
Letter to the Editor

I would like to relate how much I appreciate the insight and excellence that *Army Chemical Review* provides.

Since 9/11, the access to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) information has been severely limited. Unfortunately, much of that information is necessary to enable the professional corps of military personnel, contractors, and citizens to understand CBRN matters and defend our Country.

Let me give you an example. I am an engineer and a retired officer who works for a company that is building CBRN detectors. As you can imagine, my training and experience in the CBRN field is limited—certainly below that of a Chemical Corps person. I routinely conduct business with scientific, engineering, and military professionals across the CBRN community.

First, I have done some real scrambling to understand the biology, physics, and medical aspects of CBRN. And if that weren't enough, there has been almost no place to research applications and the concept of operations and no way to find out how CBRN agents have been or might be used offensively or defensively. The information disappeared from literature post-9/11; and the people who have CBRN knowledge are, understandably, closemouthed.

There's a real problem here. We are going to be in the CBRN world for a long, long time; and there are many players who are not Chemical Corps-trained. While technical staffs are extraordinarily smart and are trained in their respective disciplines, they often have little or no understanding of where the threat is from, how the threat is expressed, or what the effects of CBRN releases are. Some do their homework and professional reading to attain the information, but many do not. In my opinion, this gap, this shortfall, is a big problem in professional preparation and execution.

I have found the articles in *Army Chemical Review* to be remarkably informative and important. It is my job to build systems—systems that will be used by Soldiers in the field to detect CBRN agents. Your articles about CBRN events from World War I, World War II, and Korea have been remarkably illuminating! I have learned how Soldiers see the world, the “CBRN world.” And that's the bottom line, indeed. The systems I build must enable Soldiers to do the job they're trained to do.

Again, I want to say thank you for the great job you're doing with this publication. Keep up the good work!

—**Robert Meffert, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired)**