

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.

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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.

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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**