

## Chief of Chemical



**Colonel (P) Leslie C. Smith**

The *Army Chemical Review* is dedicated to all Dragon Soldiers and friends of the Chemical Corps and Regiment. In June 2008, we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Chemical Corps and Regimental Week. Many thanks to those who played a part in the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Conference. A special thanks to Brigadier General Thomas Spoehr and Regimental Command Sergeant Major Patrick Alston for charting a successful course for the Regiment, to the Chemical Corps Regimental Association for sponsoring many of our events and for what they do for Dragon Soldiers each day, and to the National Defense Industrial Association for hosting the conference. All events were a resounding success! (*See page 24.*)

This issue of *Army Chemical Review* will focus on our efforts to support the Nation and Army in the era of persistent conflict. All Army leaders have stated that we will continue to be in an era of persistent conflict for the foreseeable future. As I developed this introduction, Russia had just invaded Georgia, there were no apparent CBRN incidents during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and two hurricanes had reached the U.S. mainland in the past two months. In this era of persistent conflict and engagement, we have many questions to ask as a community: (1) What will our roles be as Chemical Soldiers, leaders, and civilians? (2) How do we ensure relevance in combating weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) operations

across the eight military mission areas? (*See page 5.*) (3) What is the best way to maintain hazmat proficiency at each post, camp, base, or station where we have Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, or Marines? (4) How do we integrate explosive ordnance, Functional Area 52 (nuclear counterproliferation), and CBRN communities into a better package for the Nation? (5) How do we leverage our integration into the maneuver support community (maneuver enhancement brigades) to ensure that correct capabilities are developed for the Nation? (6) How do we gain visibility on the readiness of deploying units to assist in their preparation for upcoming missions (in the continental United States [CONUS] and outside the continental United States [OCONUS])? Our ninety-year history is replete with questions like these, and I am confident that our team will answer all of them in the coming months.

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From recent visits to units at Fort Lewis (Washington), Fort Bragg (North Carolina), Fort Polk (Louisiana), Fort Stewart (Georgia), and Aberdeen Proving Ground (Maryland); our civil support teams; CBRNE enhanced-response task forces; deployed units; and command headquarters in Atlanta (Georgia), District of Columbia, and other strategic locations, it was evident that our Soldiers and Civilians are making a difference. From setting the standard for training the force on CBRN hazards and mitigation to convoy, route clearance, and site exploitation missions OCONUS and to training the next concept of operations for our force, you have made a difference and will continue to make a difference. Our Nation needs your service and is grateful for what you do each day.

When Regimental Command Sergeant Major Lopez and I visit your location, we want your ideas on how to take the Corps and Army to the next level. Please use the Chemical Knowledge Network (CKN) at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?sp=409522> to access lessons learned and to share good ideas with each other. Our long-term goal is to develop a monthly “blog” topic that the CBRNE/combating WMD community can chew on and use to capture good ideas. We must—as the Chief of Staff of the Army, General George W. Casey, Jr., states—get rid of our “silos” (the new term for stovepipes) and look for efficient and effective ways that we can provide support to our Nation.

As the 25th Chief of Chemical, I dedicate my efforts to ensuring that Dragon Soldiers, the units they support, our Corps, and our Nation have the relevant and ready CBRN support needed to execute operations across the spectrum of conflict—from full-spectrum operations to stability, civil support, and homeland defense operations. Our Nation and her most precious resource—her sons and daughters—deserve nothing less. We are proud to serve with you!

**ELEMENTIS, REGAMUS, PROELIUM  
CHEMICAL CORPS: CAPABLE NOW!**