



JCBRN Conference and Regimental Week

By Ms. Carolyn Erickson

Nearly 1,000 joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational personnel visited the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (JCBRN) Conference and Regimental Week held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 22–26 June 2009.

The theme of the conference was “Celebrating the Year of the Dragon NCO,” with a focus on the past, present, and future of the Chemical Corps. “The past, present, and future are all represented here,” said Colonel (now Brigadier General) Leslie Smith, commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) School, speaking of conference attendees. “The challenge for us today is ‘Where do we go from here?’”

Major General Gregg Martin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood, opened the conference. “This is hard stuff—coming up with how to do the hugely increased CBRN mission . . . with constrained resources,” he said. “CBRN is leading the way with very high-end, functional training.”

Many CBRN leaders took part in the conference. They attended meetings, listened to speakers, and helped plan the Chemical Corps’ next fifteen years.

National Defense Industrial Association exhibits showcased new technology and equipment that could be used in CBRN defense. Foreign nations took part in the exhibits, which included a German CBRN recovery exhibition.

In addition to the meetings, speakers, and exhibits, many of the week’s events focused on the Chemical Corps and highlighted its history.

The CBRN Regimental Room was officially opened 23 June. “There are over 120 artifacts—many of which have never been seen before—and over 100 photos,” Smith said at

the opening ceremony. “This will promote a higher degree of esprit de corps. With our Soldiers surrounded by Corps history, they’ll get [a] sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves.”

The Regimental Review took place on 24 June. Troops were reviewed, and Major General William Sibert Awards were presented to the best Active Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard CBRN companies in the Corps. Sibert Award winners were—

- **Active Army:** Company B, 110th Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), Fort Lewis, Washington.
- **Army Reserve:** 130th Chemical Company (Biological Integrated Detection System), Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
- **National Guard:** 792d Chemical Company (Heavy), Longview, Washington.

An “Honor our Fallen” sunrise service was conducted in Memorial Grove on 25 June, and a Hall of Fame/Distinguished Member of the Corps ceremony was held later that afternoon. (See “2009 Honorees of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps,” page 50.)

A Regimental run and combined warfighter seminar were conducted, and the week concluded with a Green Dragon Ball.

Smith summed up the goal for the week by stating, “In the Bible, it says ‘Who will go for us?’ and ‘Here am I, send me’ (Isaiah 5:8). We need to continue to be the ‘send me’ force of the Nation.”



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