

Even Under Fire, Delivery Remains Priority for Hanjin Global Logistics/ Tao Global Solutions Team

Former US Marines Understand the Importance of Meeting the "Required Delivery Date"

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN – The successful delivery of 11,000 bunk-beds across the Northern Distribution Network (Uzbekistan) to the US Servicemen and women in Southern Afghanistan all boiled down to the coordinated effort of former Marine Officers from Hanjin Global Logistics and Tao Global Solutions and their Afghan partner Elite Logistics. The ground cargo movement of (22) forty foot trucks originated at the staging area in Navoi Airport, Uzbekistan and completed inside friendly lines at Kandahar Airfield. The entire movement spanned over 700 miles and eight days with 100% accountability of all material.

The Northern Distribution Network (Uzbekistan) provides a much needed alternate to the crowded and oft threatened truck routes through Pakistan. "From the Port of Hayraton to signed DD250s in the receiving yard at KAF it took only three days to execute the mission," reported Tom O'Neil from Tao Global, "and it was a relatively quiet trip for our drivers, despite a suicide car bomb that hit OP1 as we were bringing our empty trucks outside of friendly lines at the conclusion of the mission. Fortunately, no Elite or Tao staff was injured or threatened in the incident. That's hard to duplicate from any other direction- I'm not sure if any other Company operating in Afghanistan has provided such timely service delivered in a superb manner." The movement wasn't as quiet for Mr. O'Neil however as he found himself in the middle of a fire fight in Kandahar City two days before the trucks arrived. "We were on our way to meet Army Senior management inside Kandahar Airfield to discuss the receiving process when we heard small arms fire a few hundred meters from our location. We decided to drive around the engagement." But the exchange was more significant than he and his Afghan team had anticipated. "Next thing you know, I'm hearing medium machine gun fire snapping over our head." O'Neil and his team took cover in a resident's courtyard until it was safe to return. "I decided to call in for that particular meeting."

O'Neil and his colleague, Mr. Bryce Dalziel, are no strangers to rounds snapping overhead. Both men are combat veterans of Operation Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Dalziel is the US Regional Manager for Hanjin Global Logistics (on special assignment as directed by the Chairman of the Hanjin Group), and is currently planning and executing cargo movement from Navoi to destinations including Bagram Air Field, Kabul City, and Kandahar City. O'Neil owns Tao Global Solutions, which provides life support and logistics support/planning for companies that desire to conduct business in emerging and often non-permissive markets. The two crossed paths earlier this year when Dalziel was conducting a site survey for his company in the region. O'Neil introduced Hanjin to Afghan owned Elite Logistics and the three companies teamed up to meet a demand posed by 22,000 new US Service members projected to support the surge in Afghanistan.

"The most important thing we can do for our clients is be reliable and consistent. The environment here is unpredictable, but our service cannot be. This mission is too critical," says Oâ€™Neil. Hanjin and Tao Global were able to provide seamless service and on time support through Hanjin's In Transit Visibility system. By manning a 24/7 movement coordination center in Navoi with career logisticians using sophisticated INMARSAT GPS tracking software, Hanjin was able to provide hourly position reports to their Army customers. That kind of visibility allows receiving agencies to manage their efforts in accordance with delivery. "It's like ordering parts for your car online," exclaimed Oâ€™Neil. "You know that you have to catch a cab to work until the part arrives. It pays to know whether you'll need a cab for two days or two weeks. Same principle here-- the stakes are just much higher."

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