

**Excellence in Masonry: April 2002**

## **What A Blockbuster!**



**Project:** Edward H. McNamara Terminal

**Architect:** SGS Incorporated

**Mason Contractor:** Davenport Masonry, Inc.

**Licensee / Mudslinger:** Gibraltar National / Jim Weinrauch

Detroit has been long known as Motor City with its multitude of automobile manufacturers, however, with over 35 million domestic and international travelers passing through its Wayne County airport annually, maybe it should be renamed the Jet City. With this much traffic coming through Detroit, it is hard to fathom that the Detroit Wayne County Airport's original terminals were designed to handle only a few million travelers per year. Due to the growth in passenger traffic and the size of the existing

terminals, Northwest Airlines and Wayne County partnered up to build the new state of the art 1.2 billion dollar Edward H. McNamara (Midfield) Terminal to welcome passengers to Detroit.

This project was designed by Detroit based SHG Incorporated who researched airports both domestically and internationally before they designed this unique structure with an emphasis on customer convenience. Once designed, Davenport Masonry, Inc. was commissioned to build over 2.5 miles of double wythe 8" block walls with 4" block veneer. This project totals over 8.2 million dollars in masonry and requires over 864,000 CMU's to be placed!

To keep up to a tight schedule, Davenport Masonry, Inc. had to man this project with a crew high of 88 men. With such a large crew in place and efficiency being critical, Davenport Masonry, Inc. called on one of the nation's most experienced SPEC MIX® technician, Jim "Rock" Weinrauch with Gibraltar National. True to form, Rock took this project by storm. To ensure the mortar selected for this project exceeded expectations, Rock worked closely with Howard Droz of SGH Architects by testing 3 separate mix designs on site for maximum compatibility with the units.

Once the mix design was determined, Rock set up Davenport Masonry, Inc. with 8 SPEC MIX® silos with the perfect mortar to feed their crews. In total this project required 2400 bulk bags of type S mortar cement and over 640 bulk bags of coarse grout. Project Foreman for Davenport Masonry, Inc. Bob Schittenhelm added, "The consistency of factory pre-tested SPEC MIX® mix designs truly aided this project from a quality standpoint, and the portability of the silos kept my crews clean and efficient."

Congratulations to all those who came together to build this award winning project!