

# Diamondbacks Reduce a High-Threat Area

By Second Lieutenant Charles W. Scheibe

**T**housands of Soldiers travel the roads in Iraq daily, and any one of them can tell you that certain areas are constant hotbeds for insurgent activity. Engineers from 2d Platoon, Headquarters and Support Company (“Diamondbacks”), 92d Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Heavy), recently helped to eliminate one of these areas.

Along a supply route in central Iraq, heavy equipment operators from 2d Platoon leveled a berm—a raised earthen barrier that separates two areas—that was routinely used by insurgents to hide from patrols and convoys, just waiting to initiate improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and fire at convoys with rifles and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs). The heavy-equipment operators from 2d Platoon worked over 28 hours to level more than 40,000 cubic meters of dirt. During that time, they rotated shifts and kept the bulldozers running for 18 hours straight. While 2d Platoon leveled the huge berm, 3d Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, provided security. This was a massive effort by maneuver units and engineers.

After the area was leveled and the threat reduced, Echo Company put up soccer goals on the now-safe site for local children. Units and convoys that have traveled the route since completion of the project have reported seeing children playing on the new soccer field.



Photo by First Lieutenant James Yount

**A D7 bulldozer grubs the project site.**

Enemy activity at this location has decreased significantly since the berm is no longer there for insurgents to hide behind. Convoys and patrols are safer and can now maneuver through the area with greater ease. But even though the primary goal of this mission was to change the area so the enemy could no longer use it as key terrain, just as importantly, 2d Platoon provided a positive influence for a few more Iraqis of the next generation.



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*Note: The 92d Engineer Battalion is deployed to Iraq under the 411th Engineer Brigade, New Windsor, New York. The 92d was deployed for the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom 04–06, and now Operation Iraqi Freedom 06–08—continuing its same mission of keeping supply routes safe for coalition forces.*



Photo by Captain Steven Johnson

**The berm was removed, decreasing enemy activity and making way for a new playing field.**