

Chief of Chemical's Message



The Threat

Our adversaries in the 2016–2028 time frame will possess a variety of technologically advanced CBRN agents and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) delivery means to threaten our Nation and allies. The 2010 joint operating environment identifies that future conflicts and wars may be marked by the use of nuclear or biological weapons—potentially, by peer military organizations, failing states, or nonstate actors. We cannot take this threat lightly; we must have a mind-set similar to the days immediately following 9/11. We must ensure that our Regiment is ready to protect the Nation at a moment's notice against WMD use at home or abroad. To do this, we must have a well-thought-out strategy, vision, and campaign plan to guide us to victory.

1. Be National Assets and Do What No One Else Can Do

The Nation relies on CBRN warriors to be CBRN experts—ready to serve wherever and whenever there is an event. We can do what no one else can do because we are trained and certified differently than other Soldiers. We are organized in units that are equipped to produce capabilities no other units possess, and we have access to the most specialized CBRN knowledge in the joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational (JIIM) environment. CBRN warriors have been protecting the Nation at home and abroad for nearly 100 years. We are now in the second decade of calling Fort Leonard Wood “The Home of Our Regiment” and are nearing our centennial mark as a corps in 2018. We have been at war for almost a decade; and we are battle-hardened veterans who excel at accomplishing the CBRN mission and executing all other combat tasks with a high degree of professionalism, dedication, and courage. CBRN warriors have a rich combat history that spans from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War (Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm), and the War on Terrorism (Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn) to this very day. We are a small branch of warriors who have an extremely large mission set, as indicated in our National Security and National Defense Strategies.

2. Transform the Regiment in Capability and Force Structure

The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review states, “As the ability to create and employ [WMDs] spreads globally, so must our combined efforts to detect, interdict, and contain the effects of these weapons.”

In recent years, we have lost force structure and billets through the Total Army Analysis process, largely due to the fact that we do not deploy as whole formations. This process has reduced our overall capability, and we must do everything within our power to maintain the CBRN capability and force structure to conduct full spectrum CBRN operations.

The Army is currently rebalancing after nearly 10 years of war. I want to come out on top of this process and enhance the Regiment each time we participate in the Total Army Analysis process. To get this right, we must be aware of critical decision timelines and be proactive in hitting the target at the right time and place to ensure our success.

3. Publicize the Regiment Across the Army and JIIM and to Future CBRN Warriors

We must develop more ingenious and creative ways of articulating the strategic and operational value of our branch to senior leaders who make decisions on budgets and force structures within and beyond the Department of Defense. We must use the National Security and National Defense Strategies to justify our expansion in capability. Timing is paramount in this process. Likewise, we must sell the branch to the rest of the Army. We must have a marketing strategy to recruit the best and brightest future CBRN warriors and grow them for increasing responsibilities for service to the Nation. We must target science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors in college for future officers. I expect first-class marketing tools and brochures for display booths at every venue event, whether it be a recruiting station, a West Point tailgate, Reserve Officers' Training Corps Warrior Forge, or an Association of the U.S. Army event. All CBRN leaders share in the responsibility of ensuring that our Regiment is well represented in their respective duty positions and local communities. We must have the proper displays and the right individuals present to proudly highlight the strengths of our Regiment.

Chief of Chemical's Message *(continued)*



4. Train Adaptive Leaders, and Produce the Best CBRN Warrior Possible

We must train adaptive leaders, following the guidance set forth in the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE) campaign plans. We must implement the Army Leader Development Strategy for all Soldiers attending our courses here at Fort Leonard Wood. We must provide all members of the Regiment with the most current doctrine and lessons learned from the field. As for initial military training, we must produce the best CBRN warriors. Gaining units can expect U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School (USACBRNS) Soldiers to be indoctrinated in basic Army skills, imbued with Army values, and trained with a baseline proficiency in military occupational skill 74D. We must execute innovative training and exploit the full capacity of our premier training facilities—the First Lieutenant Joseph Terry CBRN Responder Training Facility and the Chemical Defense Training Facility—as we continually evolve to support the training requirements of our CBRN warriors and their leader development.

5. Conduct Homeland Defense/Civil Support Operations

The Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support states, “The Department of Defense must be able to conduct major operations in a CBRNE [chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives] environment. U.S. military forces organize, train, and equip to operate in contaminated environments, as well as manage the consequences of CBRNE incidents, on a level unmatched by any other single domestic agency or international partner.” We must function as one team with our Headquarters, Department of the Army (DA), G-3/5/7/8; the National Guard Bureau; U.S. Army Forces Command; U.S. Army North; and TRADOC/MSCoE partners in the CBRN response enterprise for full operational capability. The USACBRNS Homeland Defense/Civil Support Office has made significant strides in this critical mission area, and their concept plan was recently approved by Headquarters, DA. The Homeland Defense/Civil Support Office will continue to synchronize this effort for TRADOC and the Army.

6. Lead and Expand the CBRN Enterprise and Team With Our Partners

The CBRN enterprise includes our CBRN joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational—industry and academia (JIIM-IA) partners. We must encourage our leaders to integrate functions to effectively and efficiently generate trained and ready forces for combatant commanders. The Nation, the Army, and the Regiment benefit if combating-WMD organizations, agencies, international partners, industry, and academia cross-talk and share information and resources with one another. The teaming with Dugway Proving Ground is a great example of the enterprise at its best; we shared resources to train recent CBRN Captains’ Career Course classes. Another example is the Joint Senior Leader’s Course, where the USACBRNS teamed with the Joint Requirements Office to bring in key leaders from across the joint force to discuss counter-WMD-related issues. As the commandant, I will participate in the counter-WMD Community of Interest and the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical Biological Defense quarterly meetings and will remain engaged in the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System process for our warfighting capabilities.

7. Support the Warfight

Our Regiment must provide combatant commanders with the best-trained, best-equipped CBRN personnel and units in order to protect the Nation at home and abroad. The entire Regiment stands ready to meet operational requirements today and for years to come as we continue to serve our Nation under conditions of uncertainty and complexity in an era of persistent conflict.

Elementis, Regamus, Proelium!