



**Brigadier General  
Thomas Spoehr**

Greetings Dragon Soldiers! As I write this article, we have just concluded the celebration of the 89th Anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps (28 June 1918–28 June 2007). For those who were able to travel to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, thank you for making the trek! For those who were unable to attend due to operational commitments, funding, or other reasons, we missed you. We celebrated our Corps' great history in style. We conducted a warfighter seminar; sergeants' major, general officers', and colonels' conferences; the Dragon's Peak Competition; the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (JCBRN) Conference; a regimental review (honoring the August 2007 retirement of the 23d Chief of Chemical, Brigadier General Stanley Lillie); Hall of Fame and Distinguished Members of the Corps induction ceremonies; the Green Dragon Ball; a sunrise memorial service; a Regimental golf tournament, and a Regimental run.

What a great week! My thanks go out to the Chemical Corps Regimental Association—its support contributed greatly to making this week a success. The celebration was a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and renew old friendships.

We heard briefings from warfighters who recently returned from missions during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), including Soldiers from V Corps (returning from OIF); 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) (returning from OEF); 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) (returning from OIF); and III Corps (currently serving as the base element for the Multinational Corps–Iraq). We had frank discussions on areas where the Chemical Corps is doing well and on areas where we could improve our capabilities. We look forward to the events of next year, when we celebrate the Corps' 90th Anniversary. You won't want to miss the great event!

The theme for this issue of *Army Chemical Review* is "Meeting the Challenges of Evolving Battlefield Operations"—and it could not be more timely because battlefield operations continue to evolve. Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) forces in Iraq continue to face asymmetric threats during daily operations (such as the use of chlorine and other hazardous material). Chemical forces and staffs are reacting magnificently to provide commanders with advice and the protective measures needed to counter these threats and meet the Chemical Corps Vision:

*A Corps and Army capable now of countering the entire range of CBRN threats and effects to protect our Nation, operating seamlessly with military and civilian partners, while conducting simultaneous operations from civil support to war.*

Our Corps and our military forces must be able to operate along the continuum of military operations, providing support to civil authorities in the homeland and to commanders and the Army during combat operations. We cannot afford to be lured into thinking that one of these military operations is more important than the other, nor can we allow ourselves to focus on one mission to the detriment of the other. Our training, doctrine, and equipment must be capable of supporting all mission areas to combat weapons of mass destruction. I am confident that our Corps is moving along the right path to realize these capabilities.

Regimental Command Sergeant Major Alston and I will continue to visit Dragon Soldiers and units. We look forward to seeing you and talking about the direction our Corps is taking. As always, we welcome your frank input and ideas to improve our Corps. And I ask you to always be on the lookout for ways that you can assist other Dragon Soldiers. For those of you operating in harm's way, you are in our constant thoughts and prayers.

*Elementis, Regamus, Proelium!*

## Regimental Command Sergeant Major

Greetings Dragon Soldiers! Recently, I was engaging in a reflective moment and realized just how great it is to view the dawning of each new day. The dawning of a new day introduces new challenges to face, policies to embrace, tactics to achieve, and concepts to understand as the Chemical Corps moves forward at a pace that has never been greater. The Corps must remain relevant and ready—focused on the task of meeting the challenges of evolving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) battlefield operations.

The Chemical Corps already has some great assets; however, stagnation is never our goal. We continue to have organizational growth which, in turn, increases personnel growth. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the Corps' upward mobility concept by focusing on the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) (also referred to as the *CBRNE Command*). The command integrates, coordinates, deploys, and provides trained and ready forces and is prepared to exercise command and control of specialized CBRNE operations for joint and Army commanders.

As we meet the challenges of battlefield operations, the Chief of Chemical's vision for the Chemical Corps continues to move us forward by equipping and training the force to be true combat multipliers for combatant commanders. The 20th Support Command (CBRNE) consists of professional Soldiers who are imbued with the warrior ethos and are technically and tactically ready to face future battlefield challenges. We have increased our capabilities through operational teams specializing in CBRNE coordination, emergency response, nuclear disablement, chemical and biological disablement and elimination, and remediation and restoration.

Our Corps continues to provide a Center of Excellence where leaders and Soldiers can obtain advice on CBRNE technical information in areas such as command and control, communications, hazards, facilities, and remediation and restoration.

The Chemical Corps is an ever-evolving force provider that is collectively training to ensure readiness on all battlefield fronts. The dawning of the new day and the Corps' ability to respond, assess, mitigate, and eliminate CBRNE hazards will secure brighter tomorrows for our Nation!

The birth of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) was due largely to the fear of a CBRNE terrorist attack on the U.S. mainland. The Army reassessed its options and consolidated its specialized assets under the 20th. The 20th Support Command (CBRNE), a subordinate command assigned to the U.S. Army Forces Command, was officially established in October 2004 and will become fully operational in 2009. Prior to the unit's creation, specialized U.S. Army CBRNE assets were organized under the U.S. Army Materiel Command as part of an interim guardian brigade. This provisional brigade provided the Army with the time needed to properly prepare, organize, and resource the 20th with full-spectrum CBRNE capabilities and the ability to support combatant commanders and local first responders (such as emergency services) within the continental United States (CONUS) and outside the continental United States (OCONUS). When fully operational, units under the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) will include the 52d Ordnance Group, 71st Ordnance Group, 48th Chemical Brigade, and 111th Ordnance Group (Army National Guard).

The 52d, 71st, and 111th will be designated as explosive-ordnance disposal (EOD) units. The 20th will leverage these subordinate units and provide the Army with a diverse response force that is capable of operating in a variety of environments (from small, heavily populated metropolitan areas to severely impacted larger areas). At full operational capability, the 20th will provide the Nation and the Army with a robust response force capable of conducting CBRNE and weapons of mass destruction operations across the full range of military operations.

The Chemical Corps continues to employ our greatest asset: the Soldier. The U.S. Army Chemical School is moving forward to solidify this great asset through training, education, doctrinal guidance, and technical support. The Corps continues to meet the challenges of the War on Terrorism and its threats to the Nation by increasing organizations and enhancing personnel. One outstanding initiative is incorporating a Corps warrant officer program. Not only will this program maintain the service longevity of skilled Dragon Soldiers, it will also synchronize the skill sets that our Soldiers possess to better support the combatant commander.

At the end of the day, when dusk sets in, this Nation and our Army can rest assured that Dragon Soldiers are focused on the task of meeting the challenges of evolving battlefield operations.



**Command Sergeant Major  
Patrick Z. Alston**