

The 332d Chemical Company Makes History

By Mr. Lance Feyh

The 332d Chemical Company made history during an activation ceremony in September at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The company, headquartered in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is the first Biological Integrated Detection System (BIDS) organization in the history of the US Army to contain both Active Army and reserve component personnel.

Company platoons will use BIDS to identify the presence of biological particles (such as anthrax) in the air. BIDS is configured to detect various characteristics that are indicators of a biological attack, and it provides a presumptive identification capability. The results of the identification process are reported, and biological samples are evacuated to preselected sample transfer points for further analysis. This information provides commanders with the capability to assess whether a large-scale biological attack has occurred. The BIDS is mounted on a high-mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) and can be used in field or homeland security missions.



Photo by Katie Hahn

The Commander of the 460th Chemical Brigade hands the Commander of the 332d Chemical Company the unit guidon during the activation ceremony.



BIDS unit

Under reserve command, the 332d Chemical Company consists of two Active Army platoons and two reserve platoons. The Active Army platoons are located at Camp Carroll, South Korea. The reserve platoons are located in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, with detachments in Norman and McAlester, Oklahoma. Reserve platoons will rotate through Korea for training when Active Army platoons return stateside, but the reserve platoons plan to train as a unit in the summer of 2005. According to the unit commander, the 332d needs to be trained and ready to respond to threats immediately after receiving the BIDSs. The 332d Chemical Company falls under the 468th Chemical Battalion, 460th Chemical Brigade, 90th Regional Readiness Command. 🇺🇸

Mr. Feyh is a staff writer for the Fort Leonard Wood Guidon newspaper.