
Chief of Chemical

The Chemical Corps was born out of the need to protect soldiers from the effects of new and devastating weapons used in the trenches of the Western front during World War I. Although chemical warfare provided a battlefield advantage, it did not prove to be a decisive weapon in the outcome of the Great War. The Chemical Warfare Service (as it was then called) equipped and trained the forces with a fierce resolve. Consequently, the protective equipment and training provided by the first chemical soldiers proved sufficient to contain the threat posed by the chemical agents employed.



BG Patricia L. Nilo

Today, the threat is much broader than the chlorine and phosgene used in the early 1900s. Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) warfare is less well defined, more likely in a variety of geographic scenarios, and can be the decisive factor in the outcome of any conflict. CBRN offensive technologies continue to advance and proliferate into the hands of terrorists and rogue nation states, who are more prone to employ CBRN weapons as a means to tip the balance of power than at any point in recent history. However, one thing has not changed—that fierce resolve of the Dragon Warrior to protect the forces. In the past year and a half, as we recover from the devastation of 9-11 and anthrax letters, I have witnessed tremendous achievements by our Regiment. I continue to be in awe of the talent of the chemical community and the determination with which every mission is accomplished. Let me tell you about a few of our great success stories.

Recently, we gained approval of the Installation Force Protection Operational and Organizational Plan, which further defines the Chemical Corps's new and expanding role in force protection and homeland security. This plan delineates the Army's force protection operational capabilities, requirements, and organizational structure required to prevent, deter, defend, and respond to a terrorist threat against Army installations.

Chemical doctrine has been even more fully engaged ever since Transformation made its debut, and doubly so since 9-11. More than 75 percent of our current doctrine is under revision. As the list of potential operational environments changes, we must continually adapt our doctrinal procedures to deliver responsive support to the maneuver forces and the homeland security mission. This year's doctrine continues to work with the joint staff and sister services to develop publications at the joint, multiservice, and Army levels.

Within the coming months, you will see our new capstone Army field manual—FM 3-11, *NBC Defense Operations*; the latest avoidance and protection doctrine—FMs 3-11.3, *NBC Contamination Avoidance*, and 3-11.4, *NBC Protection*; and new comprehensive manuals covering NBC reconnaissance and biological defense—FMs 3-11.19, *NBC Reconnaissance*, and 3-11.86, *Biological Defense Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures*. We have worked hard to incorporate doctrinal changes, emerging issues, and technologies into these manuals. Additionally, we are moving toward a Web-based doctrine

system where you'll have quick access to the latest available doctrine. Web-basing will also allow doctrinal changes to keep pace with the changing operational environment and threats. I challenge each of you to continue to provide input to these publications and ensure that we are sending the best information to our soldiers in the field.

One of our training challenges today is to adapt our Cold-War training management to meet today's world environment. As the Army transitions to a lighter and more lethal force, we must be able to adapt our training systems. Our training developers are constantly updating and refining this process in a job where we never get ahead. This is a critical mission to ensure that chemical soldiers meet the challenges of the contemporary operational environment. Several areas were added to the training of our newest Dragon Soldiers. These include NBC room operations, consequence management, and mass casualty decontamination training. This new and forward-looking training will produce Dragon Soldiers capable of succeeding in any operational environment.

A few more successes in the training arena are the addition of several courses in support of homeland defense. The Installation Emergency Responder Trainers Course is designed to provide installation law enforcement, emergency medical services, medical, fire fighting, emergency operations center, and emergency rescue personnel the basic skills and knowledge needed to react to a terrorist chemical, biological, or radiological attack. The Installation Planner's Course is a one-week course designed to familiarize installation planners, installation operations center personnel, emergency disaster planning officers, and emergency response working group members with the procedures for preparing an installation to respond

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to a CBRN incident. Finally, the Emergency Assessment and Detection Course deals with the fundamental concepts important to National Guard civil support team members who support the Incident Command System.

Our best defense against CBRN warfare remains our ability to prepare for and protect ourselves against the toxic effects of these weapons. By defeating the effects of CBRN weapons, we in effect make them obsolete. Our combat development folks are making great strides in our ability to defeat the effects of CBRN agents. Developments in the area of decontamination are particularly noteworthy. A two-step approach has been used to define requirements for future decontamination systems, the first of which was a decontamination performance demonstration (DPD) held in July 2001. The DPD was a market survey in which companies from the world over were invited to the Chemical School to showcase their decontamination technologies. The equipment was operated by our chemical soldiers, which fostered a direct two-way exchange of ideas between the customer (you) and the industry professionals. A great deal was accomplished during the DPD, and our combat developers took the lessons learned from the soldiers and industry and went back to work defining the key performance parameters (KPPs) for future decontamination systems.

These KPPs were the yardstick by which performance of prototype systems chosen to participate in the April 2002 decontamination limited objective experiment (LOE) were measured against. During the LOE, we experimented with promising equipment to see if it not only fixed our historical problem areas but further enhanced capability while reducing workload and logistical support requirements. Several pieces of equipment were identified that possess the ability to greatly improve our capability with little or no modification. These systems represent real-time solutions that are available for acquisition now. We are taking everything we learned throughout this two-step approach and writing the requirements for the next generation of decontamination systems. This approach underpins requirements definition, thereby ensuring we take maximum advantage of state-of-the-art technology available. We are focusing our effort on getting the systems developed and proven out through testing to get enhanced capability into your hands as soon as possible.

Additionally, there has been a tremendous amount of effort to provide the most efficient and versatile chemical force structure to combat commanders of the future. Work in support of Total Army Analysis 11 changes will potentially restructure chemical units to be capable of executing a wider variety of tasks from homeland security to major contingency operations.

Our nation is counting on us, the Chemical Corps and our partners in CBRN Defense, to protect our forces and our homeland from the deleterious effects of CBRN assaults. We must maintain our fierce resolve to support our combat commanders with the best-trained soldiers and leaders, the best doctrine, the best equipment, and our finest intellectual effort for the challenges of tomorrow. You're doing tremendous things Dragon Soldiers! Drive on.

ELEMENTIS REGAMUS PROELIUM!

Dragon Soldiers . . . Rule the Battle

(Regimental Command Sergeant Major, continued from page 3)

When you become an NCO, "take care of your soldiers." This means that you are responsible for someone besides yourself. You will learn when to say yes and when to say no. Respect your soldiers and listen to what they have to say. Your soldiers are a reflection of you. Without them, you cannot succeed. Just as important, take care of your family. Find the balance.

As your RCSM, I want to continue to improve the communication with the units in the field and the soldiers and civilians throughout the chemical community, support the heritage of the Corps, be a role model to all, share the great work we do as chemical soldiers, and improve identified weaknesses, where possible. I intend to share DA's vision of people, readiness, and transformation with everyone:

- People/soldiers, not equipment, are the centerpieces of our formation. We will take care of soldiers, civilians, and leaders. I always keep in mind that we have been trusted with our nation's greatest asset—its sons and daughters.
- Readiness is our mission. The Army has a non-negotiable contract with the American people to fight and win our nation's wars. We must maintain near-term training and readiness to ensure that we are prepared at all times to carry out our obligations. This is our daily mission; we will continue to work hard and improve our readiness. As NCOs and leaders, we are the standard bearers for readiness.
- Transformation is an imperative. Army Transformation represents the strategic transition we will have to undergo to shed our Cold-War designs to prepare ourselves for the crises and wars of the twenty-first century.

In closing, this is a very critical time for our country. We will encounter many challenges that we will conquer by working together. This includes everyone.