



**Brigadier General
Thomas Spoehr**

Greetings Dragon Soldiers! As I write this article, we have just concluded the celebration of the 89th Anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps (28 June 1918–28 June 2007). For those who were able to travel to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, thank you for making the trek! For those who were unable to attend due to operational commitments, funding, or other reasons, we missed you. We celebrated our Corps' great history in style. We conducted a warfighter seminar; sergeants' major, general officers', and colonels' conferences; the Dragon's Peak Competition; the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (JCBRN) Conference; a regimental review (honoring the August 2007 retirement of the 23d Chief of Chemical, Brigadier General Stanley Lillie); Hall of Fame and Distinguished Members of the Corps induction ceremonies; the Green Dragon Ball; a sunrise memorial service; a Regimental golf tournament, and a Regimental run.

What a great week! My thanks go out to the Chemical Corps Regimental Association—its support contributed greatly to making this week a success. The celebration was a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and renew old friendships.

We heard briefings from warfighters who recently returned from missions during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), including Soldiers from V Corps (returning from OIF); 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) (returning from OEF); 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) (returning from OIF); and III Corps (currently serving as the base element for the Multinational Corps–Iraq). We had frank discussions on areas where the Chemical Corps is doing well and on areas where we could improve our capabilities. We look forward to the events of next year, when we celebrate the Corps' 90th Anniversary. You won't want to miss the great event!

The theme for this issue of *Army Chemical Review* is "Meeting the Challenges of Evolving Battlefield Operations"—and it could not be more timely because battlefield operations continue to evolve. Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) forces in Iraq continue to face asymmetric threats during daily operations (such as the use of chlorine and other hazardous material). Chemical forces and staffs are reacting magnificently to provide commanders with advice and the protective measures needed to counter these threats and meet the Chemical Corps Vision:

A Corps and Army capable now of countering the entire range of CBRN threats and effects to protect our Nation, operating seamlessly with military and civilian partners, while conducting simultaneous operations from civil support to war.

Our Corps and our military forces must be able to operate along the continuum of military operations, providing support to civil authorities in the homeland and to commanders and the Army during combat operations. We cannot afford to be lured into thinking that one of these military operations is more important than the other, nor can we allow ourselves to focus on one mission to the detriment of the other. Our training, doctrine, and equipment must be capable of supporting all mission areas to combat weapons of mass destruction. I am confident that our Corps is moving along the right path to realize these capabilities.

Regimental Command Sergeant Major Alston and I will continue to visit Dragon Soldiers and units. We look forward to seeing you and talking about the direction our Corps is taking. As always, we welcome your frank input and ideas to improve our Corps. And I ask you to always be on the lookout for ways that you can assist other Dragon Soldiers. For those of you operating in harm's way, you are in our constant thoughts and prayers.

Elementis, Regamus, Proelium!