

Bolt



359th Signal Brigade

Summer 2009

Bolt

The 359th Signal Brigade Magazine

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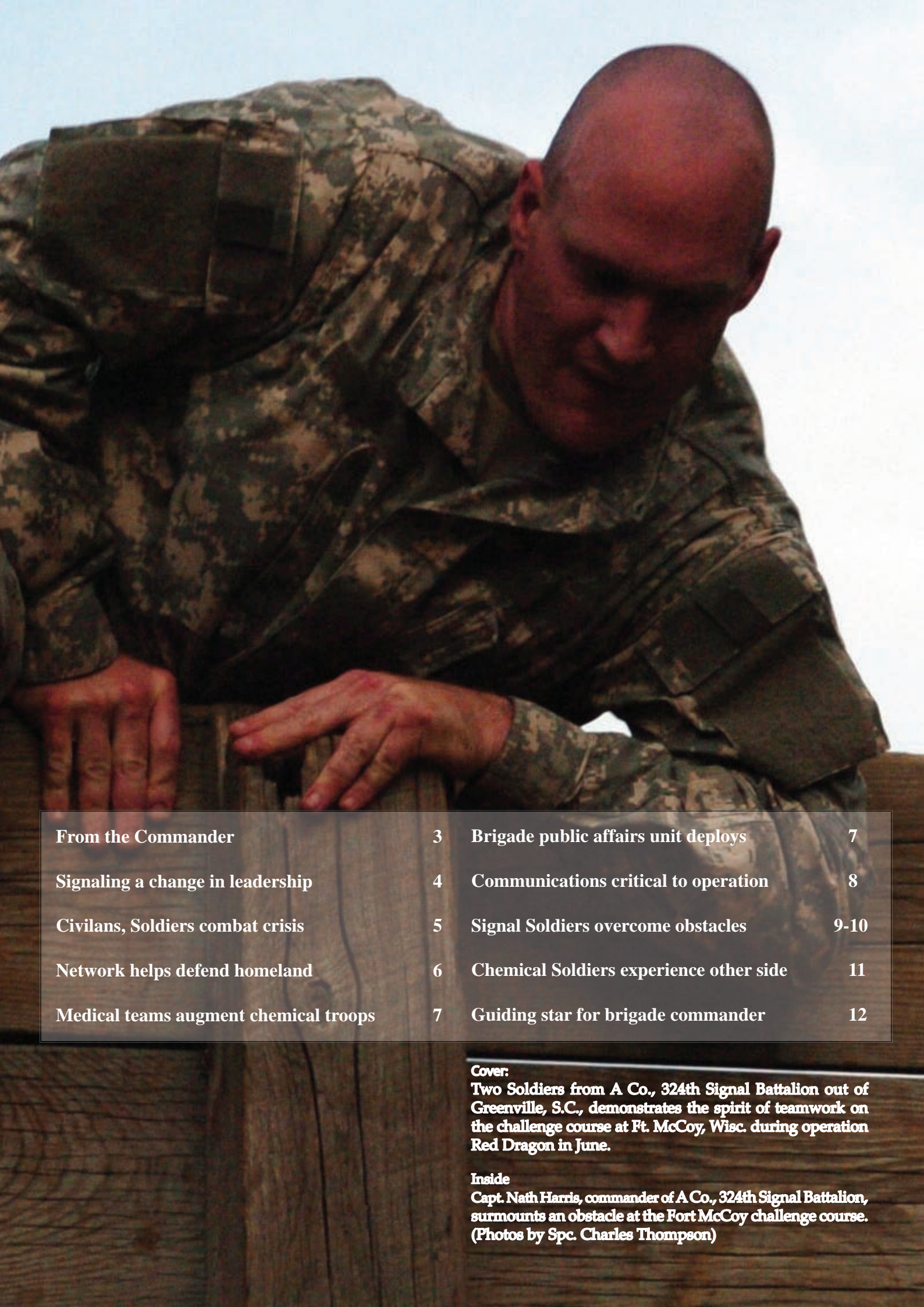
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Two Soldiers from A Co., 324th Signal Battalion out of Greenville, S.C., demonstrates the spirit of teamwork on the challenge course at Ft. McCoy, Wisc. during operation Red Dragon in June.

Inside

Capt. Nath Harris, commander of A Co., 324th Signal Battalion, surmounts an obstacle at the Fort McCoy challenge course. (Photos by Spc. Charles Thompson)

Meet your challenges every day

I would like to introduce myself to you, the Soldiers and families of the brigade. But before I can do that, I must show my appreciation to those who have made this possible.

First, thank you to Brig. Gen. Geoffrey Freeman for developing such a strong and reliable team of Soldiers. In the short time that I have been here, I have seen depth of character and great strength in the brigade leaders, both officer and enlisted.

The dedication to your Soldiers, the brigade and the Army is inspiring. I will strive to keep pace with his example and lead the brigade forward with pride.

I also want to thank the supporters and families of the brigade. Your support of our troops is incredible. Please know that I, and other brigade leaders, and especially our Soldiers see your hard work and appreciate your tireless support.

They could not be successful without you, and as the father of a Soldier, I know that your job is not always easy. So, thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank the Soldiers of the brigade. You have endured a number of change of commands lately, countless and seemingly endless meetings/briefings, newly transformed structures and ever-changing timelines.

I wish I could say these were the last but we all know the reality. Your patience and willingness to rise above have shown me that you have strength, courage, respect, skill and devotion that will lead to success. You are the definition of Soldiers, and you make me proud to be on your team.

As your new commander, I should tell you a little bit about myself and what I expect.

First, I will tell you we have a lot of work to do. As some of us are currently deployed and others are preparing, there is no shortage of tasks at hand. I ask all of you keep in mind

“I expect us to lead by example and to prove ourselves worthy of our rank and position.”



From the Commander

Brig Gen. Lawrence W. Brock III

that we are still at war and have a job to do.

Prioritize those never-ending responsibilities and do the ones with the most impact first and directly involve taking care of Soldiers, our most precious asset.

Officers and NCOs, I will be looking for you to continue to take care of your Soldiers. Don't just talk the talk – do it. I expect us to lead by example and to prove ourselves worthy of our rank and position.

To all Soldiers, I want you to wear your uniform with pride. Work hard each and every day. Know that you did all that you could to make a situation or mission better.

Be on time, prepared and ready to execute each task safely. I ask each and every one of you to challenge yourself every day.

Throughout my military career (that started at the Citadel), I have tried to keep myself challenged, always thinking of how I can do something better, learn more.

I ask that all of you do the same and know I am here to make this brigade succeed, which means that I need you all to succeed. Without you, there is no brigade.

I am an open person. I will tell you what I know, what I don't know and maybe even sometimes more than I know. I have an open door policy but expect you to use your chain of command.

When you put on that uniform – that 359th patch – I ask you to realize that you are a role model. Not only do you represent yourself, but you are the Army/brigade to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and the public. Your actions and words are a reflection of this brigade and the Army.

I entered the Signal branch as young lieutenant, so I know from experience the hurdles we can have in accomplishing our mission.

Equipment will break or not work to our expectations. Technology will advance, and we will have to stay vigilant on the latest advances and security measures. Accomplishing the mission safely and securely is paramount, but I also want you to take opportunities for personal advancement.

Take correspondences courses, work on physical fitness and make time for relaxation. I have always found that when you feel good about yourself, you make a better Soldier and family member.

Overall, I expect Soldiers to do their jobs and live by the Army values. I don't expect perfection, but I do expect genuine effort and quality of character. You may not wear your uniform every day, but you and I are still Soldiers. Live it each day and be proud.



Spec. Charles J. Thompson

A Soldier from A Co., 324th Signal Battalion in Greenville, S.C., navigates an obstacle on the challenge course at Ft. McCoy, Wisc.



Spc. Daniel Haun

Brig. Gen. Lawrence W. Brock III reviews troops of the 359th Signal Brigade during the July 11 change-of-command ceremony at Fort Gordon, Ga..

Signaling a change of leadership

By Spc. Daniel Haun
300th MPAD

FORT GORDON, Ga. – Brig. Gen. Lawrence W. Brock III replaced Brig. Gen. Geoff Freeman as commander of the 359th Signal Brigade during a ceremony here July 11.

Brock, whose prior position was chief of staff for the 335th Signal Command out of East Point, Ga., said he looked forward to his new job.

"We've got a great unit here with a lot of pride and a lot of things expected to happen within the next two to three years," said Brock.

"I'm excited to be a part of it."

The pass-in-review ceremony, which involved more than 160 Soldiers at Barton Field, marked Freeman's last official action with the U.S. Army Reserve. He retired the same day with 30 years of service.

Brock, who was a colonel when he became commander, was promoted in October to brigadier general.

The 359th Signal Brigade, headquartered at Fort Gordon, is made up of more than 1,400 Soldiers across seven states. The brigade's mission is to deploy worldwide to install, manage, monitor and defend theater-level communications systems and networks for joint and combined operations.

Before joining the 335th SC in 2008, Brock was with the South Carolina National Guard and served as the deputy commander of the 228th Signal Brigade, Spartanburg, S.C. In 2004, he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was the director of communications with Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan.

He held battalion command twice, first in 1997 with the 108th Signal Battalion, Camden, S.C., and then with the 151st Signal Battalion, Greenville, S.C. from 1998 to 2002.

Brock graduated from the Citadel Military College with Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. He is a graduate of the Signal School, Signal Officer Basic Course and Advanced Course and the Company Pre-Command Course. He has also graduated the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters) and National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Service Star) among others. He is also the holder the Silver and Bronze Order of Mercury.

Brock and his wife Melinda reside in Greenville, S.C., and have two children. He is employed by DataPath, where he is a vice president of the



Spc. Daniel Haun

Soldiers fire a cannon salute as part of the change-of-command ceremony.

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Pvt. Casey A. Brooks of Holmen, Wis., a chemical specialist with 704th Chemical Company of Arden Hills, Minn., roleplays a pregnant woman going into labor while in the decontamination process during an emergency drill at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee on June 17.



Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte

Civilians, Soldiers combat crisis

By Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte

300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MILWAUKEE – In the largest training exercise of its type in the nation, about 3,000 Army Reserve Soldiers helped civilian authorities respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks in June.

Federal, state and local officials joined military personnel in “Red Dragon,” a simulation filled with life-threatening scenarios spread across southern Wisconsin. At various

points, the exercise will involve more than a dozen hospitals and hundreds of civilian participants – along with hundreds of simulated casualties.

Most of the Soldiers taking part belonged to chemical units, which specialize in such skills as decontamination and protection from weapons of mass destruction and hazardous materials detection. The exercise allows them to place their skills into action on a large stage.

Brig. Gen. James Cook, who commands the 415th Chemical Brigade from Greenville, S.C., said this marks a large step up in operations, comparing it to a “crawl-walk-run” process. In previous years, the exercise was held almost exclusively at Fort McCoy, Wis.

“This year, it’s a sprint,” he said.

Cook, whose unit is overseeing the two-week exercise, said one of their key goals is to better assist – and integrate with – local emergency responders if the Army is called in to help.

“If something ever happens on our homeland, we are trained ... to deploy a unit to help the civil authorities and the national guard of that state in event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear event,” he said.

There are a variety of worst-case simulated events being conducted this week, including the imagined detonation of a radioactive explosive at a crowded Milwaukee baseball stadium.

Soldiers and civilians will work together to protect and aid the public throughout the scenarios. In many cases, Soldiers will act the part of victims to help hospitals practice dealing with the large volumes of



Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte

The June 17 drill was part of the two-week Exercise Red Dragon where Army Reserve Soldiers practice assisting civilian authorities in case of a biological, chemical, radiological or nuclear incident.

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Network helps defend the homeland

By Capt. Michelle Lunato

359th Signal Brigade Public Affairs

EAST POINT, Ga. – Wire can sometimes be a better weapon for war than a rifle, and Soldiers with the 335th Signal Command (Theater) are practicing the art of communication to prove it.

To fight terrorists on the technological battlefield, the Army uses signal Soldiers to create and defend communication networks in the time of war and for homeland defense.

So to prepare for their wartime mission of establishing a communications network that will cover 27 countries, they need to practice on a very large scale. This practice translated into a month-long, large-scale training exercise in June called Grecian Firebolt.

The event was lead by the 335th out of East Point, Ga., and includes several of its subordinate units. As part of Grecian Firebolt, signal Soldiers set up seven communication sites across the United States that umbrella six separate training exercises (in California, Wisconsin and Georgia): Global Medic; Pacific Warrior; Diamond Saber, Patriot Warrior; Red Dragon and the Combat Support Training Center.

These exercises, in total, include nearly 4,000 Soldiers from all three Army components: Reserve, active duty and National Guard, and cover a wide array of specialties like chemical warfare, combat medicine, and deployed finance.

Each of these exercises had their own specific mission, but all of them have the same need – to be able to communicate, said Col. Janice Haigler, the joint network operations control center director for Grecian Firebolt, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 335th SC (T).

Assembling and maintaining a mesh network for all of these exercises is similar to what would happen when signal Soldiers deploy, said Brig. Gen. Geoff Freeman, who commanded the 359th Signal Brigade when the exercise

“The problems we find here, we will find on deployment.”



Capt. Michelle Lunato

took place.

“We cannot model reality exactly, but this is close,” he said.

The actuality of setting up a nationwide communications network, whether overseas or stateside, requires an immense amount of preparation. Equipment has to be appropriately identified, bundled and shipped. Personnel have to be assigned, briefed and supported.

Plans have to be created, staffed and coordinated. Since the command has restructured, Grecian Firebolt has grown immensely, said 1st Lt. Luc J. Roy, network engineer for GF, HHC, 335th SC (T).

“This is the largest scale we have ever done this on,” said Roy. With such a difference in players and the ever-changing technological advances, there had to be a lot of synchronization. “We are not just taking out of the can solutions...and now, we have good proof of a concept.”

Putting all the pieces together and creating a well-run network of computers and telephones that can support close to 4,500 subscribers means there were plenty of hurdles to tackle.

Those are just training opportunities though, said Sgt. 1st Class Derrick O. Borders, administration and logistics

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Capt. Michelle Lunato

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher McGuire, satellite operator/maintainer NCOIC, and Spc. Gino A. Gonzales, satellite operator/maintainer, both with C Co., 324th Integrated Theater Signal Battalion from Fort Gordon, Ga., check connectivity issues with the communications network.

Spc. Shane D. Owen, a medic with the 7235th Medical Support Unit of Orlando, Fla., assists Spc. Edkin R. Garcia, a chemical specialist with 411th Chemical Company of Edison, N.J. while in full protective gear. Garcia was roleplaying an elderly contamination victim during an emergency drill at Waukesha Memorial Hospital in Waukesha, Wis. as part of Exercise Red Dragon, on June 17.



Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte

Medical units augment emergency troops

Staff Reports

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – Army Reserve medical units were tapped to provide a new type of support during a statewide emergency exercise this summer.

Almost 150 Soldiers from Florida-based units such as 7235th Medical Support, 7217th Medical Support and 7222nd Medical Support took part in Operation Red Dragon, a two-week exercise in June simulating a chemical, biological or radiological attack on the nation.

Previously, the medical personnel would be used to support civilian personnel responding to the crisis. This time they were placed directly with the Army chemical units in order to provide patient triage and other aid, said Col. Sue Feeley of Louisville, Ky., the commander of the 5010th United States Army Hospital.

“It went very well,” she said of the exercise. “It allowed our Soldiers to see – for the first time – the scope of these operations.”

The change also places the medical personnel at a crucial juncture, where they can advise decontamination teams on how to care for certain patients. It also allows the medical personnel help monitor the health of chemical Soldiers.

“We’ve got to keep them functional during horrible situations,” Feeley said.

The exercise didn’t just involve putting on decontamination suits, it also included a medical symposium between approximately 80 military and civilian medical officials at Froedert Hospital in Milwaukee.

During the symposium, behavioral health experts discussed the mental health needs of civilians and emergency responders, Feeley said.

New commander takes over public affairs unit

FORT GILLEM, Ga. – Maj. Perry M. Jarmon assumed command of the 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment on Nov. 18 during a ceremony here.

Jarmon, who lives in Kennesaw, Ga., most recently served as public affairs officer for the First Army Division. Highlights of his career include two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Bosnia. The 300th MPAD provides U.S. Army troops with public affairs and media support, including coverage that informs the nation about the activities and accomplishments of its Soldiers. The unit will deploy to Afghanistan at the beginning of the year.

Jarmon earned his commission in the Army Reserve Officer Training Program after receiving his degree from the University of North Alabama.

His military education included Signal Officer’s Basic Course, Signal Captains Career Course, Public Affairs Officer Qualification Course, and Instructor Trainers Course. He also holds a Bachelors degree in Communications from the University of North Alabama.

His military awards include the Meritorious Service



Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte

359th Signal Brigade Deputy Commander Col. Michael S. Healy presents Maj. Perry Jarmon the unit guidon Nov. 18.

Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

Communications critical to operation

By Spc. Charles J. Thompson
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT McCOY, WIS. – A statewide emergency response exercise is not easy to run, but without modern communications and the Soldiers who provide them, it would be nearly impossible.

Exercise Red Dragon was a two-week operation by Army Reserve units in June to practice assisting civilian authorities in case of a biological, chemical, radiological or nuclear incident.

Soldiers from A Co., 324th Signal Battalion of Greenville, S.C. had to run miles of cable, set up satellite dishes and towering antennas to make the mission happen.

Staff Sgt. Robert E. Price, NCOIC, said their mission provides essential ties between the dozens of units in the exercise.

"It is our responsibility to set up and maintain all telephone and Internet connections for this operation," said Price.

"There were some challenges in our missions, but we were able to pick up and keep going."

The forward operating bases, such as Contingency Operating Location Liberty, were able to be connected to the main operation center by a satellite dish raised 100 feet in the air, and a series of cables and antennas.

Spc. Stancil K. Ellison said the team pulled about four miles of cable to connect the bases to the rest of the operation.

"This mission kept us on our feet," said Ellison. "There were some challenges in our missions, but we were able to pick up and keep going."

The signal Soldiers had a

central control area where they were able to monitor what was happening with all their equipment. In order to keep



Spec. Charles J. Thompson

Above and at left, Soldiers with the 324th Signal Company set up communications for Operation Red Dragon in June.

the system going, the Soldiers had to shift into 24-hour operations, said Spc. Adam J. Garnsey.

"We work 12-hour shifts," said Garnsey. "So when we do have problems, we are there to get the system right back up."

The Soldiers practiced setting up their equipment and connecting troops spread out miles away from one another.

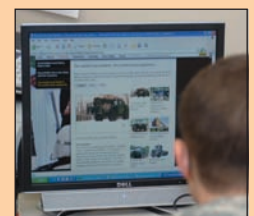
"This mission allowed us to provide communications to our subscribers," said Sgt. Willie E. Pralour. "It also gives us a chance to see what mistakes we made and how we can make it better next time."

"As a unit we learned a lot, we were able to work together and accomplish our mission," said Sgt. Otis C. Jennings. "This annual training had brought our whole unit closer together."



Spec. Charles J. Thompson

Find out what's going on – become a friend of the 359th Signal Brigade on Facebook or Twitter. Also check out the brigade Web site at www.armyreserve.army.mil/359signal.



Signal Soldiers adapt

Members of A Co., 324th Signal Battalion from Greenville, S.C. spent part of their summer at Fort McCoy, Wis., in support of Operation Red Dragon. The unit provided and maintained all the communication systems used in the exercise. They also found time to take on the base's challenge course as part of a teambuilding exercise on June 20. Immediate right, from left, Sgt. Adam Land, a power-generation equipment repairer and Sgt. Joseph Thomas, a cable systems installer-maintainer, watch their step while they keep up the pace. Bottom right, Staff Sgt. Hiram McCarrol a multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainer, is belly to the ground as he crawls under an obstacle. Bottom left, Pfc. Kenneth Gillem, radio and communications security repairer, scoots backwards underneath the barbed wire.



Photos by Spc. Charles J. Thompson





Top, from left, Staff Sgt. Hiram McCarrol and Spc. Ontorio Chisolm, multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainers practice their scaling skills as they cross an obstacle. Middle photo, Sgt. Nathan Lucatora, a network switching systems operator-maintainer, surmounts a wall. Bottom photo, from top, Spc. Joshua Davis, wheeled vehicle mechanic, and Pfc. Tommorrow Hughes, cable systems maintainer-installer, slide under a barbed wire obstacle.

Chemical Soldiers experience other side

By Staff Sgt. Donald L. Reeves
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LA CROSSE, Wis. — Pfc. Hector J. Lopez had worked a decontamination tent before. He had scrubbed the medical mannequins that came through his line and hosed them down with the high-pressure sprayer.

This time, it was his turn to go through the wash.

Red Dragon, held this year throughout southern Wisconsin, is the world's largest chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training exercise. The Army Reserve's new mission is to train units not to just respond in times of war, but also to quickly deploy in support of local agencies in the aid of the American public.

Lopez and his fellow Soldiers from the 369th Chemical Company out of El Paso, Texas, volunteered to take turns going through the decontamination tents playing the part of casualties.

"We've seen it, we've done it, but we've never been through it," Lopez said. "It should be interesting."

Their day started early. The 311th Mortuary Affairs unit out of Puerto Rico applied realistic looking burns and cuts to the Soldiers using theater style make-up. Then the motley-looking crew of more than 75 Soldiers loaded up on buses and rode for an hour from Fort McCoy, Wis., to La Crosse.

Once at the La Crosse Firefighters Academy the Soldiers played the part



Spec. Charles J. Thompson

A Soldier treats a roleplaying "victim."

of casualties of a massive chemical attack.

The La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Team joined the exercise by detecting the chemical agents and calling for an Army Reserve massive casualty decontamination tent.

While one team set up the decontamination line, another team donned bright yellow HAZMAT suits and moved into an area mapped out by the firefighters.

In a field near the twisted wreckage of cars and rubble of old buildings, the Soldiers found the "victims" sprawled on the ground, moaning and writhing in agony.

The chemical Soldiers in the swelter-

ing suits followed their protocol, marking the bodies of the dead and transporting others to the decontamination line.

Lopez yelled in the line and acted disoriented, playing his part to the utmost.

"I wanted to act kind of psycho because that's how it would really be you know," he said later. "Nobody who has been through something like that is just going to walk quietly through a line."

The casualties were led through different stations where they were sprayed with water and scrubbed. Many of the casualties tried out their acting skills by being belligerent or screaming in pain. Watching their fellow Soldiers coming through dressed in civilian clothes caused some to look at their jobs in a different way.

"Now that it's a Homeland Defense mission people know that it could be your mom or your dad in that line," said Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Pugh, a platoon sergeant.

"You could look up and one of those people screaming could be someone you know."

After being checked out by the medical personnel at the end of the line, Lopez sat drying in the sun, reflecting on how he can improve at his job.

"I learned a lot," he said. "We have to practice timing. I can see how important it is to get people through quickly. It's so important."

Soldiers from the 413th Chemical Company out of Florence, S.C., extract a roleplaying "victim" in a June 18 decontamination exercise held in LaCrosse, Wis. Exercise Red Dragon is a two-week operation by Army Reserve units to practice assisting civilian authorities in case of a biological, chemical, radiological or nuclear incident.



Spec. Charles J. Thompson

Combat crisis

Continued from Page 6

injured patients.

The exercise is part of the planned homeland security response to catastrophes, whether natural or man-made, Col. James Murphy, the operation's lead planner and commander of the 457th Chemical Battalion from Greenville, S.C., said.

"Red Dragon is becoming one of the most important exercises in the Department of Defense," he said in a Saturday interview. "We face numerous threats. Those threats are proliferating."

Murphy, who has worked in civilian emergency services for more than two decades, said the exercise will help the response speed of the units and will also help the participating hospitals meet their own certification requirements.

A variety of agencies participated in Red Dragon, including the FBI, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, local police and fire departments, local hospitals, local governments, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the United States Coast Guard.

The Reserve units spent a week of the exercise undergoing validation testing, with Army officials monitoring their mastery of the needed skills.

Cook pointed out citizen Soldiers conduct their military duties in addition to maintaining their civilian



Spc. Daniel Haun

Pfc. Wesley Brinson, a chemical operations specialist with 371st Chemical Company from Greenwood, S.C., checks a roleplaying "victim" for radiological particles in an emergency drill at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, on June 17.

careers. He expressed his appreciation for the families of those Soldiers who make it possible for them to serve.

"I want to thank the families for sacrificing their time and allowing them

to do this profession," he said.

At the start of the exercise, Cook spoke to assemblies of the participating troops about the importance of their mission and the skills they bring to the effort. He noted chemical units were not the only Soldiers who are participating in Red Dragon.

"They come from several different disciplines," he said.

Medical units, logistics, support, military police, chaplains and even Army firefighters would be taking part, he said. National Guard units will be working with Reserve Soldiers without regard to different service divisions, he said.

Cook said Red Dragon gives troops the practice that allows them to conduct their work as second nature and provides them a better communications framework with civilians during a crisis.

"We're able to speak the same language to help them out," he said.

Pfc. Andrew T. Vandenberg, Pfc. Joshua R. Hammock and Spc. Stephen K. Newton with the 314th Chemical Company out of Decatur, Ga., use high pressured water hoses to practice the chemical decontamination of a train during Exercise Red Dragon at Fort McCoy, Wis.



Spc. Daniel Haun

Guiding star for brigade commander

By Capt. Michelle Lunato
359th Public Affairs Officer

GREER, S.C. – Col. Lawrence W. Brock III was promoted to brigadier general Oct. 24 at the Thornblade Club here.

Maj. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence, commanding general, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command, spoke to the crowd about Brock.

He has worked hard and waited a long time to get here, Lawrence said as she ripped off his colonel rank.

Brock's wife, Melinda, then stepped forward to place the new rank on his uniform. She placed the star upon his chest and then slapped it hard with a smile. His daughter, Katherine then came forward with her dad's beret. This time, it held the rank of brigadier general.

Next to come forward was his son, Sgt. Lance Brock. As a Soldier and a veteran, Brock presented his father with the general's pistol.

Brock, commander of the 359th Signal Brigade, has previously held numerous positions to include battalion personnel officer, systems engineer officer, traffic engineer officer and telecommunications signal officer. He further served as the detachment commander for the 228th Mobile Communications Detachment and company command, Delta Company, 151st Signal Battalion.

Brock held battalion command



Melinda Brock places the new rank on her husband, Brig. Gen. Lawrence W. Brock III, as Katherine Brock and Sgt. Lance Brock look on.

twice, first in 1997 with the 108th Signal Battalion, Camden, South Carolina and again with the 151st Signal Battalion, Greenville, South Carolina from October 1998 to January 2002.

In January 2002 Brock was promoted to deputy commander of the 228th Signal Brigade, Spartanburg, S.C. He

held that position until July 2003, when he served as the mobilization officer for the state of South Carolina.

In September 2004, he deployed in support of the War on Terror, serving as the director of communications (CJ6) with Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan. From January 2006 to June 2008 he served as the deputy commander of the 228th Signal Brigade, Spartanburg, S.C.

In June 2008, he departed the ARNG and joined the Army Reserves, assuming the position as Chief of Staff, 335th Signal Command (Theater).

In July 2009, Brock became the commander of the 359th Signal Brigade, which is headquartered out of Fort Gordon, Ga.

Early next year, Brig. Gen. Brock will lead his brigade headquarters to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Network

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control noncommissioned officer for the Fort Gordon site, HHC, 359th SB. "The problems we find here, we will find on deployment."

The standard difficulties were not enough to challenge the signal Soldiers though, so they also asked the Army's 1st Information Command to hack into their network and test the security. This scenario is very life-like as the military network covering Iraq and Kuwait has thousands of daily hacker attempts, said Command Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Dehorty, the command sergeant major for the 359th SB.

Attacking your own network is bold training, said Brig. Gen. Lawarren V. Patterson, deputy commanding general, Network Enterprise Technology Command in Arizona. "My hats are off to you for doing that to your own network."

Testing Soldiers and their equipment is necessary training and part of homeland defense, said Master Sgt. Scott C. Jackson, network engineer for Grecian Firebolt,

HHC, 335th SC (T). "It helps Soldiers prepare because the kinds of networks we are using here, are realistic to the networks we put in place real world."

In a real-world crisis, many people think they can use their cell phones or personal computers, but this is just not true, said Jackson.

"What we have learned from past emergencies, like 9/11 and Katrina, is that we cannot rely on the existing commercial infrastructure, because it is either overwhelmed or destroyed. The key is that we have to plan on there being no communications in the area and rely only on the communications that we take with us."

This build from scratch exercise reinforces the training and gives Soldiers a number of invaluable hands-on experiences. Along with spending weeks practicing their specific job skills, Soldiers are also gaining experience on how to work with each other. This integration is a critical experience for all Soldiers, regardless of component, said Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Lutz, the commanding general for the 335th SC (T). "In a deployment, we all need to talk to each other. This is all one fight, one Army."



Subordinate units from throughout the 359th Signal Brigade participated in the July 11 ceremony.

Signal change

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Integrated Services Division.

Brock said his current command will benefit from the advice Freeman provided him.

"I'll rely on the people that taught him to teach me as well, and to use his guidance and wisdom that he's imparted to me over the past few months and continue to go forward with it," he said.

Freeman was commander of the 359th SB for four years, having previously served as the systems control officer in logistics, the supply officer, the brigade operations officer and commander of the 324th Signal Battalion.

The general said he would remember those he led more than anything else.

"All of my memories of all of my time with the brigade will be of Soldiers; what they did, where they went," said Freeman.

"Units are units, but they're made up of Soldiers; I will remember faces, names and individuals of the brigade."

Freeman served as the Army Theater Signal Officer and U.S. Army Central's Information Manager and coalition Forces Land Component Command Information Manager while deployed to Kuwait with the 335th Signal Command. While in command Freeman emphasized war preparation

and training.

"I wanted everyone to understand that we are preparing for war," said Freeman. "What we're doing is very serious business, we like to have fun doing it, but when the day is done we're preparing for war. That's what I tried to impart to everyone."

Brock agreed with Freeman that the most important task as a commander

is to take care of Soldiers.

"We need to be able to go out and perform our mission safely and come home," said Brock. "We need to be able to look out after the Soldiers and they're families that are here with us and make sure we do the right things for them."

Freeman, who will return to his civilian job at Medical University of South Carolina as an associate professor and executive director of educational technology services and distance education, said he would continue to be an ambassador for the Army Reserve.

"I try to impart everywhere I go, especially to a civilian audience just how important the Army Reserve is," he said. "Most people realize now, because of the coverage we receive from the media, what we're doing ... it makes me feel good that today most of our civilians understand what we do and are appreciative of it."

Major subordinate units in the 359th SB include 324th Integrated Theater Signal Battalion, Fort Gordon, Ga.; 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Baltimore, Md.; 982nd Combat Camera (Airborne), East Point, Ga.; 820th Theater Integration and Network Signal Company, Mesquite, Texas; 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Gillem, Ga.; 317th Military History Detachment, Fort Gillem and the 45th Military History Detachment, Fort Gillem.



Spec. Daniel Haun

Brig. Gen. Geoff Freeman hands over the unit colors to Maj. Gen. Dennis Lutz, commander of the 335th Signal Command before they are presented to the new 359th Signal Brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Lawrence W. Brock III.

