

Farewell



**Brigadier General
Stanley H. Lillie**

When I became the Chief of Chemical and the Commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical School (USACMLS) in August 2003, we were a nation at war. Today, we continue to prosecute the Global War on Terrorism. We do so with the world's finest military men and women. The contemporary operational environment presents us with new challenges as we face an asymmetric threat. And we face the continued proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by state and nonstate actors.

Through our Vision, we have focused the Chemical Corps to meet the expanding and dynamic operational environment of the future. We continue to evolve our Corps into a responsive, assertive, and comprehensive force—a force that is adaptive to the full range of military operations in foreign areas and within our homeland. I can say with resonant pride that the men and women of the Chemical Corps serve with honor and distinction and remain relevant and ready.

The U.S. Army Chemical Corps is rapidly moving into the 21st century through transformation and change to meet the needs for our national security. And we do so through cooperative partnerships with many, to include the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Program Executive Office, Joint Requirements Office, and Joint Science and Technology Office. There are many other elements that have been active influences on the success of the Chemical Corps—too many to list here, but please know that our gratitude is earnest.

Every command rejoices in success because of the tireless efforts of many—efforts that are synchronized through the effective leadership of a few. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the leaders within the USACMLS. Our terrific team (the Maneuver Support Center [MANSCEN] and the USACMLS) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, has been in aggressive pursuit of world-class chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) defense. The achievements span combat development, training and education, doctrine, and support to the Soldier. This diverse organization has been working diligently to meet the needs of the Warfighter, the Army, and our Nation. We have a wonderful cast of professional military and civilian men and women who are tireless and selfless in achieving our goals. They come to us from the field, from our communities, and from our allies. Without these people, we could not claim to have a CBRN defense program unsurpassed by any other in the world. I cannot exhaust the list of contributions or all the individuals critical to our success, but I want to highlight a few key achievements.

Over the past six years, the USACMLS has worked with numerous acquisition agencies in the development and procurement of the nuclear, biological, and chemical reconnaissance variant (NBCRV), Stryker vehicle. This effort came to fruition in March 2006 when the Chemical Corps and the D Troop, 2-1 Cavalry, 4th Brigade, 2d Infantry Division, received the initial fielding of the NBCRV. This achievement represents the first full-spectrum CBRN reconnaissance and surveillance system delivered to the Army since 1990.

Along with new systems comes force transformation. The structure of Chemical Corps units was totally redesigned. The result is a Chemical force that is tailored to rapidly meet the needs of commanders. With this, we fielded a new Joint Biological Point Detection System (JBPDS). And when the Army sought to reduce our force structure this spring, we successfully defended the need to retain the assets at risk. As the world changes and threats to our Nation evolve, the USACMLS is expanding its role to include combating and eliminating weapons of mass destruction. These initiatives include hazard response capability integrated into general-purpose decontamination platoons.

And with concepts come experiments. Since 2005, we have completed or are working three experiments to expand our efforts in support of future CBRN concepts. We have seven more experiments planned for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. All of these efforts represent the transformation of our Corps from yesterday to today. We are also designing the force of tomorrow with the development of the Future Combat System and corresponding brigade combat teams to ensure that we have Soldiers and combat systems capable of continuous operations and 100 percent effectiveness while completely protected from CBRN hazards.

Our next achievement was 31 years in the making. We regained proponency for technical escort units, formerly under the Ordnance School. Training and doctrine responsibilities remained with the Ordnance School when the

USACMLS relocated to Fort McClellan, Alabama, from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, in the early 1970s. While training continues at Redstone Arsenal in the near term, the proponent responsibility transferred back to the USACMLS in October 2004.

One of the crowning achievements during my tenure as Chief of Chemical was the elimination of the shortage of sergeants in our enlisted ranks. For more than eight years, the Chemical Corps suffered up to 500 shortages in E5s, creating a tremendous burden for commanders in the field. In May 2005, the Army G-1 adopted our proposal that specialists with 48 months in the Army should be automatically promoted to sergeant. With this, we have exceeded 100 percent strength for the last three months.

The Chemical Corps' role expansion does not stop with technical escort. In 2004, we were designated as the executive agent for the MANSCEN Homeland Security Office. This includes oversight of the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) consequence management mission area and the Weapons of Mass Destruction–Civil Support Team program. With this new responsibility came an integrating effort for the Civil Support Skills Course at Fort Leonard Wood, as well as unique reserve component training at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Another landmark success is the accreditation by Headquarters, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, in November 2005. This result was a combination of coaching, leadership, and sheer force of will to develop and refine training products and their execution so that they meet or exceed prescribed standards. This achievement represents a major milestone when coupled with the successful 2004 MANSCEN Noncommissioned Officer Academy accreditation that included the Chemical Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Courses.

As we continue to transform and evolve, we continue to adjust our CBRN defense doctrine as the foundation for military operations and training. Most of our doctrine for CBRN operations is now multiservice, with a growing interest in even more joint interdependency.

And as doctrine provides theory, solid training development translates it into excellence in institutional training. All professional courses for the USACMLS were reviewed and revised in the past year. And the Directorate of Training and Training Development is expanding its role beyond the gates of Fort Leonard Wood. Through distributive learning, Dragon Soldiers will be able to expand their professional development by using web-based technology to complete foundation courses in basic chemistry, biology, and radiological studies.

The 3d Chemical Brigade continues to provide superior, quality CBRN readiness training for all Services. This includes initial entry training programs, professional military education, and functional course programs. The 82d Chemical Battalion has been a front-runner in leading change within the initial entry training environment and has proudly trained more than 6,700 Dragon Soldiers for the Corps and our Army. It has completely transformed the training that 74D Soldiers execute in order to better prepare them for the challenges they face. The 84th Chemical Battalion builds on this foundation by training leaders, and the 58th Transportation Battalion offers quality training for 88M Soldiers.

Training excellence requires a premier training environment. Fort Leonard Wood continues to utilize and develop world-class training facilities and simulation capabilities. The Chemical Defense Training Facility boasts a first-rate chemical surety program. Field training has become more realistic, our classrooms and radiation laboratory are more modern than ever, and state-of-the-art technologies are routine.

When Dragon Soldiers cannot come to the USACMLS, we are instituting methods to maintain connectivity for those in the field. Our Web site has been given a complete makeover and contains expanded links to the Center for Army Lessons Learned, the Battle Command Knowledge System, and a professional CBRN discussion forum. Our newly designed military professional bulletin, the *Army Chemical Review*, provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and continues to inform and motivate our Soldiers, while increasing their knowledge and improving their performance.

Our Dragon Soldiers have responded worldwide to fight the Global War on Terrorism. I am humbled by their professional service, valor, and bravery. Our reputation as the best led, the best trained, and the best equipped Army in the world stands without question. The Chemical Corps' contribution to that performance is measured in events not necessarily highlighted by the media, but through day-to-day support to all missions, large or small. To our military members and their families who have served, to those who serve, and to those who have given so much—especially the ultimate sacrifice—thank you on behalf of a grateful Nation, the finest military in the world, and a professional Chemical Corps. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your 23d Chief of Chemical and the Commandant of the USACMLS for the past three years. I'm proud to leave you in the very capable hands of Colonel Tom Spoehr.