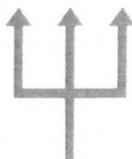


**From Lieutenant Colonel M T G Bazeley Royal Engineers**



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22 Feb 11

To Whom It May Concern,

Route Trident in Helmand Province was designed and constructed by 28 Engineer Regiment of the British Army as part of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan in early 2010. The twofold objective of the 9.2 km long and 6.5m wide road through previously insurgent dominated territory was to connect patrol bases with a secure supply corridor while providing a safe and more reliable route for the local population to improve stability and enable reconstruction.

The project requirements included not only fast construction, a limited budget, and involvement of the local population in its construction; it also had to be built while under constant threat from insurgent activity.

PRS's Neoloy solution was the key technology used as the building block to making this project a reality. The Neoloy cellular confinement system (geocells) from PRS was chosen by the Royal Engineers after conducting trials in Afghanistan with various infill materials and road make-ups.

Whereas the cost of crushed aggregate in the region was exorbitantly high, the specification of Neoloy reinforcement system enabled a 75% reduction in aggregate use, and contributed to a reduction in projected cost of the road by 1/3 as compared to traditional building methods. The Neoloy system utilized locally-harvested desert fill (at zero cost) created a semi-rigid slab and firm sub-base, thereby required aggregate for only the wearing course.

The road passes through desert sand as well as irrigated fields and canals, critical to the local agriculture. Large box culverts and a "floating" road comprised of Neoloy were used to "forge" fully saturated ground, which was previously impassable to vehicles.

The performance of the Route Trident with Neoloy reinforcement exceeded all expectations. Trident enables smooth movement along its length in less than 30 minutes without encountering any hostilities. The success of the road is indicated by shops and markets that have sprung up along the route, while construction of a doctor's office and school began shortly after its completion. The route has become the preferred route for local Afghans as well as the military. The design and construction techniques developed on Route Trident have continued to be used by the Royal Engineers for other roads in the region.