

# 2010 Chemical Corps Regimental Week

*By Ms. Kerstin Lopez*

Events associated with the 92d anniversary celebration of the Chemical Corps and 2010 Regimental Week were hosted by Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 21–25 June 2010. The National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) sponsored the events, which consisted of a golf tournament, regimental review and change of command, sunrise service, Hall of Fame and Distinguished Members of the Corps induction, regimental run, and the annual ball. Senior leader conferences; the NDIA Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Conference; and new equipment exhibits were held throughout the week.

The anniversary week promotes esprit de corps and pride in the Chemical Corps heritage and celebrates the victories and successes of the Regiment. According to then Chief of Chemical, Brigadier General Leslie C. Smith, Regimental Week activities coincide with the NDIA Joint CBRN Conference to promote discussion and creative thought among those in the chemical community.

The week kicked off with the annual Chemical Corps Regimental Association Golf Tournament, which concluded with a barbecue and awards ceremony.

On the second day, senior leaders participated in conferences and tours of various Fort Leonard Wood training facilities, ending with a retirement ceremony for Colonel Greg Olson, assistant commandant of the U.S. Army CBRN School.

The third day began with an awards ceremony for Brigadier General Smith and his wife Vanedra followed by the regimental review and change of command ceremony. The rest of the day was filled with the NDIA Joint CBRN Conference. General Martin Dempsey, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and Mr. Andrew Weber, assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, served as keynote speakers for the conference.

Chemical Corps Soldiers gathered at Memorial Grove to honor twenty-two of their fallen comrades during the Sunrise Service Ceremony of Remembrance held on 24 June. Later that day, students (junior high through college) were invited to explore NDIA exhibits. The 2010 Hall of Fame and Distinguished Members of the Corps induction ceremony, hosted by the Chemical Corps Regimental Association, took place that afternoon. The ceremony began with a tribute to Major General Robert Orton, former commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical School, who was deemed “one of the world’s foremost authorities on nonconventional weapons and their defense.” Hall of Fame inductees included Lieutenant Colonel Dean Dickey (Retired), Captain Paul Bowman, and Command Sergeant Major Theodore McDonnell (Retired). Colonel Gary Wallace (Retired), Lieutenant Colonel Edward Draper (Retired), Mr. Patrick Berry, and Mrs. Jo Johnston were designated as Distinguished Members of the Corps. (See “2010 Honorees of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps,” p. 37)

The final day of the anniversary week began with an early morning, 3-mile regimental run and culminated with the traditional Green Dragon Ball that evening. 

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