

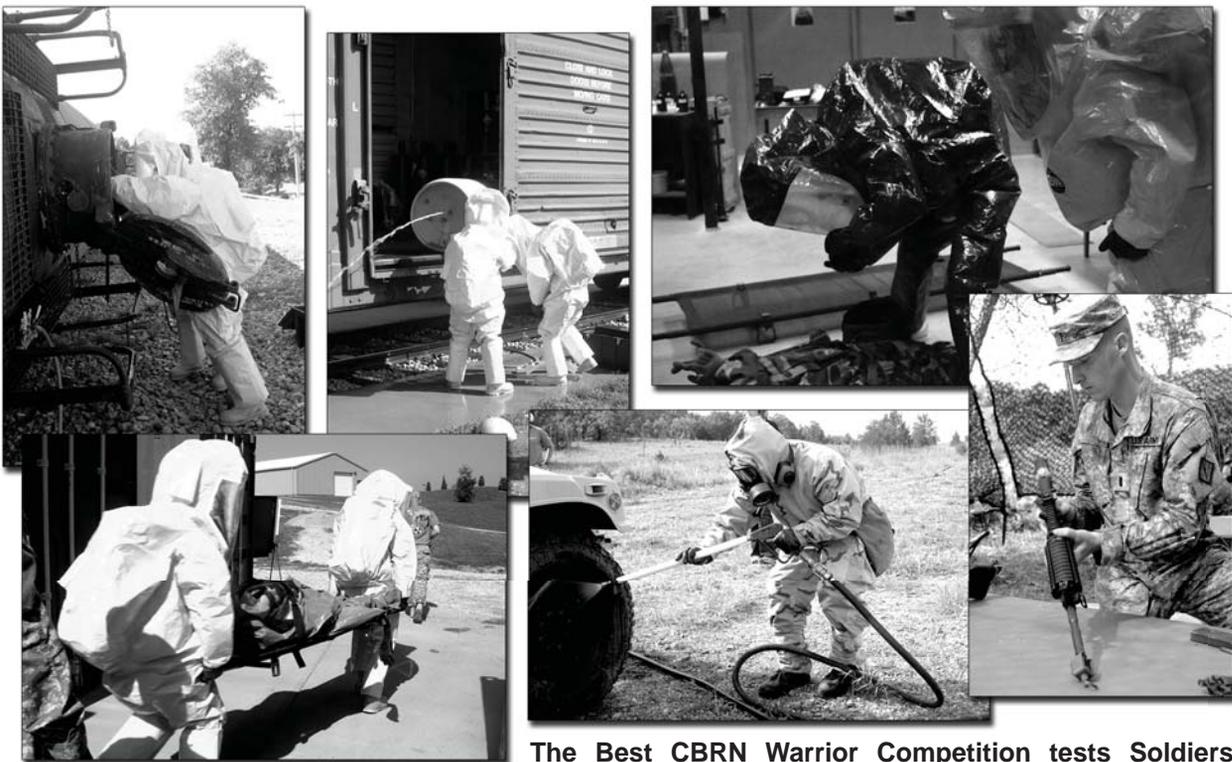
# Chemical Corps Celebrates **93** Years of Service

*Article and photographs by Ms. Amy Newcomb*

The U.S. Army Chemical Corps Regiment celebrated its 93d anniversary during this year's Regimental Week, held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 13–23 June 2011. The Chemical Corps Regimental Association sponsored the 11-day celebration to promote esprit de corps and pride in the Regiment's heritage. The theme for the event was "The CBRN Profession—Enterprise of Experts."

"It is important and appropriate that we take time in our warfighting efforts to pay respect and homage to our Regiment by reflecting on our history, by celebrating our contributions and accomplishments, and by remembering those who have made the ultimate sacrifice," said Colonel Vance P. Visser, commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School (USACBRNS).

The celebration began with the Best Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Warrior Competition, which was conducted 13–18 June. Teams of warriors competed in several events, and the winners were announced at the Green Dragon Ball on 18 June. The team of Specialist Brandon Shissler, 83d Chemical Battalion, Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Specialist Jason Meffley, 101st Chemical Company, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, won the competition.



**The Best CBRN Warrior Competition tests Soldiers' CBRN skills.**



**Colonel Visser addresses the conference.**

In conjunction with the Best CBRN Warrior Competition, the International CBRN Commandant's and Commander's Conference was held 15–18 June. Senior leaders from 13 nations participated in the conference, where they exchanged information and expertise on countering present and future CBRN threats and risks; identifying best practices with respect to material development, tactics, procedures, training, and education; identifying areas or projects of common interest; and familiarizing those present with other nations' CBRN capabilities. The main topics of this year's conference were training, training facilities, and the possibility of cross-facility training across international borders. Following the competition and conference, the second week of the celebration kicked off with a golf tournament, which was held on 20 June.

A nonproliferation and counterproliferation briefing was held on 21 June. Several keynote speakers, including Major General David Quantock, commander of the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence; Colonel Visser; Vice Admiral Cecil Haney, deputy commander of the U.S. Strategic Command; and Mr. Ronnie Faircloth, associate director for operations, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, addressed the attendees. Major General Quantock discussed many issues, including the support of current operations, development and integration of concepts and capabilities, leader development, training of warriors and supporting branches, care of people, and assurance of quality of life. Vice Admiral Haney spoke about domestic consequence management, emphasizing the need to safely and effectively deter nuclear attacks, partner with other combatant commands, respond to challenges in space, build cyberspace capabilities and capacity, prepare for uncertainty, and reduce the occurrence of surprises. Mr. Faircloth presented the foreign consequence management portion of the brief, addressing the issues of international training, the development of global resilience for stable governments, and allied planning.

Additional events, such as a Hall of Fame and Distinguished Members of the Corps induction ceremony, followed on 21 June. The Hall of Fame, which was established in 1989, is the highest form of recognition awarded by the Regiment. Lieutenant Sidney Diamond was inducted into the Hall of Fame. The Distinguished Members of the Corps Award was established in 1991 to recognize those who have personally and professionally provided extraordinary service to the Corps and who have set a vision for what the Corps is and should be. Mr. Garo "Charles" Baronian and Mr. Jean Reed were inducted into the Distinguished Members of the Corps (see page 32).

On 22 June, an "Honor to Our Fallen" sunrise service was held in remembrance of fallen Dragon Soldiers. The hallowed ground of Memorial Grove was chosen as the location for the service. "We come here to remember the selfless acts of those Dragon Soldiers who have gone before [us]. We come here to remember that there is a price for the freedoms that our citizens enjoy and the liberty we provide those around the world when we come to their assistance," said Colonel Visser. "Remember, [these Dragon Soldiers] come from families just like ours—from places that are all too familiar to each one of us." A Domestic and Foreign Chemical Panel was also conducted on 22 June.

More than 40 vendors participated in a chemical equipment, training, and defense display 21–22 June.

Regimental Week ended on 23 June with the Warfighter Seminar and the presentation of the Sibert Award, which is awarded to the top-performing, company-size CBRN Regular Army, Army National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve units. The Regular Army Sibert Award was presented to Company A, 22d Chemical Battalion, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; the Army National Guard award went to the 637th Chemical Company, Kettering, Ohio; and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 415th Chemical Brigade, Greenville, South Carolina, received the Sibert Award for the U.S. Army Reserve. Each of these units achieved the highest standards in unit training, maintenance, discipline, safety, reenlistments, awards, and overall organizational excellence.



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