



Former Brigade Commander Becomes USACBRNS Commandant

By Ms. Allison Choike

The U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School (USACBRNS) bid its commandant farewell in a change-of-command ceremony held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on 28 June 2008.

“It is [an] honor and a personal privilege to participate in this ceremony,” said Major General William McCoy, commanding general of the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood.

During the ceremony, Brigadier General Thomas Spoehr handed command to Colonel Leslie Smith, a leader who is no stranger to Fort Leonard Wood. Colonel Smith, who commanded the 3d Chemical Brigade from 2005 to 2007, said he was happy to be back on the post. “I am humbled and awed to serve at Fort Leonard Wood again,” he said.

Colonel Smith said that he was grateful for the high standards set by Brigadier General Spoehr and the USACBRNS and that he looks forward to continuing to meet those standards. “You have taken our Army and Corps to a higher level in defense of our Nation. Thank you for establishing those high standards,” he said.

Spoehr said that it was a joy serving as the commandant of the USACBRNS and that he knows Smith is the right person to continue to carry on the Chemical esprit de corps. “He is the perfect officer to take over. I know he will take good care of our Regiment,” Spoehr said.

Major General McCoy agreed. “[Colonel Smith] is a thoroughly talented replacement. He is no stranger to Fort Leonard Wood, and I have no doubt that he will continue to take the CBRN School to new heights and continue to lead our Nation’s most precious resources,” he said.

Smith thanked all the Soldiers for continuing to work hard and volunteering to give back to the Nation. “I promise to work hard to accomplish all of our missions,” he added.

Smith is returning to the installation after serving as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans (G-3), 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives), Edgewood, Maryland.

Smith has been stationed in various locations around the world, including Korea. He earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia; a master’s degree in public administration from Central Michigan University; and a master’s degree in national strategy and policy from the National Defense University. Smith has also earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak-leaf clusters. 🇺🇸

Ms. Choike is a staff writer for the Fort Leonard Wood Guidon.



Colonel Leslie C. Smith, USACBRNS Commandant