

# Chemical Company Inactivates

*By Major Donald R. Twiss*

Twenty-nine years after its activation at Fort Hood, Texas, the 46th Chemical Company has furled its guidon until the unit is, once again, needed by the Army. The inactivation was a result of the reorganization of Army force structure and the shifting nature of full spectrum operations. Many former commanders and first sergeants of the 46th Chemical Company—as well as leaders from the 20th Support Command and the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) community—attended the inactivation ceremony, held at Fort Hood on 15 October 2010.

The 46th Chemical Company lineage dates back to March 1942, when it was activated to provide fire support to units deployed in the European theater of operations. In its most recent form as a mechanized smoke generator company, the 46th has deployed to Operation Desert Storm in support of the 3d Armored Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom in support of the 4th Infantry Division, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in support of the 142d Combat Support Battalion and Joint Special Operations Command.

During the inactivation ceremony, Captain Mike Larmore, the final company commander of the 46th, said, “. . . this was a dedicated and loyal unit. They understood that the mission we executed provided the ground force commander 143 multifunctional Soldiers to do a job that no one else either can do or is willing to do.”

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Cox, commander of the 2d Chemical Battalion, said, “Since 2d Chemical Battalion was reactivated in 1981 here at Fort Hood, 46th Chemical Company has been the cornerstone of our capability portfolio. The company always stood ready to provide large-area obscuration to our heavy formations during high-intensity conflict. The 46th leaves the Active Army rolls with multiple combat tours to the Central Command area of operations and has distinguished itself during every one of them.” Lieutenant Colonel Cox also indicated that members of the 46th Chemical Company would be remembered for their discipline and readiness during the Cold War and for their courage during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to Captain Larmore, “Over the past six months, our Soldiers, as the company has gone through the inactivation process, have taken their skill sets forward to benefit units in every country around the world that you find a U.S. Soldier.” He concluded the inactivation ceremony by saying, “Looking back at history, this unit has reorganized or inactivated five times. So, we aren’t done yet; we are just taking a knee, drinking some water, and preparing for the follow-on mission.”

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**Soldiers stand in formation during the 46th Chemical Company inactivation ceremony. The inset shows a detail of the list of previous commanders and first sergeants.**