



# CORPS HONORS TOP ENLISTED SOLDIERS

*By Master Sergeant Joseph Baker*

The 2005 Green Dragon Ball was the setting for the inception of a new program to honor the top noncommissioned officer (NCO) and junior enlisted Soldier in the Chemical Corps. The winners were recognized and presented the first Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray Award. The presentation marked a foundation for an award that will become a tradition for years to come. The competition, named *Dragon's Peak*, separates the competitors and identifies the true "king of the hill."

The Dragon's Peak, a weeklong event, was designed to bring representatives from chemical units to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to compete in events that test their skills and knowledge. Because of the cost involved and the ongoing operations in Iraq, the competition was modified this year to allow Soldiers to compete in events at their home stations.

The Chemical Corps Regimental Association, in conjunction with the Regimental Command Sergeant Major, commissioned an artist to design a bust of Command Sergeant Major Murray (Retired) befitting to the significance Murray played in the history of the Corps. George Murray entered the military in 1937. He served in missions at Pearl Harbor and the Battle of the Bulge. He was the first honorary regimental command sergeant major, and today, he serves in an emeritus capacity. Command Sergeant Major Murray played an integral part

in establishing the Chemical Corps Museum and continues to mentor chemical Soldiers of all ranks with his knowledge and experience.

Participating units nominated one NCO and one junior enlisted Soldier to represent their unit in the competition. The competitors were required to submit a letter of recommendation from their chain of command; a letter of endorsement from a sergeant major or higher; and an entrance packet containing their common task test (CTT) performance sheet, Army physical fitness test score card, weapons qualification score, and biography. The last requirement was an online examination that tested the competitor's knowledge in areas from basic Soldier skills to chemical expertise (tailored to the Soldier's rank). Failure



**Command Sergeant Major (Retired) George L. Murray (center) presented the first Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray Chemical Corps NCO and Soldier of the Year Awards to Staff Sergeant Travis Dauer (left) and Specialist Marcos Silva (right).**

in any one event eliminated Soldiers from the competition. Packets for Soldiers failing to meet the minimum standards were returned to the units without additional review. More than 30 packets were reviewed by US Army Chemical School personnel before a final decision was reached.

The recipient of the first Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray NCO of the Year Award was Staff Sergeant Travis Dauer, 21st Chemical Company (Airborne), Division Support Command, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The first recipient of the junior enlisted Soldier of the Year Award was Specialist Marcos Silva, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 84th Chemical Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood. Command Sergeant Major Murray presented the awards at Fort Leonard Wood on 29 June during the Green Dragon Ball (the traditional culmination of Regimental Week). In

addition to the Murray bust, the winners received coins of excellence from the Chemical School Commandant, Brigadier General Stanley H. Lillie, and Regimental Command Sergeant Major, Patrick Z. Alston; an Army Commendation Medal; a set of dress blues; and a lifetime membership in the Chemical Corps Regimental Association. 🎖️

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## Submitting an Article to ***Army Chemical Review***

Articles may range from 2,000 to 4,000 words. Send a paper copy along with an electronic copy in Microsoft Word on a 3 1/2-inch or compact disk to *Army Chemical Review*, 464 MANSCEN Loop, Suite 2661, Fort Leonard Word, Missouri 65473-8926 or e-mail <acr@wood.army.mil> with "Submit an Article" in the subject line.

Contributors are encouraged to include black-and-white or color photographs, artwork, and/or line diagrams that illustrate information in the article. Include captions for any photographs submitted. If possible, include photographs of soldiers performing their missions. Hard-copy photographs are preferred, but we will accept digital images in TIF or JPG format originally saved at a resolution no lower than 200 dpi. Please do not include them in the text. If you use PowerPoint, save each illustration as a separate file and avoid excessive use of color and shading in graphics and slides. Please do not send photographs embedded in PowerPoint or Microsoft Word documents.

Articles should come from contributors with firsthand experience of the subject being presented. Articles should be concise, straightforward, and in the active voice. Any article containing information or quotations not referenced in the text should carry appropriate endnotes.

Include your full name, rank, current unit, and job title. Also include a list of your past assignments, experience, and education and your mailing address, fax number, and commercial daytime telephone number.

**Include a statement from your local security office stating that the information contained in the article is unclassified, nonsensitive, and releasable to the public.**

All submissions are subject to editing.