

Smuggler News, March is here already and old man winter has still not released us from his grasp. We have had snow, ice and a lot of cloudy weather. This is typical Afghanistan winter weather. The temperatures have been around 0 degrees here on the airfield but the mountains we are surrounded by are all snow covered. One village 10 miles Northwest of here got 8 feet of snow within 24 hours!

February was a difficult month for us we had an accident with two of our aircraft striking blades on the ramp. Although the investigation is ongoing, the important part is that we are all ok, but the aircraft will require major repairs.

We are still living on one side of the airfield and working on the other. Therefore we are dependent on the battalion busses. The busses are to run on the ½ hour but one of the two busses were involved in an accident and now the busses run on the hour. But we are making do.

The new command post is still in need of some work. We are mudding, taping and painting of our new work areas. We hope to be moving in a few weeks. We have flown about 300 missions so far. We are now supporting the RED BULL Task Force. That is a National Guard Task Force from my home state of Iowa. We are providing them with their aviation support.

Thank you for all your support, emails, letters, packages and prayers. We miss you all.

CPT Brent Hilzendager

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