



## BELL ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER

BELL, CALIFORNIA

### ARCHITECT:

**Michael Baker Jr., Inc.**  
100 Airside Drive  
Moon Township, PA 15108

Ronald W. Kretz, AIA  
*Principal-in-Charge*

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Sundt Construction, Inc.

### MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Nibbelink Masonry Construction Corp.

### BLOCK PRODUCER:

ORCO Block Company, Inc.

### OWNER:

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District

**Architect's Commentary:** Bell Armed Forces Reserve Center required a cost-effective design and building in a competitive hard-bid proposal, which satisfied the programmatic needs of the various Reserve users. These needs include a 179,000-square-foot, two-story training building to house offices, assembly hall, equipment lockers, and arms vaults and fitness center. The project also includes a 44,000-square-foot vehicle maintenance facility for all four services, including high bay maintenance bays, piped fluids and a bridge crane.

**Why Masonry?** Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) construction was decided early in the proposal process due to all of the desirable characteristics. The combination of concrete masonry and aluminum and glass windows

provides an attractive image that will convey a sense of permanency and stability. These materials intrinsically require little maintenance and are extremely durable. Training Building and Maintenance Building are fully constructed of concrete masonry, except for two-story portions at the rear of the Training Building, which do not bear to grade. Other project buildings are of modular or pre-engineered metal construction. All construction materials meet design criteria for Anti-Terrorism / Force Protection.

The main front entry is the focus point of the landscaped flag courtyard, creating a positive entry sequence with the pedestrian walk from the main vehicle parking, and from the front parking area. The main lobby area includes CMU feature walls.

A unique feature of the structural design is the integration of the structural steel framing for floor and roof loads, and a system of exterior CMU shear walls to resist wind and seismic lateral loads in combination with special steel moment frames. This design feature was developed concurrently with interior layout and space planning, and was successfully implemented to provide adequate shear wall areas in conjunction with the required window openings.



©Photography: Liam Frederick, Liam Frederick Photography