



Weekly Afghan Road Update

September 23, 2003

Issue 12

Critical Components

Security -- Security problems continued along central portions of the road during the past week. The project management team held discussions with the Governors of Ghazni, Zabol and Kandahar and the Minister of the Interior on options for addressing these attacks. A proposal was outlined for significantly increasing guard operations within the central portion of the road corridor, which will be discussed with Coalition Forces leaders.

Demining -- A compactor working on the road shoulder expansion in Section "C" struck a deeply buried anti-tank land mine, severely damaging the machine and injuring the operator.

Supplies -- Some delays are still being experienced with the supply and transport of bitumen, but most subcontractors are now receiving regular shipments. Asphalt paving is proceeding in four of the five Sections. Section "E" is still experiencing delivery problems so the prime contractor is considering the reallocation of work boundaries to avoid potential scheduling delays.

Construction Progress

Fine grading and paving improvement advanced in spite of the security incidents in Sections "C" through "F". 'Chip Seal' covering of the fine-graded base is providing a much improved traffic surface pending the lay down of asphalt-treated base (ATB) materials.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Cumulative Total
Demined (km)	24	315
Aggregate Produced for Asphaltting (mt)	117,000	920,000
Paving Activities (km)	38	69
Workers Injured/Killed during Security Incidents	5*/3	12/9

(Note: Total length is 389 kms; 900,000 mt of aggregate is required for first layer paving.)

* Includes 2 Ghazni police officers and 3 NGO engineers killed in Ghazni area. These individuals were not working on the road project, but were in close proximity to the road and their deaths are affecting road security response and worker morale.



Bitumen heating tank in Section "E".



Stone masonry culverts in Section "B".



Rolling newly-laid ATB in Section "D".



Locals using the newly-paved road in Qalat in Section "F".