

Regimental Week 2008

By Sergeant Major Gwendolyn Evans

The U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School (USACBRNS) celebrated its 90th anniversary during Regimental Week, which was held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 23–27 June 2008. Included among the many activities of the week were the Dragon's Peak Competition, Green Dragon Ball, and Regimental Review.

Dragon's Peak Competition

“Dragon's Peak separates who is really operating at the top of their game,” said Brigadier General Thomas Spoehr, former commandant of USACBRNS. “This is the premier competition.”

The competition began on Friday, 20 June, when twenty-seven Soldiers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs) competed in an Army physical fitness test. This was followed by M4 and M249 weapon qualifications; a daytime land navigation course; and a written exam on chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear material. The day ended with a nighttime land navigation course, which lasted until 0100 Saturday.

At 0530, Saturday, the competitors participated in a twelve-mile ruck march, followed by lanes designed to test basic Soldier skills and Chemical Corps-specific tasks. Participants were evaluated on their ability to administer first aid, disassemble and reassemble an M249 squad automatic weapon, and conduct

a patrol. The participants then completed a physical endurance confidence course.

The final event of the competition, the convening of a board to determine the Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year, took place on Sunday morning. Specialist Robert Hocog and Sergeant Matthew Matosic—both of the 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia—were named Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year, respectively. Specialist Hocog and Sergeant Matosic each received a Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray Leadership Award trophy and other prizes at the Green Dragon Ball.



Green Dragon Ball

The Green Dragon Ball was held 27 June. The guest speaker was Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, who spoke about his Army career and how the Army has grown. "I look back at the Army we were in 1975 and in the last thirty-three years—to have watched the all-volunteer force grow from what we were in 1975 to what we are today—there is no comparison," Preston said.

Other activities included the presentation of Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray Leadership Awards and prizes to the Dragon's Peak Competition winners and the recognition of Sibert Award winners, which represent the best company level Active Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve units in the Chemical Corps. The Sibert Award winners for 2008 were—

- **Active Army:** Company B, 110th Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), Fort Lewis, Washington.
- **National Guard:** 637th Chemical Company (Heavy), Ohio Army National Guard, Middletown, Ohio.
- **Army Reserve:** 130th Chemical Company (Biological Integrated Detection System), Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Regimental Review

The USACBRNS commandant was bid farewell in a change-of-command ceremony held at the Davidson Fitness Center on 28 June. During the ceremony, Brigadier General Thomas Spoehr handed command of USACBRNS to Colonel Leslie Smith. Colonel Smith commanded the 3d Chemical Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, from 2005 to 2007. He returns to the installation from his position as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans (G-3), 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives), Edgewood, Maryland.

Regimental Command Sergeant Major Patrick Z. Alston was also bid farewell in a change-of-responsibility ceremony held during the Regimental Review. Command Sergeant Major Ted Lopez is the new Chemical Corps Regimental command sergeant major. Regimental Command Sergeant Major Lopez was last stationed at the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Major Evans is the personnel proponenty sergeant major for USACBRNS and the Chemical Corps. She holds an associate's degree in supervisory leadership from Hawaii Pacific University and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in management.

