

# 2011 *Honorees of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps*

*Compiled by Ms. Christy Lindberg*

## **Hall of Fame Inductee**

The U.S. Army Chemical Corps Hall of Fame award is the highest form of recognition offered by the Regiment. This coveted award honors those who have made landmark contributions to the overall history and traditions of the Chemical Corps or continue to work in ways that benefit the Corps. These individuals have distinguished themselves through advances in science and technology, a lifetime of service and devotion to the Corps, or gallantry in battle. The ranks of the Hall of Fame are inundated with scientists who tirelessly worked to protect the force through innovations and with Soldiers who exemplified the tenets of courage and honor. The following individual was inducted into the Hall of Fame on 21 June 2011.

### *First Lieutenant Sidney Diamond*

Sidney Diamond was born to Russian Jewish immigrants on 11 April 1922 in Bronx, New York, where he was raised. As a boy, Diamond participated in the Boy Scouts of America and later became an assistant scoutmaster. He attended Stuyvesant High School—a school for intellectually gifted boys. Upon his graduation in 1939, Diamond entered the City College of New York, where he studied chemical engineering and joined the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity.<sup>1</sup>

Although Diamond had followed the normal course of most boys his age, his destiny was to be determined by colliding world powers and the bloodiest wars in history. With the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 7 December 1941, more than 2,300 American troops were killed. The next day, the United States declared war on Japan and Sidney Diamond's life changed forever. Like most Americans, Diamond felt a sense of duty to his country. On 24 April 1942, he entered the U.S. Army as a private at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Upon completing basic training on 10 May 1942, Private Diamond joined the Chemical Warfare Service at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. He trained with Company G, 2d Chemical Warfare Service Training Battalion. Private Diamond was excited to be a part of a new Army service, where he felt his education in chemical engineering would prove useful. The following excerpt is from a letter that Private Diamond wrote to his fiancée, Ms. Estelle Spero:



*Hello Sweet,*

*. . . Can't express my elation and satisfaction with the new post . . . Everyone makes it a point of behaving like a gentleman and Soldier. Persons here are proud of the Service they're in. The Chemical Warfare Service is a comparatively new branch of the Army. Corporal informs us that it's merely a year and a half old. It acts its age: young, vibrant, enthusiastic, courageous and, above all, eager! . . .<sup>2</sup>*

In July 1942, Private Diamond applied to Officer Candidate School. He was accepted in August and trained as a chemical officer until mid-November. He was then assigned as a platoon leader, D Company, 82d Chemical Battalion, Fort Bliss, Texas. The 82d, which was on orders to deploy, trained for deployment in Shreveport, Louisiana, and at Camp Swift, Texas. In June 1943, the unit left for San Francisco, California, where Lieutenant Diamond was attached to the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division—a 4.2-inch mortar unit.<sup>3</sup>

On 27 June 1943, the unit left San Francisco for Nouméa, New Caledonia, in the Southwest Pacific. In October 1943, they resumed training at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands; and on 15 January 1944, they entered World War II at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, Solomon Islands. On 18 January, the troops were greeted by Japanese bombers. Under Lieutenant Colonel Stratta, commander of the 1st Battalion, Lieutenant Diamond led his platoon in attacks to clear parallel ridges to the west in the Zambales Mountains above Clark Field in the Philippines. On 29 January 1945, Lieutenant Diamond, who was serving as a forward observer, successfully directed mortar fire during the initial stages of the action, killing and wounding what appeared to be a reinforced platoon of Japanese. To bring fire upon other enemy positions, Lieutenant Diamond—with heroic disregard for his own safety—made his way (alone and under intense hostile machine gun, mortar, and rifle fire) to a position 150 yards beyond friendly lines. Despite the continued heavy fire, Diamond remained in this position, skillfully directing mortars to destroy many Japanese troops and strongpoints—until he was killed by an enemy shell. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his actions.

During the time he spent on active duty, Lieutenant Diamond wrote more than 525 letters to Ms. Spero. These letters have been preserved in a collection at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York; some of them have been printed in the book entitled *An Alcove in the Heart: WWII Letters of Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero*. The letters, which are filled with humor and heartache, serve as an excellent record of the trials and tribulations faced by Soldiers in training and combat—including their feelings of ambivalence toward family and country. The letters also preserve the memory of a young Chemical Corps.

Upon learning of Lieutenant Diamond's death, Ms. Spero wrote:

*I cherish the memory of Sidney Diamond. He lives on in that alcove of the heart he asked me to reserve for him. I think often, with love and pain, of the young man who gave himself to fight in support of the country in whose principles he deeply believed.*

Lieutenant Diamond is an excellent example of a Soldier who contributed to the long, proud, heroic history that is part of our chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear legacy. We face the battle with duty and honor, dedicating our lives to our country.

**Note.** Lieutenant Diamond's biography, which was written by Captain Kristy Moore, was originally published in the Summer 2011 issue of *Army Chemical Review*.<sup>4</sup>

## Distinguished Members of the Chemical Corps Inductees

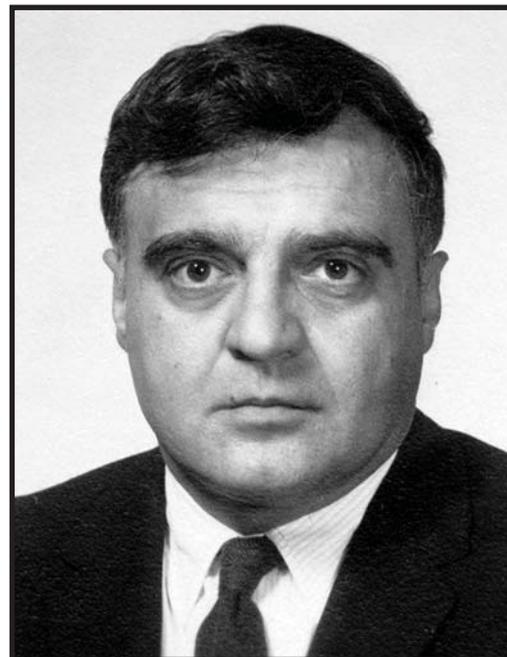
Two names were added to the list of outstanding individuals serving the U.S. Army Chemical Corps. The award of the Distinguished Member of the Chemical Corps title signifies that these individuals have not only contributed a lifetime of service in the Corps, but also support the Chief of Chemical in implementing his vision of what the Corps is and where it is going in the future. The following individuals were inducted into the 2011 Distinguished Members of the Chemical Corps on 21 June 2011.

### ***Mr. Garo "Charles" Baronian***

Garo "Charles" Baronian was born on 13 May 1930 in Providence, Rhode Island. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Rhode Island and has been involved with various aspects of the chemical weapons disposal program for the past 42 years.

Mr. Baronian served in the U.S. Army at Edgewood Arsenal, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, for 2 years before beginning a career in civil service. In 1972, he worked in the Edgewood Demilitarization/Disposal Office; and in 1973, he moved to the Office of the Program Manager for Demilitarization of Chemical Materiel. Mr. Baronian was named Deputy Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization in 1975. In that capacity, he was responsible for the disposal or destruction of obsolete or unwanted lethal chemical munitions through ocean dumping, incineration, and alternative technologies.

During the 1980s, Mr. Baronian was involved in the evaluation and selection of destruction technologies and the conception and construction of the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility in the Edgewood Area, from which the first class of operators graduated in 1993. Other notable accomplishments include Mr. Baronian's involvement in establishing the first full-scale incinerator outside the continental United States (the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System on Johnston Island in the



Pacific Ocean) and the first incinerator within the continental United States (the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah).

In the summer of 1994—after an honorable and distinguished career in the design, production, and destruction of chemical and biological weapons systems—Mr. Baronian retired from federal service. And with more than 35 years of experience as a chemical engineer executive serving in senior management positions with responsibility for hazmat logistics and the disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous waste, he now works as a consultant.

Mr. Baronian's publications include the "History and Program Rationales of the Demilitarization Program" (in the book entitled *Alternative Technologies for the Destruction of Chemical Agents and Munitions*) and "Destruction of the U.S. Chemical Stockpile" (in the *Chemical Weapons Convention Bulletin*). His awards include the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award and the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal.

Mr. Baronian's foresight has been instrumental in allowing the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency to successfully destroy more than 85 percent of the U.S. chemical agent stockpile since U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (commonly referred to as the Chemical Weapons Convention) in April 1997. Due to his wisdom and devotion, the agency had destroyed more than 2.3 million munitions and 26,000 tons of agent as of March 2011. Today, Mr. Baronian is regarded as one of the world's leading authorities on destruction technologies for hazardous chemical warfare weapons.

### ***Mr. Jean Reed***

Jean Reed was born on 25 July 1939 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Following his graduation from the University of Oklahoma—where he earned a bachelor's degree in physics (with distinction)—in 1960, Reed was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the field artillery. His 30-year military career included combat tours and assignments in line field artillery units, research and development organizations, and the Army Staff.

Reed served as commander of the Fire Support Armaments Center (a major Army research, development, and engineering laboratory); deputy commander of VII Corps Artillery; program manager and assistant director for weapons technology at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (where he was responsible for the Assault Breaker and Tank Breaker Weapon Demonstration Programs, which were subsequently fielded as the Army Tactical Missile System and the Javelin Medium Antiarmor Weapon System, respectively); Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Programs at the Army Materiel Command; and commander of a field artillery battalion and a field artillery battery. He served two tours in Vietnam and two tours in Germany. In August 1990, Reed retired from the U.S. Army at the rank of colonel.

For 15 years, Mr. Reed served as a professional staff member of the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, where he was assigned principal responsibility for staff oversight of Navy research and development, defense-wide science and technology, chemical and biological defense, and chemical weapons demilitarization programs. He was a principal member of the committee's staff team on the Persian Gulf War. He was also a principal staff member for the committee's special inquiry into the chemical and biological threat, and he coauthored the inquiry report entitled "Countering the Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat in the Post-Soviet World," which was published in February 1993.<sup>5</sup> On 27 December 2005, Mr. Reed was appointed to the Senior Executive Service. He is currently the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense/Chemical Demilitarization in the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs. In this position, Mr. Reed is responsible for the oversight of chemical and biological defense programs throughout the Department of Defense as well as the destruction of the U.S. stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions.

In addition to his bachelor's degree, Reed earned a master's degree in physics from the University of Oklahoma (in 1963) and completed post-graduate work in physics (from 1970 to 1971) at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. He is also a graduate of the National War College of the United States, the U.S. Army War College, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, where he earned a master's degree in military art and science. He was a research fellow at the

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National Defense University and a senior fellow at the Strategic Studies Institute. He is a member of the American Physical Society and the Phi Beta Kappa Society. His monograph, *NATO’s Theater Nuclear Forces: A Coherent Strategy for the 1980s*, was published by the National Defense University in 1983.<sup>6</sup>

Mr. Reed’s awards include the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award, the Legion of Merit with three oak-leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3d award), Air Medal (4th award), Army Commendation Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal with Gold Star, and Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal—First Class.

Mr. Reed is a champion of the nuclear, biological, and chemical/chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense program and has been instrumental in its development as the model for all current joint programs. 

**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup>Estelle Spero Lynch, *An Alcove in the Heart: WWII Letters of Sydney Diamond to Estelle Spero*, Author House, 13 September 2004.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Before the war, the Chemical Warfare Service developed the 4.2-inch mortar, or “automatic howitzer,” to throw gas shells; however, it could also provide high-explosive shells for use against tanks and troop concentrations. The mortar, which weighed about 300 pounds, was capable of slamming out an 8-pound shell every 3 seconds (“Army & Navy—Stovepipe Artillery,” *Time*, 15 November 1943).

<sup>4</sup>Kristy Moore, “World War II Hero Leaves a Chemical Legacy,” *Army Chemical Review*, Summer 2011, <<http://www.wood.army.mil/chmdsd/pdfs/Summer%202011/3-11-1%20w%20insert.pdf>>, accessed on 29 November 2011.

<sup>5</sup>“Countering the Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat in the Post-Soviet World: Report of the Special Inquiry into the Chemical and Biological Threat of the Committee on Armed Services,” U.S. House of Representatives, 102d Congress, 2d Session, February 1993.

<sup>6</sup>J.D. Reed, *NATO’s Theater Nuclear Forces: A Coherent Strategy for the 1980s*, National Defense University, Washington, D.C., 1983.

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Dale Andrade, CMH Pub 72-28, *Luzon: 15 December 1944–4 July 1945*, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Jack Butler, *Fire, Smoke, and Steel: The Jungle-Fighting 82nd Chemical Mortar Battalion*, 2001, <<http://www.4point2.org/hist-82-p1.htm>>, accessed on 16 August 2011.

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