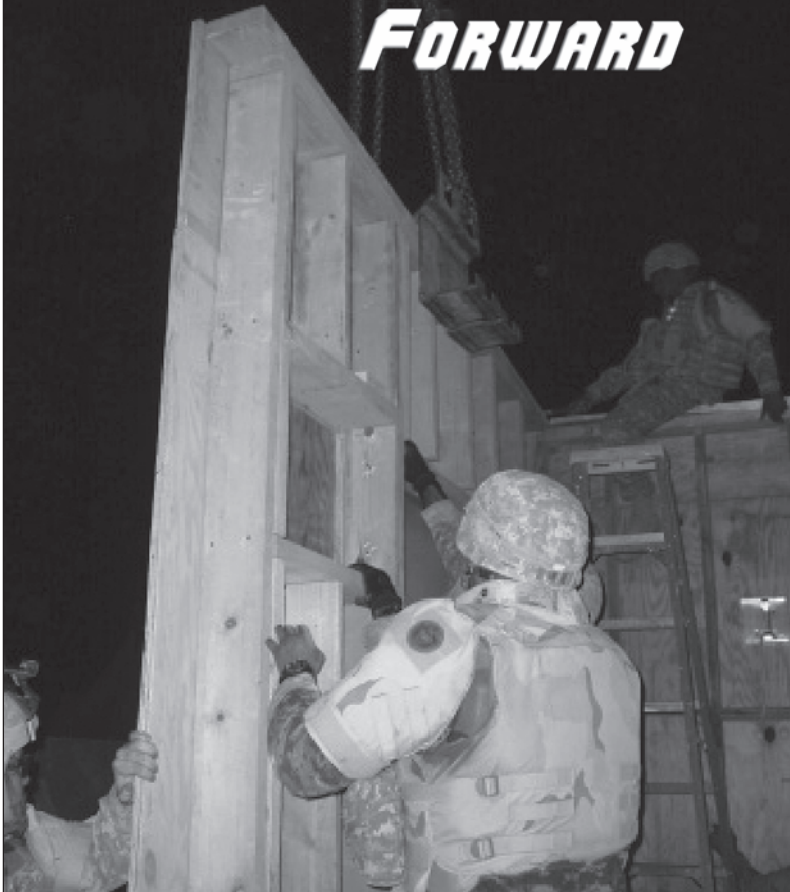


OPERATION TOGETHER FORWARD



By *First Lieutenant Kurtis J. Schaaf*
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With increasing violence in Baghdad, traffic flow needed to be regulated between the various areas of the city. Members of Headquarters and Support Company, Bravo Company, and Charlie Company, of the



A Soldier ensures that the building floor is level.

84th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Heavy), were attached to the 62d Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Heavy), from the 4th Infantry Division, to help with the mission. A convoy through Baghdad brought them to Forward Operating Base Loyalty to conduct Operation Together Forward.

In three weeks, the engineers constructed vehicle checkpoints on bridges and pedestrian checkpoints along walkways over the canal. Soldiers used cranes, loaders, and excavators to emplace concrete barriers, bunkers, and barbed wire to control traffic flow. While conducting these missions, the Soldiers were subjected to numerous mortar attacks and minor direct-fire incidents; fortunately, they suffered no casualties.

Upon return to the Victory Base Complex, engineers from the 84th were once again attached to the 62d for Operation Baghdad Security Belt. This operation consisted of blocking positions and checkpoints around the city to control traffic flow from areas such as Fallujah, Ramadi, and Mosul. Operating for extremely long hours, teams from the 84th emplaced blocking positions and checkpoints all around the city.

The checkpoints required a logistics support area because the police officers manned the checkpoints 24 hours a day. As part of the operation, buildings were built and placed at traffic control points to support the Iraqi police. Soldiers from Charlie Company emplaced the buildings in less than two hours, getting the mission completed quickly and efficiently.

The engineer support led by the 84th Engineer Battalion, in conjunction with the 62d Engineer Battalion and Iraqi security forces, allowed the timely completion of the Baghdad Security Belt. Operation Together Forward is just one of the many ways coalition forces strive to make a difference for the Iraqi people.



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