

Get Your Voice Heard: Complete Postgraduate Surveys

By Mr. Clyde E. Davison

The U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School (USACBRNS) and the Total Army School System, 3d Brigade (Chemical), Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, are fully accredited training institutions that provide training and professional military education to meet unit, Soldier, and leader competency needs throughout the Chemical Regiment. The arduous accreditation process involved the evaluation of the USACBRNS and 3d Brigade (Chemical) using Army Enterprise Accreditation Standards (currently consisting of 51 separate standards). This ensured that the USACBRNS and 3d Brigade (Chemical) met the required training, training support, and proponent functions necessary to provide relevant and effective training and education.

In addition to the accreditation process, the Quality Assurance Element, USACBRNS, supplies end-of-course questionnaires and conducts online postgraduate surveys to provide USACBRNS students with an opportunity to offer feedback on course instruction, training materials, and course relevance. End-of-course questionnaires are offered to students upon the completion of their courses, and postgraduate surveys (which are gathered by the Quality Assurance Element on a semiannual basis) are offered to graduates and their supervisors 6 to 12 months after graduation. Every student and corresponding supervisor has an opportunity to assist the USACBRNS in the continued effort

toward excellence in training and education by completing the end-of-course questionnaires and postgraduate surveys and “getting their voices heard.”

In the past, the return rate for postgraduate surveys has been only 3 to 5 percent. Although each of the returned surveys is considered, the small percentage of returns does not effect a substantial change in courseware. In an effort to improve the survey return rate, the number of survey questions has been reduced; the surveys now take only about 10 minutes to complete.

The USACBRNS leadership remains committed to being the world leader in joint, interagency, and multinational chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear training and education. Colonel Vance P. Visser, commandant of the USACBRNS, wants the student training experience to be a pleasant one; he wants you to want to come back to your professional home. So the next time a postgraduate survey lands in your e-mail inbox, *don't delete it . . . complete it*—and get your voice heard. Your input, which is vital to the USACBRNS training development process, does make a difference in providing the best training and education possible. 

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