

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

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NRCS STAFFER TONY BEALS SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN

Tony Beals, with the Area III NRCS office in Price, is currently serving a humanitarian mission for the Foreign Agricultural Service in Afghanistan. From time to time, until his service ends in January, we will forward some of his comments about his experiences helping to improve the quality of life in this war-torn nation.



"I am just starting to get my feet on the ground. It took a day for them to run some cable for an internet connection. I will never complain about my office equipment again. My desk is 2x4's with a plywood top. My filing cabinet is new but it is mashed so badly on top the top drawer won't open. But that leaves me 4 others so that's plenty. (Gary) Roeder knows I don't use file drawers very well. It all winds up on top of my desk. I had no chair. I had to send one of the "terps" (interpreters) into town to buy me a chair and power strip. I have already been "outside the wire" twice meeting officials, helping distribute food aid to Dept of Women's Affairs, and evaluating some parks for rehabilitation. My flak jacket weighs at least 30 lbs. It has 1/2 inch ceramic type plates and they make me wear a helmet. I hate it. (See accompanying photo of Tony on foot bridge wearing flak jacket.)

I miss all of you back there." -- *Tony Beals*

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