

22d Chemical Battalion Technical Escort Team Competition

By Sergeant First Class J.B. Jaso III

After months of training, Soldiers from the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), 48th Chemical Brigade, 20th Support Command, held a week-long competition to finally determine which technical escort team was the best in the unit. The battle, which took place at the Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, 2–6 August 2010, consisted of the demonstration of equipment proficiency and the sensitive-site exploitation of chemical and biological laboratories. Teams prepared and rehearsed for the clash for weeks in advance.

“The competition was fierce,” said a staff sergeant who is a sample team member with Company A, 22d Chemical Battalion. “Everyone wanted [his or her] team to win, which increased the level of proficiency and training within the battalion.”

Learning about the array of technical escort equipment is a major task within itself. During the competition, Soldiers were randomly selected to provide an explanation of technologies and to operate equipment. Because communications, detection, and analytical equipment was used for the competition, every Soldier needed to know how to operate the entire equipment set.

The teams were also required to conduct a timed, sensitive-site exploitation of chemical and biological laboratories. This involved the proper use of evidence collection techniques such as the sampling, analysis, and identification of possible contaminants.

Chemical Response Team 1, Company A, ultimately won the competition. According to Lieutenant Colonel Chadwick Bauld, commander of the 22d Chemical Battalion, “The point differential between first and second place was one point.”

“This competition was [about] more than just deciding which team was the best,” said a team sergeant from Company A. “It was about cross-training every individual on the team, identifying what improvements need to be made, and becoming more proficient as a collective unit.”

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Soldiers receive their orders.



A Soldier sprays another with decontamination solution.



A Soldier conducts an initial analysis of a suspected biological contaminant.