

## Chief of Chemical



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*2005 was a very busy and challenging year for the US Army Chemical Corps and Chemical School! As the Corps transforms, our biggest challenges lie ahead—in 2006 and beyond. We must now focus on continuing to meet the expanding and changing contemporary operational environment (COE). We have the responsibility to transform the Corps to meet the needs of the Army and the joint warfighting effort. The bottom line—the Chemical Corps is the Department of Defense’s leader in chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) defense.*

As we publish this edition of *Army Chemical Review*, we find our Dragon Soldiers deployed almost everywhere we have Soldiers. They are executing missions in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and homeland defense. As I talk to commanders in the field, they—without exception—tell me what a great job our Dragon Soldiers are doing. I want to say to each Dragon Soldier that I am very proud of you and appreciate your service as individuals and as a Corps.

CBRN passive defense was the cornerstone mission of the Cold War. Today, we are operating in a new and changing environment. We can no longer simply protect the force to preserve freedom of action against chemical warfare agents. We must prepare for the full spectrum of CBRN threats, to include toxic industrial chemicals (TICs) and toxic industrial materials (TIMs). When I use the term “chemical hazards”, I am referring to the full range of chemical hazards, which includes TICs and TIMs.

Our vision is for the Army to have the capability to operate and function completely unhindered by CBRN threats. This ability will allow the combatant commanders (COCOMs) to deploy and use their forces at 100 percent efficiency. To achieve this, we must provide our Soldiers with the training, equipment, and knowledge they require. We must leverage technology, leadership, and training to provide the COCOMs with the right capabilities to be effective and viable in the joint warfighting effort.

I believe that the Chemical Corps provides the Army with a big return on a small investment. Even though we are a small branch—comprising less than 2 percent of the total Army—we make a significant contribution. The Army and COCOMs rely on the Chemical Corps to provide expert advice in the areas of contamination avoidance, CBRN battle management, research and development, individual protection, restoration capability, collective protection, and obscuration. We provide mission capabilities that no other organization is equipped, organized, or trained to provide.

Our core competencies enable the Regiment to make an even greater contribution, and they are based on four pillars:

- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Elimination—removing an adversary’s capability to develop and employ WMD.
- Battlefield Science—training Dragon Soldiers in the fundamentals of the physical sciences to expand their knowledge and understanding of what we do.
- CBRN Passive Defense—protecting the force to preserve freedom of action, not just against traditional chemical warfare agents, but against the full spectrum of CBRN threats.
- Consequence Management—restoring key capabilities to military forces, civilians, and allies.

The Chemical Corps is the force of choice for these missions. To increase our capabilities, we are transforming our decontamination platoons by adding capabilities for hazardous material response. The new hazard response and decontamination platoons (HRDs) will maintain current decontamination capabilities and provide new capabilities to—

- Conduct dismounted, full-spectrum CBRN reconnaissance and identification.
- Perform WMD sensitive-site assessments.
- Provide reach-back to enable on-site assessments.
- Enhance consequence management capabilities, to include mass-casualty decontamination.

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We’ve begun the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development and education, personnel, and facilities analysis required to effect this transformation. This issue also finds us at a key crossroad for Chemical Corps transformation. Not only are Army and chemical units in the field transforming, but the institutional Army is also transforming—and the Chemical School is no exception. At Fort Leonard Wood, the construction of the First Lieutenant Joseph Terry CBRN Responder Training Facility continues on schedule. This facility will not only provide world-class training for our Weapons of Mass Destruction–Civil Support Teams (WMD-CSTs), but will also provide the same level of training for Soldiers in Technical Escort units; Chemical Reconnaissance Detachments (Special Forces); and other units with missions to support civil authorities, perform WMD elimination, or conduct consequence management missions.

In our Chemical Defense Training Facility (CDTF), we are transforming from the standard M8 paper and M256 tasks that many of you remember. The CDTF is conducting advanced sensitive-site exploitation scenarios for the Captain’s Career Course and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course. We will have the Officer Basic Courses and Basic Noncommissioned Officer Courses executing similar missions this summer. The goal is to have every CBRN Soldier train on sensitive-site exploitation and assessment in the CDTF.

My expectation is that every chemical Soldier will be a professional CBRN defense expert, unsurpassed tactically and technically, and imbued with the Warrior Ethos! Dragon Soldiers and leaders must be flexible enough to adapt to any situation, in any operational environment, in the presence or absence of CBRN hazards, and in or out of combat.

As a Corps, we have a lot to look forward to in the coming months and years. Chemical Corps transformation and these new initiatives present great opportunities for the Corps. I would like to make a special appeal to all Dragon Soldiers and everyone who supports the Corps mission to make the Chemical Corps Vision a reality as we move forward to meet the challenges of the future.

## The Chemical Corps Vision

- An Army superbly equipped, trained, and ready to fight and win, unhindered by threatened or actual CBRN hazards.
- A Corps of professional Soldiers, tactically and technically unsurpassed, imbued with the warrior scientist/technician ethos.
- A capability, both vital and relevant, for the combatant commander, the joint warfight, and the defense of the homeland.

(“Regimental Command Sergeant Major” continued from page 3)

hazardous-material training—in the classroom and with hands-on experience—to expose all chemical Soldiers to operational procedures and consequence management. This has been a long time coming!

The bottom line is this: All Dragon Soldiers need to take every opportunity to educate themselves and stay educated on new equipment being fielded and new doctrine being developed as we become more “purple” (Joint Service) in the way we do business. Just because you are in a smoke platoon or at a brigade headquarters now does not mean that you do not need to know about decontamination or biological detection. Keep driving forward. The greater the knowledge base, the better asset you will be to your commanders.