Chief of Chemical

Brigadier General Stanley H. Lillie

2004 is behind us, and the Chemical Corps is charging full speed ahead into a new year. Last year was a very busy and fruitful year for the Chemical Corps. First and foremost, the Corps continued to serve our Nation in the Global War on Terrorism and support our soldiers in the field. We have many fine chemical soldiers deployed around the world who are advising their commanders on the best way to protect their units from the threat of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) hazards and preserve the fighting force. These soldiers are doing the mission that they were trained for, and the reports that I have received from senior leaders indicate that our Chemical Corps soldiers are serving our Nation with distinction.

There were many significant accomplishments for the Chemical Corps in 2004. The chemical sections of the Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) and the Directorate of Combat Developments (DCD) were reassigned to the Chemical School. The Chemical School was also designated as the joint combat developer for CBRN defense. Our initial task is to conduct experimentation to support all services, as directed by the Joint Requirements Office (JRO). The Chemical School was also named the executive agent for management of the homeland security programs at the Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN).

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The Chemical Corps became the proponent for the Technical Escort Course in 2004, although the course will continue to train in the facilities at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. As the proponent, we will provide timely support to the new 20th Support Command, activated at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, in October 2004. The 20th Support Command, formerly called the Guardian Brigade, includes the 52d Ordnance Group (EOD), the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), and the 110th Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) (scheduled to activate in September 2005).

In 2004, the Chemical Corps activated two Joint Biological Point Detection System (JBPDS) multiple-component (multicompo) Biological Integrated Detection System (BIDS) companies. Multicompo units have platoons in the Active Army and the Army Reserve. The Corps also received approval to build the first 17 Stryker nuclear, biological, chemical reconnaissance vehicles (NBCRVs), which will be fielded to the Stryker brigade combat teams.

We refined and began sharing the vision for the Chemical Corps in 2004. Many of you have seen the vision statement (see *page 5*) on the Chemical School Web site or heard me talk about it on other occasions. The vision sets our azimuth for the future. We are developing a campaign plan that will guide our efforts to implement the vision. Your participation as we formulate the details of the vision is a critical element to its success.

The Chemical Corps vision is where we need to go in the future, but we will never accomplish the task set before us without each one of you working with me to achieve it. You are the Dragon Soldiers in the units, advising your commanders on CBRN issues. You are training soldiers at the unit level and taking care of the CBRN equipment. You are studying the field manuals and reading articles on CBRN topics to continue to develop your knowledge and expertise. You will enforce the standards and show the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers in your units "what right looks like." Look in the mirror; you are the face of the Chemical Corps to your units. It is you that the commanders and units rely on for professional expertise!

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The Chemical Corps will have a busy 2005 as we build on the accomplishments of 2004. With your help, we will continue to implement the vision and work to support chemical soldiers in the field. We are working to inculcate the Warrior Ethos into all training at the Chemical School. Every soldier, noncommissioned officer, and officer going through one of our courses will know that they are soldiers first and foremost.

We will continue to focus on lieutenant accessions. The Chemical Corps requires more officers with hard science backgrounds to help apply 21st century science and technology to the modern battlefield. In the past, only about 20 percent of our lieutenants had hard science backgrounds. This increased to 41 percent in 2004. My goal is that 80 percent of our lieutenants have a background in biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, or similar disciplines. This is another area where you can help. Many of you maintain close ties with your alma maters. If you correspond with the ROTC department of your school or talk with any current ROTC cadets, please tell them about the opportunities available in the Chemical Corps. The number of Chemical Corps opportunities and positions in units with high-end capabilities is increasing. Many of the cadets with hard science backgrounds will accept the challenge and be grateful to you for letting them know about the exciting opportunities the Chemical Corps offers.

The Chemical School will continue to modernize in 2005 to meet our responsibilities for homeland defense and improve our training facilities. In the spring, Fort Leonard Wood will begin construction of a new CBRN responder training facility. This facility will provide more realistic training, including a simulation area for virtual emergency response training and an urban façade, cave complex, and other types of ranges. It will support Department of Defense emergency-responder training for CBRN installation protection, WMD civil support teams, and other first and emergency responders. This facility will improve our capability to train Dragon Soldiers across the full spectrum of operations, to include sensitive-site exploitation.

There is one additional thing that you can do to help implement the Chemical Corps vision in 2005—take care of your soldiers, your unit, and the Army. Share what you are learning with your fellow chemical soldiers to help them become better. Write an article for submission to *Army Chemical Review* (see *page 43*) or one of the other professional magazines. You are at the point of the spear, working through the challenges of deployments and overseas operations. Write about what you are learning and how you met the challenge. The process of composing an article will help solidify in your mind the things that you have learned and provide assistance to chemical soldiers who will take on the task in the future.

The Chemical Corps Regimental Association (CCRA) is sponsoring the 2005 Chemical Corps writing contest (see *page 6* for details). We chose four topics for you to select from. I challenge you to participate in this event. The CCRA is generously awarding $500 for the first-place article, $300 for second place, and $150 for third place.

Dragon Soldiers, I am proud of each and every one of you. You are doing a great job! Together, we are key assets in the Global War on Terrorism as we provide CBRN expertise to the commanders in the field. And when there is no CBRN threat, you are performing whatever tasks are required of you to ensure that your unit's mission is accomplished. Every day you prove that the Chemical Corps is an effective combat multiplier and is serving our Nation well. Keep up the great work. Finally, the Chemical School is here to serve you as you fight the fight; don't hesitate to call for information or support if you need it. We will do everything we can to give you the assistance you need to accomplish your mission. Together, we can make the Chemical Corps vision a reality!

Warrior Ethos

I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.