

# 2007 U.S. Army Chemical Corps Hall of Fame Inductee

By Ms. Christy Lindberg

The Chemical Corps Hall of Fame award is the highest form of recognition that the Regiment offers. This coveted award honors those who have made landmark contributions to the overall history and traditions of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps or continue to work in ways that benefit the Corps. These individuals have distinguished themselves through advances in science and technology, a lifetime of service and devotion to the Corps, or gallantry in battle. The ranks of the Hall of Fame are inundated with scientists who tirelessly worked to protect the force through innovations and Soldiers who exemplified the tenets of courage and honor. The 2007 Chemical Corps Hall of Fame inductee is Mr. Michael A. Parker. Mr. Parker was inducted into the Hall of Fame during a ceremony at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on 27 June.



Mr. Parker was born on 15 May 1946 in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1968, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy (known today as the University of Missouri–Rolla) and went on to complete graduate work at the University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins School of Engineering. Throughout his career, Mr. Parker demonstrated his ability as a farsighted leader who turned visions into innovative accomplishments. He was the driving force behind an unparalleled transformation of the Nation's chemical and biological defense capability. While recognizing the need to centrally manage the Army's chemical and biological programs, Mr. Parker developed alternative technologies to accelerate the destruction of chemical stockpiles, thus eliminating a threat with the potential to cause harm to thousands of U.S. citizens. Mr. Parker's last government position was Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

In October 1993, an aggressive venture to restructure the chemical-biological (CB) program resulted in the establishment of the U.S. Army Chemical and Biological Defense Command (CBDCOM), Aberdeen Proving Ground. With the improved restructure, Mr. Parker maintained core scientific and engineering competencies and intensified customer focus to develop, field, and improve superior CB defense systems. He fostered an engineer- and acquisition-oriented atmosphere that delivered thirteen new chemical defense systems to our Soldiers. Additionally, by pushing for the completion of the 20,000-square-foot Biotechnology Process Engineering Facility, he aggressively improved the CB infrastructure. During his tenure at CBDCOM, Mr. Parker established the Executive Agent for Chemical Treaty Compliance, which provided the Army with the management resources needed for the federal government to meet international treaty obligations.

Mr. Parker is the recipient of the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Award, Presidential Rank Award, and Order of the Dragon. He has demonstrated extraordinary vision and leadership abilities in achieving cutting-edge reforms. Mr. Parker's lifetime of contributions reflects admirably on the Chemical Corps, and his dedicated service will have an enduring legacy for future generations.

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Ms. Lindberg is the historian assistant at the U.S. Army Chemical School History Office.

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