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3rd Chemical Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood welcomes new commander

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – The 3rd Chemical Brigade held a change-of-command ceremony June 25 on Gammon Field.

Col. James Bonner passed command responsibilities for the brigade to the incoming commander, Col. Jon Drushal, during the ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Peggy Combs, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School commandant, presided over the ceremony.

“It’s a bittersweet day as we close one chapter of the great history of the 3rd Chemical Brigade and open another through this change of command,” Combs said.

“Today I am looking at two great leaders: Col. Jim Bonner and Col. Jon Drushal,” she said.

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Combs spoke about Bonner's accomplishments and abilities.

"Our Army profession is founded on the three-c's: character, competence and commitment; and I will tell you, Jim Bonner exemplifies those three characteristics of our profession," Combs said.

Combs said the 3rd Chemical Brigade, with its multiple missions, is one of the most diverse within Training and Doctrine Command.

Bonner managed all facets of the brigade's basic combat training, advanced individual training and officer training of 40,000 Soldiers with ease and professionalism, she said.

"In a mission-command environment, Bonner inspired his subordinates to use their initiative, to try new things, to stretch the limits of training, so that each and every one of our Soldiers graduates confident and ready to be a member of our profession," Combs said.

Combs provided Bonner with words of support and encouragement as he leaves the brigade for the Army G8, Office of the U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff.

Combs welcomed the Drushal family and commented on Drushal's experience.

You can read Drushal's impressive biography. He's been doing great things for this nation, she said.

One thing that's not in his biography is that only two chemical officers get the opportunity to command units in our Army, Combs said.

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“So this is truly an exceptional officer; we don’t just pick anybody to do this,” she said.

Drushal is ready to lead this great brigade, she said.

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Photos are available on Fort Leonard Wood FLICKR at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fortleonardwood/sets/72157634347640572/>

PHOTO CUTLINES:

DS3_9909.jpg: Fort Leonard Wood and the 3rd Chemical Brigade recognize Debra Bonner for her commitment to the Army Family June 25 during a change of command on Gammon Field. During the ceremony, Col. James Bonner passed command responsibilities for the brigade to the incoming commander, Col. Jon Drushal. Army photo by Michael Curtis/Released

DS3_9914.jpg: : Fort Leonard Wood and the 3rd Chemical Brigade welcome Terry Drushal, June 25 during a change of command on Gammon Field. During the ceremony, Col. James Bonner passed command responsibilities for the brigade to the incoming commander, Col. Jon Drushal. Army photo by Michael Curtis/Released

DS3_9948: Brig. Gen. Peggy Combs, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School commandant, passes the colors from Col. James Bonner to Col. Jon Drushal, signifying the passing of command responsibility and the changing of the leadership for the 3rd Chemical Brigade, during a ceremony held June 25 on Gammon Field. Army photo by Michael Curtis/Released

MC1_9865.jpg: Brig. Gen. Peggy Combs, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School commandant presides over the 3rd Chemical Brigade change-of-command ceremony held June 25 on Gammon Field. Col. James Bonner passed command responsibilities for the brigade to the incoming commander, Col. Jon Drushal. Army photo by Michael Curtis/Released

MC1_9913.jpg: Col. James Bonner, right, passes command responsibilities for the 3rd Chemical Brigade to the incoming commander, Col. Jon Drushal, left, during a ceremony held June 25 on Gammon Field. Army photo by Michael Curtis/Released

MC1_9784.jpg: The 3rd Chemical Brigade held a change-of-command ceremony June 25 on Gammon Field where Col. James Bonner passed brigade responsibilities to the incoming commander, Col. Jon Drushal. Participating units for the ceremony included: the 3rd Chemical Brigade; Headquarters and Headquarters Company 3rd Chemical Brigade; 2/10th Infantry Regiment; 3/10th Infantry Regiment; 1/48th Infantry Regiment; 58th Transportation Corps Battalion; 84th Chemical Battalion and the 399th Army Band. Army photo by Michael Curtis/Released

DS3_9989.jpg: Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith and his wife, Vanedra, welcome the Drushal family to Fort Leonard Wood during a ceremony held June 25 on Gammon Field. Drushal is the incoming commander for the 3rd Chemical Brigade. Army photo by Michael Curtis/Released

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains 80-90,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Non Commissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.

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