida plays host to the flight training of every Naval Aviator, Naval Flight Officer and Enlisted Aircrewman in the USA.

US contractor ValleyCrest commissioned Fabric Architecture to create a landmark memorial structure for the site which evoked aircraft shapes and forms and mirrored the design of the famous US Airforce Memorial in Arlington, VA.

### Project Brief

The in-house CAD team at Fabric Architecture designed a structure of three diverging Skylars reaching over 40' high. The vast structure adopted a circular design which would cater for the different viewing angles from land and sea. Differing sizes of canopy were also used to exaggerate the perspective.

### Design solution

As the Air Station is situated on the Florida coastline, Hypar canopies, which range in size from 145f<sup>2</sup> to 380f<sup>2</sup>, were manufactured from a heavyweight PVC coated polyester woven mesh which would offer less resistance to hurricane force winds. 145 wind codes had to be met.

When the three strong installation crew arrived on site it was faced with an instant challenge. The site was being reclaimed from the beach and a tornado had hit the region just days before installation, making the ground soft and uneven. With over 12" of rainfall in one day the team had to monitor weather





conditions carefully and plan their schedule accordingly. The team was on site for nine days and specified special plant equipment with balloon tyres to cope with the unstable ground.