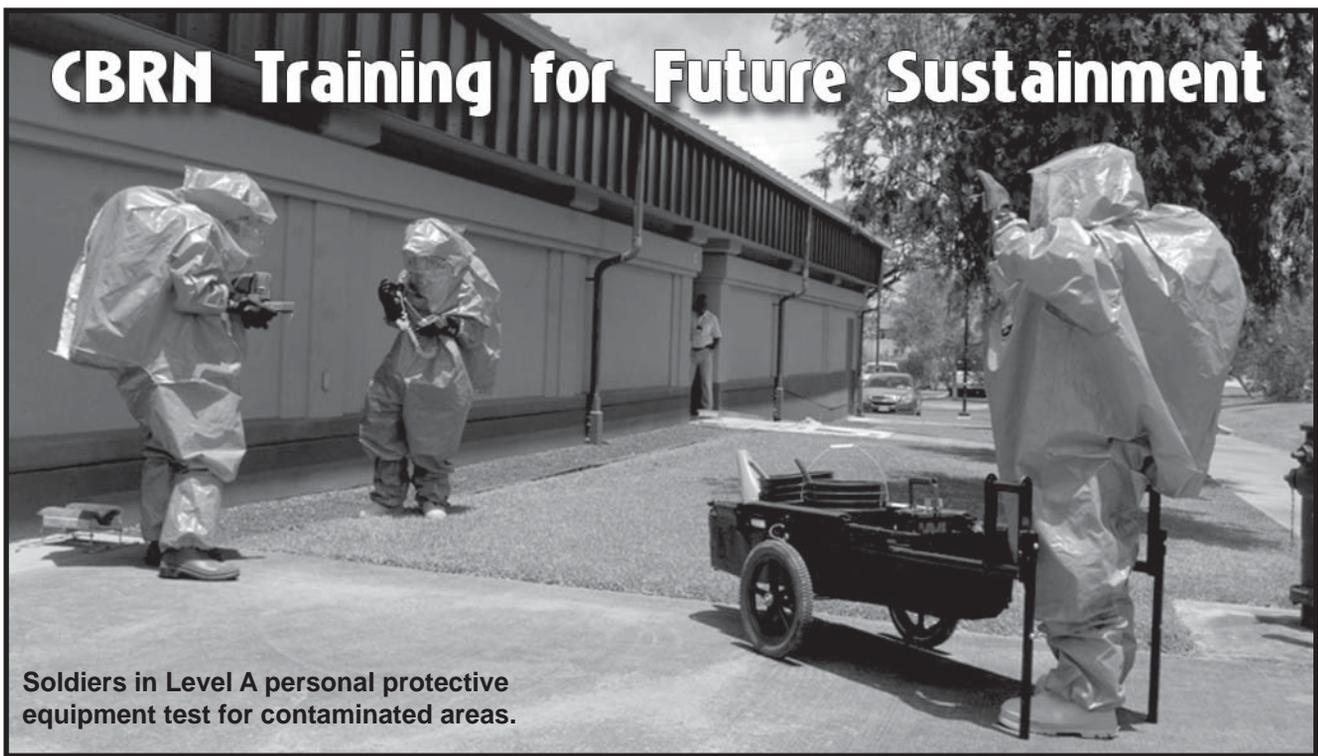


CBRN Training for Future Sustainment



Soldiers in Level A personal protective equipment test for contaminated areas.

By Sergeant First Class Dawn Lorraine Robinson

Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) Soldiers are often referred to as “jacks of all trades and masters of none.” But that description does not apply to the CBRN Soldiers who recently participated in the CBRN Dismounted Reconnaissance Course, conducted on-site in Hawaii.

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives (CBRNE)/Antiterrorism Cell, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, hosted a CBRN Dismounted Reconnaissance Course, which was taught by a mobile training team from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 3–26 May 2010. Forty Soldiers from various units (including the 25th Infantry Division, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 766th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, and 71st Chemical Company) attended the course. The training was made possible through the coordination efforts of numerous organizations and individuals. The 25th Infantry Division provided the funds necessary to ship the course equipment and subject matter experts to Hawaii. The use of the mobile training team, rather than residential training, alleviated the need for student temporary duty travel and reduced the overall cost of training the Soldiers.

Following the 11 September 2001 tragedy, the Army received an alert prompting immediate attention to critical CBRNE training in support of a wartime mission. With subsequent deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, combined with continuous training, CBRN specialists (Military Occupational Specialty 74D) prepared to fight and win our Nation’s wars. Although the threat of weapons of mass destruction still exists, the focus has now shifted to relatively low-budget, toxic industrial chemicals and materials.

Since 2004, the 25th Infantry Division has been in an Army force generation cycle in which organic units have been on separate rotations. This situation has presented a unique challenge to the division and its ability to conduct warfighting functions, including the oversight of people, equipment, and training for the various disciplines. The 25th Infantry Division CBRNE personnel worked tirelessly to provide multiple units in different stages of the Army force generation cycle with the unique CBRN Dismounted Reconnaissance training opportunity. At the time the course was conducted, the 2d Brigade Combat Team was preparing for their next combat tour and the 3d Brigade Combat Team and 25th Infantry Division Headquarters were transitioning from the reset phase to the train/ready phase of the Army force generation cycle.

The CBRN Soldiers were eager to increase their professional proficiency to meet current mission requirements, and the CBRN Dismounted Reconnaissance Course presented them with the mission-essential skills and knowledge necessary to respond to the most likely tactical threats encountered on the battlefield. The Soldiers who completed the course are now “masters” of their military occupational specialty element, and many were certified to the National Fire Protection Association 472 Hazardous Materials Technician level of training. 

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