2008 U.S. Army Chemical Corps Hall of Fame Inductees

By Ms. Christy Lindberg

The U.S. Army Chemical Corps Hall of Fame award is the highest form of recognition offered by the Regiment. This coveted award honors those who have made landmark contributions to the overall history and traditions of the Chemical Corps or continue to work in ways that benefit the Corps. These individuals have distinguished themselves through advances in science and technology, a lifetime of service and devotion to the Corps, or gallantry in battle. The ranks of the Hall of Fame are inundated with scientists who tirelessly worked to protect the force through innovations and with Soldiers who exemplified the tenets of courage and honor. The following individuals were inducted into the 2008 Hall of Fame:

Colonel Stuart A. Hamilton (Retired)

Colonel Stuart A. Hamilton was born 17 April 1893. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and began active duty as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps. He later transferred to the Chemical Warfare Service (CWS) and went on to graduate from the Army Command and General Staff School and Chemical Warfare School.

Before the onset of World War II, Colonel Hamilton served on the General Staff of the Department of War in Washington, D.C. He established the CWS departmental chemical office in the Philippine Islands. There, he supervised the control of gas warfare planning and chemical supplies and equipment in the Far East Pacific Theater.

As the Chief Chemical Officer, U.S. Army Forces Far East, Hamilton proved to be very innovative and resourceful. He helped develop field expedients such as Molotov cocktails (bottles filled with a mixture of kerosene, gasoline, and crude oil). He established an emergency chemical lab to analyze captured Japanese materials. Under Colonel Hamilton's direction, the chemical lab used commercial, high-test hypochlorite (HTH)—a mustard decontamination agent—for the effective purification of drinking water. This alternative use of HTH undoubtedly prevented many Soldiers from contracting dysentery or typhoid during the siege of Bataan and Corregidor. In addition, an emergency plant was established to manufacture liquid bleach, which was used to kill tropical vectors, reducing the spread of malaria.

Colonel Hamilton diligently gathered information and samples of Japanese chemical warfare material, drafted detailed reports, and boxed the samples to be shipped back to Washington, D.C., for further testing. These were the first samples of Japanese chemical warfare material collected, and they surely assisted in intelligence analyses of the enemy capability to wage chemical warfare against Allied forces operating in the Pacific.

After the fall of the Philippines, Colonel Hamilton survived the infamous Bataan Death March and was forced into internment at Hoten Prisoner-of-War Camp in Mukden, Manchuria, where he remained for three years. Upon his return home, Colonel Hamilton retired from the CWS. He died on 24 July 1956.

Colonel Hamilton's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart with one oak-leaf cluster, World War I Victory Medal, American Defense Medal with one service star (for service outside the continental United States), Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two stars for ground combat and service in the Philippine Islands, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Defense Medal with one star for combat service, and Army General Staff Identification Badge.

Captain Frederick P. Smith

Captain Frederick P. Smith was born on 6 March 1946 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He enlisted in the Army in July 1965. In 1967, he graduated from Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in the Chemical Corps. He later graduated from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal School, Nuclear Weapons School, Munitions Safety Course, and Safety School.

Following graduation from Officer Candidate School, Captain Smith served as the chemical, biological, and radiological explosive ordnance disposal field officer for the escort and disposal detachment of a technical escort unit at Edgewood Arsenal, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. In April 1970, he was attached to Headquarters Company, 2d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), U.S. Army Pacific, Republic of Vietnam. In October 1970, he began serving as the Assistant Division Chemical Officer, 184th Chemical Detachment (Direct Support), 1st Cavalry Division.

On 13 February 1971, Captain Smith was on a people sniffer mission over Binh Thuy Province, where he was using E158 aerial 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile (CS) clusters to stir up enemy soldiers. The E158 was a modified Air Force munition consisting of clusters of CS canisters (each about the size of a D-cell battery) held in place by a plastic unit. A timing fuze was to detonate an igniting charge that, in turn, would send the smaller munitions over an area fifty meters in diameter, spraying CS as they went. Somehow, in the process of deploying the

munition, the arming wires were loosened and the E158s began detonating inside the Huey helicopter. Although Captain Smith was badly burned by the black powder bursting charges, he was able to push all of the clusters out of the helicopter. However, in the process, he went out with the munitions and fell 1,500 feet to his death. Captain Smith's quick heroic actions saved the rest of the crew and the helicopter.

Captain Smith's awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal with oak-leaf cluster, Air Medal with three oak-leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Parachutist Badge, and Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge.

Mr. Garrett A. Morgan

Mr. Garrett A. Morgan was born on 4 March 1877 in Paris, Kentucky, to former slaves. The seventh of eleven children, Mr. Morgan spent his childhood attending school and working with his brothers and sisters on the family farm. At age fourteen, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, in search of employment.

Mr. Morgan became a prolific inventor and businessman. His most notable inventions included a gas mask, hair-straightening liquid, and a three-way traffic signal. The traffic signal consisted of a T-shaped pole unit that featured three hand-cranked positions—stop, go, and all-directional stop. The all-directional stop position halted traffic in all directions, allowing pedestrians to cross streets more safely. One advantage of this traffic signal over others of its type was its ability to be operated from a distance using a mechanical linkage.

Shortly after obtaining a patent for a safety hood in 1914, Mr. Morgan had a chance to put that invention to the test. During the construction of a tunnel under Lake Erie in 1916, an explosion occurred. Three separate rescue parties entered the tunnel, but none returned. In desperation, officials who were familiar with Mr. Morgan and his safety hood summoned him. Morgan rushed to the scene, and his brother and two volunteers put on the hoods and went in. Morgan and his crew entered the tunnel again and again, pulling suffocating workers and rescuers to safety. The safety hood was later refined and became known as the Morgan gas mask.

Mr. Morgan was married to Mary Hasek in 1908, and they had three children. On 27 July 1963, Mr. Morgan died at the age of 86. He is buried at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio.

Some of Mr. Morgan's significant awards and citations include the Carnegie Medal, the gold Medal of Bravery from the City of Cleveland, a gold medal from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and a gold medal from the International Exposition of Sanitation and Safety. The Garrett A. Morgan Cleveland School of Science in Cleveland, Ohio, is also named in his honor.

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