

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.

All Army leaders have stated that we will continue to be in an era of persistent conflict in the foreseeable future.

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!**

Regimental Command Sergeant Major

Greetings to all Dragon Soldiers!

I'm honored and humbled to serve our Warriors, families, retirees, and civilians as the 11th Regimental Command Sergeant Major of our great Corps. My wife Tanya and I are happy to serve the Corps and Fort Leonard Wood. Since our arrival, we have hit the ground running and have already had many great opportunities to see Dragon Soldiers training here and abroad.

My travels started immediately after assuming responsibility. I've seen Dragon Soldiers at Fort Hood (Texas), Edgewood (Maryland), and Fort Polk (Louisiana). I'm very impressed by the state-of-the-art equipment our chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) units use to perform their mission and even more impressed by how proficient our Warriors are at operating the equipment. Operations in support of future rotational unit deployments from the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk are great testaments to the hard work of our leaders and Soldiers.

Local visits have provided me with the opportunity to get acquainted with the 3d Chemical Brigade. I've seen NCOs training Soldiers to become Warriors in the Master Fox Scout (L1); Biological Integrated Detection System (L4); Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Reconnaissance (L5); and Advanced Individual Training courses. I've seen great leaders transforming civilians into trained Soldiers. I've seen how they conduct tactical training base (forward-operating base), civilians-on-the-battlefield, and entrance control point operations. Leadership focus remains on training Soldiers to fight and win in combat. The leaders have done an outstanding job of preparing young Soldiers for their next assignments.

During the past two months, I've attended numerous briefings on various issues that directly impact and influence how our Corps operates now and how it will operate in the future—most notably, briefings presented by Command Sergeant Major George Nieves, U.S. Army North, on his agency's unique mission of conducting homeland defense, civil support operations, and theater security cooperation activities to protect Americans. Briefings from Command Sergeant Major James Barkley (Retired)—the former command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command and the 8th Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the Chemical Corps—were also very informative. I came away with a much better understanding of homeland defense and civil support operations concentrated on the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) consequence management response force (CCMRF) mission.

The flow of information from our senior CBRN leaders to our most junior Soldiers is crucial to our success.

I'll continue to devote many hours working with our sister services to open the door for joint training. As a team, we must open lines of communication from our school to the force, including retired and civilian partners who train Warriors. I expect all departments in our school to open communications with trainers across the CBRN spectrum, ensuring that we train to the same standard within our Active Army and Reserve and National Guard Components.

The flow of information from our senior CBRN leaders to our most junior Soldiers is crucial to our success. The commandant has sent information to the Corps—specifically to commanders. We will continue to disseminate information through leadership channels and the Army Knowledge Online at <http://www.us.army.mil> and Chemical Knowledge Network (CKN) at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?p=409522>.

I will take this opportunity to pass on information regarding the new CBRN patch. Not all CBRN Warriors will wear this patch. Commanders of operational units dealing with civil support teams, CBRNE-enhanced response force packages, CCMRFs, Chemical reconnaissance teams, and CBRNE teams will authorize specific operators (such as those with U.S. Army North homeland defense or civil support) to wear the new patch. Therefore, few CBRN Warriors will actually wear the patch. Command sergeants major will continue to educate the Army and Chemical Corps about this new patch. (See page 4.)

In the next few months, many changes will take place within the senior NCO leadership at the command sergeant major level. I challenge our leaders to make the transition as easy as possible on our Warriors. In the future, the NCO Corps must continue to focus on coaching, teaching, and mentoring young officers and NCOs. Invest in the Chemical Corps. Take care of our Families, Retirees, Civilians, and Warriors.



**Command Sergeant Major
Ted A. Lopez**