

Dozier seems unlikely target

United Press International
FORT HOOD — James Lee Dozier, a jovial middle-aged man who sports a freshly-trimmed crewcut and eyeglasses, seems an unlikely target for a terrorist plot and an even more unlikely rallying point for Italian patriotism.

His unassuming appearance, if one ignores his Army camouflage fatigues and the snapping salutes that greet him, belie his status as second-in-command of the Army's largest base and his 42-day ordeal as a Red Brigade hostage in Italy nearly two years ago.

The terrorist experience remains a vivid memory for Brig. Gen. James Dozier, 52, who soon will pin a second star on his cap, but he says he is not haunted by flashbacks or the trauma of the incident.

"It's not something that you want to volunteer to do again, but it's a fact of life," said Dozier, who took over last month as deputy commander of III Corps, one of three units at this sprawling 217,000-acre, 43,000-troop base. On Dec. 17, 1981, while Dozier

was commander of an Army post in Verona, Italy, two members of the radical terrorist Red Brigades burst into his apartment. They overpowered the general ("I just lost the fight," he says), bound and gagged his wife, and whisked him away in a van.

Dozier was put into a tent inside a small apartment and chained to a bunk where he remained throughout the Christmas season until his rescue by Italian police six weeks later.

"It was not really a harsh environment, except I couldn't get loose," Dozier said. "I did do exercises. I had reading materials. I was well fed and I wasn't mistreated."

"They never gave me any concrete indication that they were going to do away with me."

The general claimed he never was pessimistic or depressed throughout his captivity. He said his overwhelming feelings were of boredom, frustration and irritation at having constantly to wear earphones that blared rock music. "I argued with them and they

eventually changed some of the hard rock to Gershwin," he said.

After weeks of asking "Why me?" Dozier finally got an explanation for the kidnapping from his captors, who said they wanted to exchange him for fellow terrorists imprisoned in Europe and wanted to force him to reveal America's plan for subjugating the Italian people militarily, economically and politically.

"I said, 'You've just got the wrong boy,' because there wasn't any such plan and even if there was, at the level that I operated on, I wouldn't have known a thing about it."

"I think they did it simply to demonstrate that they could do it. Their objectives are to undermine the institutions of the countries in which they operate. A way to do that is to embarrass the government and a way to embarrass the government is to do what they did to me."

Throughout the six weeks, Dozier's wife Judy also remained hopeful. The Doziers credit their religious faith for their optimism.

"We felt positive throughout the whole time," said Judy, who has joined the general in more than 100 speaking engagements since the kidnapping.

Mrs. Dozier was in Germany when news of her husband's rescue came and quickly returned to Verona with the couple's two children.

"I really didn't expect to get rescued," Dozier said. "The first I was aware of what was going on, I was dozing on the bunk and I looked up and the guard had a pistol with a silencer on it and aimed it in my general direction."

"I jumped up and ran to one corner of the tent, and about that time the world collapsed on the guard out there. A guy burst through the flap of the tent and knocked him down."

"I looked out and I thought, 'Boy, this just ain't my day,' because the guy who had gotten into the tent was dressed the same way as the guy who got knocked down — ski mask, tight-fitting clothes. I thought I was caught in a jurisdictional dispute between two terrorist groups."

The new "terrorists," however, were really members of an Italian police SWAT team — part of the 6,000 law enforcement officers who were involved in the search for Dozier.

The rescue went smoothly with no shots fired, and Dozier's captors later gave police information that led to the arrests of 200 Red Brigades members.

"In the wake of my rescue, the Italians have been able to do something that few other countries have been able to do, and that is to suppress a major, sophisticated terrorist organization without infringing on the civil rights of their people," Dozier said.

But the more intangible results of the rescue, Dozier says, made him feel the ordeal was worthwhile.

"I had an Italian tell me that two great things happened in 1982 that enhanced Italian national pride: One was the fact that they won the World Cup in soccer and the other was getting me loose. I told him I don't know too much about soccer, but I sure do appreciate the other."

Farm leaders say fee is a tax

United Press International
RICHMOND, Va. — Agriculture and industry officials predict the death of small dairy farms and higher milk prices at the supermarket because a federal appeals court refused to stop a federal production fee they consider a tax.

"Our industry is in one hell of a mess and we are greatly worried," said Riley Hogan, general manager of the Tampa, Fla., Independent Dairy Farmer's Association.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Monday in favor of the U.S. Agriculture Department said will offset part of the \$2.3 billion milk price-support program.

The appeals panel, reversing U.S. District Judge Matthew Perry of Columbia, S.C., said U.S.

Agriculture Secretary John Block complied with federal regulations drawn by Congress when he implemented the assessment, and the regulations are constitutional.

The decision rebuffed attempts by the state of South Carolina and groups representing about 35 percent of the nation's dairy farmers to eliminate an initial 50-cent fee imposed on each hundred pounds of milk produced. A second 50-cent assessment took effect Sept. 1, pushing the total fee to \$1.

The fee could close small dairy operations, industry leaders said. "Very obviously, unless Congress addresses this issue immediately, we're going to have a lot of farmers going broke," said Tommy Irving, Georgia agriculture commissioner.

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