

Regimental Command Sergeant Major

The commandant and I have been conducting full spectrum operations this last quarter. We have been able to visit many of our chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) warriors throughout the Chemical Corps; and I must say that I am proud to serve with all of them. Our warriors are conducting combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, overseas training in various locations, and stability operations in the continental United States. Many units are conducting consequence management missions throughout the countryside. Our warriors are engaged in full spectrum operations while transforming the Army. Here at the home of the Dragon warrior, our leaders and Soldiers have trained thousands of warriors to supply our warfighting units with the best-trained Soldiers in the world. Our leaders here at Fort Leonard Wood are doing their part to grow the Army and sustain the operational training base. The commandant and I are very proud of each and every one of you for serving and supporting our great Chemical Corps. During our travels, we talk about how great it is to serve our warriors and their families.

Congratulations to our NCOs and their Families for their commitment to service and their sacrifice for our Nation. As we enter this special year, we want to tell our story publicly and recognize the contributions of our NCOs. It is particularly important to recognize the courage and dedication of our NCOs deployed throughout the world. We as a Corps want to highlight what the Army is doing to accelerate professional development, training, and educational programs that benefit NCOs. Our NCOs make it happen in the Chemical Corps. We have to tell our story. We have to share our experiences. We have to educate the public about how Army NCOs are professional trainers and experts in their craft, planning and conducting individual and collective training for their Soldiers and their teams.



**Command Sergeant Major
Ted A. Lopez**

“At the front of every Army mission in the United States or overseas, you’ll find a noncommissioned officer. They know their mission, they know their equipment, but most importantly, they know their Soldiers.”¹

*—Secretary of the Army Pete Geren
2008 Association of the United States Army
Annual Meeting and Exposition*

We are very excited that the mighty 48th Chemical Brigade is sponsoring this year’s Chemical Corps Soldier and NCO of the Year competitions. With full spectrum operations, the competitions will advance one more step toward the future. The Spartans will have CBRN NCOs running the competition from every battalion in the Chemical Corps. The brigade commander and command sergeant major have provided a plan that will truly challenge the physical and mental fitness of our CBRN warriors in technical skills and warrior battle tasks and drills. This year’s competition will take place a week early to provide the time and energy necessary to push our CBRN warriors to the limit. At the end of the competition, our NCO Academy (in particular, the Senior Leader Course) will conduct a traditional NCO induction ceremony to induct our newest NCOs into the Corps here at the home of the Chemical Corps.

I have had several briefings on robotics and how we can use this technology to improve our missions. If you would like more information on robotics, please contact—

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We are not getting our CBRN warriors involved in the use of the CBRN Knowledge Network (<[https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?\\$p=409522](https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?$p=409522)>). I cannot stress enough the importance of our warriors using and accessing this brilliant Web site to stay current in the CBRN field.

To the Corps, thank you for serving. We are very proud of you! I ask each of you to provide me your thoughts in any areas where we can improve our Corps.

Thanks to our Families, Retirees, and Civilians for what you do.

Endnote:

¹C. Todd Lopez, "Army Secretary Announces 2009 Will Be 'Year of NCO,'" American Forces Press Service, U.S. Department of Defense, 6 October 2008.



The NCO Creed

No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a noncommissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time-honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army." I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the military service, and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a noncommissioned officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers, and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my Soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve—seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, noncommissioned officers, leaders!