

PROJECT PROFILE...

Batman Hires Theme Team to Build New Batcave

December 2009 - Fairbanks, AK



Out in the frozen tundra of a secret area (otherwise known as Alaska) lies the place where this defender of justice (otherwise known as the United States Army) hired the Creative Works' Theme Team to tackle the challenge of building a "bat cave".

It all started about 4 years ago, when we received a call asking us to construct a laser tag environment as part of their recreational center for the service men, women and families residing at the Fort Wainwright Army Base. After completing the necessary paperwork, background checks and more, we were awarded the contract to bring a new level of entertainment to the Army Base with our themed laser tag experiences. With a resounding success of acceptance with this attraction, we were asked again to come back and do something special for them.



As part of their recreational center they've been converting over the years, the challenge presented to our team was to create a "bat cave" inside one of their racquet ball courts for the creation of a movie theatre. "This is something that has never been done before at any government installation around the country and they were entrusting us to get the job done," recalls Jeff Schilling, Founder of Creative Works.

"When we got the call, we were excited to embrace the opportunity and make their vision a reality."



Months of research went into studying the older Batman television series and iconic films to create the right look and feel. After evaluating the possibilities and what the requirements were to meet the strict codes for this theme project, we began the process of creating natural rock panels pulled from molds of real canyon rocks. This allowed us to create the puzzle of pieces that would be later seamed



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together to bring the "bat cave" to life. Over 40 fiberglass panels of various sizes/shapes and weights with some as large as 8 feet squared and weighing in at more than 200 lbs were carefully constructed.

Due to the size and scope of this project and the panels that were created, steel frames were welded together and then attached to the exterior walls of the court area. Precise measurements were used from plans to create these frames ahead of time to save time in the installation process and meet the completion date. This was the foundation required to support the weight of the panels and give the flexibility needed to create some interesting rock features.

Additionally to help bring more realism to the cave, various sizes of stalactites were built and suspended from the ceiling. Faux painting techniques and a multitude of painting equipment was used to get just the right finished look.

"The shipping and site logistics to get the material from Indiana to Alaska, into the base, and then into the racquet ball court was another set of challenges that were faced during this project," recalls Schilling. "There is another layer of complexity that comes to the forefront when doing a project like this for a government entity, but we had some great people to work with on the Army Base, and that made all the difference."



Everyone at the Creative Works' Theme Team wishes to thank the United States service men and women for their valiant efforts to help protect and safeguard our freedoms, and allowing us to be entrusted with providing entertainment experiences that help provide an outlet for those that are put in harms way or have challenging decisions to make everyday.



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