

## Chief of Chemical and Commandant, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School



**Colonel Vance P. Visser**

### *Greetings, Dragon Soldiers!*

During a 10 August 2010 ceremony held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, I was honored to assume the title of 26th Chief of Chemical and Commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School (USACBRNS) from Brigadier General Leslie C. Smith, who served in that position for two years before moving on to become the commander of the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. During his visits to the field and to training locations at Fort Leonard Wood—the Home of the Chemical Regiment—Brigadier General Smith positively impacted thousands of Dragon Soldiers and their Families. Under his leadership, we realized an improvement in our Corps and its capabilities. When the occasion arises, please thank him and his wife Vanedra for their selfless contributions to our Corps.

I am thrilled to join the great USACBRNS team at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence. The excellent leadership team did an outstanding job of managing the transition period between commandants. I wish to thank Colonel Bret Van Camp, the assistant commandant, for his superior service during the interim period and for everything he did to ensure a seamless transition. We are, indeed, blessed with other exceptional leaders as well—Dragon Soldiers like Command Sergeant Major Ted Lopez, Regimental Command Sergeant Major; Colonel Dave Wilcox, Commander, 3d Chemical Brigade; Command Sergeant Major Sheridan Richardson, Command Sergeant Major, 3d Chemical Brigade; and a host of others—all focused on taking care of our Dragon Soldiers and their Families.

After nine years of persistent conflict, our Army, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and the USACBRNS are simultaneously undergoing a transition period as we continue combat operations. I intend to seize this opportunity to publish a Chemical Regiment Vision, Strategy, and Campaign Plan to synchronize our efforts in the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) mission arena. These products will be available by the end of the first quarter, fiscal year 2011 (31 December 2010). Similar USACBRNS products will be published by the end of the second quarter, fiscal year 2011 (31 March 2011). During the coming months, we will share our thoughts and seek to mine the full intellectual capacity of our CBRN leaders to ensure that we successfully guide our efforts into the future. I am anxious to hear from all of you.

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I was deeply touched by two special ceremonies held at our Chemical Corps Memorial Grove at Fort Leonard Wood recently. Our newest Basic Officer Leader Course (Course 05-10) and Advanced Individual Training (Class 019-10) graduates were honored at the Regimental Induction Ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Dragon Soldiers received Regimental crests and took their respective places in the CBRN force. Then, World War II veterans of the 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion were honored at a memorial ceremony (see page 17). At the conclusion of that ceremony, each veteran was awarded the Order of the Dragon. Both ceremonies connected attendees, young and old alike, in a unique way—together as Dragon Soldiers who give **all for the Corps**. I invite each of you to visit Fort Leonard Wood—to witness firsthand the exceptional things that are happening here at the Home of the Chemical Regiment. I look forward to serving with each of you in this new capacity.

*Elementis, Regamus, Proelium!*

## Regimental Command Sergeant Major

What a great year the Chemical Corps is having! We are so proud of our chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) warriors who are performing worldwide missions in support of our Nation.

This year's Best CBRN Warrior Competition, held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, was one of the greatest ever. Eighteen two-Soldier teams from across the world competed in one of the most technically skilled competitions ever executed by our Corps. These CBRN warriors stepped up and took the challenge of conducting self-contained breathing apparatus radiological, biological, and nuclear operations; sensitive-site exploitation; decontamination; detection; site surveys of clandestine labs; and toxic industrial chemical protection and detection equipment operations in a live environment at the Chemical Defense Training Facility. They also donned self-contained breathing apparatuses and performed timed hazmat operations, such as the containerization of storage tanker leaks, at the First Lieutenant Joseph Terry CBRN Responder Training Facility. In addition, Army physical fitness tests, physical endurance courses, task-oriented land navigation, and reflexive firing were conducted in conjunction with the technical phases of the competition. I am so proud of the competitors!

I am also very proud of the great folks who contributed to the conduct of the Best CBRN Warrior Competition. There are so many who executed the testing that I could not possibly name all of them, but between the U.S. Army CBRN School, 3d Chemical Brigade, and Soldiers and NCOs from the 48th CBRN Brigade, it was a great competition.

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I recently had the opportunity and privilege of conducting battlefield circulation in Kuwait, where I spent time with soldiers from the Kuwaiti Army and National Guard. I spoke with their leaders and viewed equipment displays. The highlight of my trip was spending time with the mighty 62d CBRN Company and Army Central Command staff officers. The warriors of the 62d CBRN Company are making our Nation proud by carrying out their mission.

We conducted our 2d Annual International CBRN Defense Command Sergeants Major and Sergeants Major Conference in November 2010. The focus of the conference was to engage in professional dialogue with our joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational partners and to share our experience and expertise in the Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Enterprise. This was a great opportunity to build relationships with our strategic partners in the CBRN Defense community.

Our warriors are conducting so many missions in support of our Nation; I thank all of you. I'm very proud of our retirees, civilians, and families; without you, we could not make it even one day. You all sacrifice so much to support our great Nation. I'm proud to serve our great Corps. Be safe, and invest in the Corps.



**Command Sergeant Major  
Ted A. Lopez**

**Army  
Values**

**Loyalty • Duty • Respect  
Selfless Service • Honor  
Integrity • Personal Courage**

