



# Chemical Knowledge Network Web Site

*By Second Lieutenant Eleanor Baldenweck*

Did you know that the Chemical Corps has a Web site? I sure did not! But while on temporary duty travel at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, I was assigned to a three-person development team and tasked with updating the Chemical Knowledge Network (CKN) Web site. Being a green second lieutenant, I had never heard of CKN; however, I am now certain the Web site will become one of the more important tools in my training arsenal as my Chemical career progresses.

The CKN is an extension of learning aids provided by the U.S. Army Chemical School. The CKN is a strong beginning of what the Chemical School views as an online chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) resource center available to all members of the Chemical Corps, regardless of duty location or career stage.

Learning for today's enlisted Soldiers and officers does not end with courses at the Schoolhouse (such as Advanced Individual Training or the Chemical Captain's Career Course [CMC3]). The threat of CBRN is only a matter of "when," not "if." Instructors at the Chemical School cover as much material as they can in the time given; an online resource is the perfect accompanying tool for Chemical Soldiers to continue their training development.

Initially, the CKN boasted a healthy array of Chemical resources, including a selection of field manuals (FMs) and standing operating procedures (SOPs). The development team added fresh material to the CKN by the truckload, specifically to the *Staff Tool*, *Community Documents* page. Much of the material is in the form of practical tools (calculators, PowerPoint® presentations, and SOPs). I

worked specifically on the Army publications. Since the CKN had links to all Chemical FMs, I added mostly Army training and evaluation programs (ARTEPs) and technical manuals (TMs) to the already rich cache. For example, ARTEP 3-477-10-MTP, a manual that complements the previously posted FM 3-11.86, fits nicely with the critical task knowledge requirements on biological surveillance—a necessity for captains planning biological detection operations at the brigade level. Another example is Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 50-6, a manual used for civil relief operations. I also compiled a list that shows the twenty most toxic industrial materials and where these hazards are most often found. This information dovetails with a new item on the critical task list for officers and enlisted Soldiers: "Provide Technical Advice on Toxic Industrial Chemicals."

Many Chemical leaders, including many who are or were deployed, were asked what sort of information they thought the site should include. Captain Colin Vance, a member of the development team, conducted inquiries with deployed officers and introduced "Leader Material"—a folder full of standard leadership aids good for officers in any branch. These aids included blank forms for leader books, physical training plans, and an eight-step training plan. He also uploaded tools specific to Chemical Corps functions (such as CBRN training and CMC3 information). Materials of special interest include the Soldier/Service Member Radiation Dosimeter presentation; mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) analysis; and nuclear, biological, and chemical staff book.

Captain Vance drew on his own experience as a Chemical platoon leader to create a point of reference that could make the job of today's Chemical platoon leader easier. As a result, a number of unit CBRN SOPs are now accessible online, creating an alternate avenue of reference for newly arriving Soldiers and, possibly, other units looking for new ideas to incorporate into their own training. With a cross-pollination of ideas, Chemical officers have a solid supply of resources.

Second Lieutenant Travis Cox, fresh from Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) III, was in the perfect position to compile BOLC III information for Soldiers to use as a point of reference. This information included fact sheets and information on smoke operations (including calculators).

The information in the CKN will continue to evolve to best meet the needs of Soldiers. A forum option is available at the site, where members of the Army Chemical community can ask questions, answer questions, and make suggestions for additional improvements to the site. The CKN revision is part of a general update to the curriculum of the Chemical School itself, including a new, more robust critical task list. The tasks taught in BOLC III have been augmented and now number more than 200. The 74D critical task list has also been augmented and now includes more than 100 tasks, mostly focused on hazard response (including equipment familiarity). As already mentioned,

today's CBRN threat is more technologically advanced than ever before. The role of the Army extends beyond protecting troops to defending civilian populations. To marry this combination of missions means more initial training to produce knowledgeable, competent, junior officers equipped with additional skill sets. More robust training means that Chemical Soldiers and leaders will be more technologically proficient. An online resource center is the perfect touchstone for the myriad of tasks necessary to maintain proficiency.

To access the CKN, go to the Fort Leonard Wood Web site <<http://www.wood.army.mil/>> and select *Maneuver Support Knowledge Network (MSKN)* in the lower left-hand corner of the home page. At the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) portal, log in using your user name and password. Under *MANSCEN [Center of Excellence] CoE Links*, select *CBRN*. 

#### References:

ARTEP 3-477-10-MTP, *Mission Training Plan for the Biological Integrated Detection System (BIDS) Platoon*, 14 April 2006.

DA PAM 50-6, *Chemical Accident or Incident Response and Assistance (CAIRA) Operations*, 26 March 2003.

FM 3-11.86, *Multiservice Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Biological Surveillance*, 4 October 2004.

Colonel Robert Eng, "Soldier/Service Member Radiation Dosimeter," presentation, 22 May 2007.

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*Second Lieutenant Baldenweck is a BOLC student.*

## *Honoring Our Fallen Dragon Soldier*



**Sergeant Jacob Schmuecker**

**Hometown:**  
Norfolk, Nebraska

**Unit:**  
755th Reconnaissance/  
Decontamination Company,  
Nebraska Army National Guard,  
O'Neill, Nebraska

**Killed:**  
21 July 2007

*This casualty list from the ongoing War on Terrorism was current as of the publication date.*