

Engineers repair Iraqi roadways

Lance Cpl. Ryan L. Tomlinson
1st Marine Logistics Group

AL ASAD, Iraq — They left the wreath of a trailer stacked with cement, shovels, jackhammers and other road repair essentials destined to fix a problem faced by coalition forces and Iraqi civilians — big

holes in the road. Combat engineers with Alpha Engineer Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) engage in route repair missions throughout Al Anbar province, Iraq. The Marines not only make

the roads smoother and safer for traveling, they also prevent insurgents from using the holes to their advantage. "We make the roads safe so the rest of the Marine Corps could travel on them without the worry of getting blown up by an improvised explosive device," said Cpl. Marcos D. Valadez, 21, mine-sweeping team leader of 1st Platoon, Alpha Engineer Company. "If there's a chance for insurgents to use that hole to their advantage, we fill it."

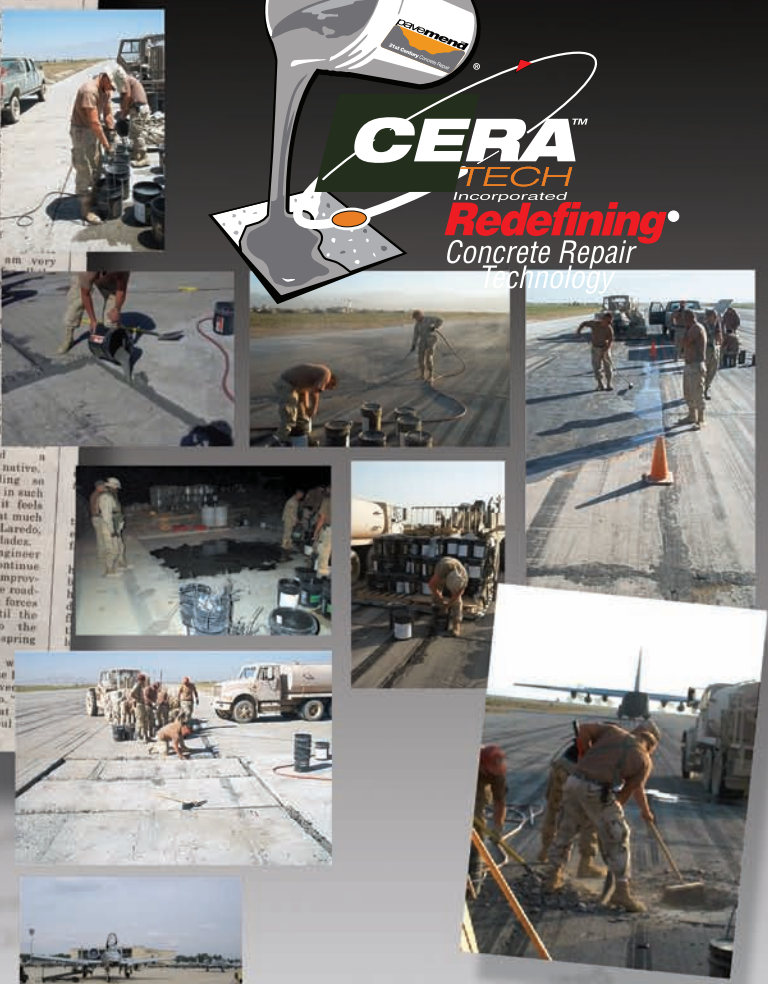
The missions sometimes last five hours at a time and although the hot weather is cooling down, the constant construction-type labor is in a combat zone. Despite the inherent risk, the Marines remain focused on mission accomplishment. "When we go outside [of base] and we know it's an area that gets [attacked] a lot, we still go through with our jobs," said Cpl. Eddie J. Solórzano, hole repair team leader of 1st Platoon, Alpha Engineer Company. "We disrupt the enemy activity."

1st Platoon is split into three teams: the mixing team fills the holes with cement; hole repair team digs up the old hole for filling; and mine-sweeping team eliminates explosive threats. Operations Platoon, Alpha Engineer

Company 2007. "I am very proud of them hard work, every single mile we have done," Hoefler, 25, commands all route repair missions done by Operations Platoon. The cohesive unit wastes time jobs. "When they go all business," John A. Stone II, Squad Leader of 1st Platoon, and a Huntsville, Ala., native. "We are filling so many more holes in such little time and it feels great to make that much difference," said Laredo, Texas, native, Valadez. Alpha Engineer will continue its work in Iraq improving passage on the roadways for coalition forces and civilians as the unit returns to the United States in spring



Route repair mission: Lance Cpl. Christopher T. Hart, 22, a combat engineer with 1st Platoon, Alpha Engineer Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) stirs a bucket of wet concrete while engaging in a route-repair mission in Al Anbar province, Iraq.



By the way, for your PAVEMEND friends, we've been using the mixture for RRR and for expeditious IED shot hole fills. Good stuff. Semper Fidelis!

Respectfully,
Capt Aaron Angell
AWSS-373

