

# 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion Reunion

*By Mr. Kip Lindberg*

Six veterans of the 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion and their families visited Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on 16 September 2010. They were hosted by the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School (USACBRNS) and the Chemical Corps Regimental Association.

The veterans participated in a Chemical Memorial Grove wreath-laying ceremony to honor their service and the sacrifice of their fallen. In recognition of their service to the Chemical Corps and the Nation, Colonel Vance “Phil” Visser, commandant of the USACBRNS, presented each veteran with the Order of the Dragon. Colonel Visser said, “The courage you displayed [during World War II] is the same courage evident in our Dragon Soldiers today.” In

addition to the memorial service, the group also participated in oral interviews and toured the Chemical Corps Museum.

The veterans expressed their appreciation for all that was done for them during their visit. “There are less than 20 members still alive,” remarked one, “and if this is our last reunion, it will always be remembered as being very special.”

The 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion fought in the European Theater during World War II, firing 4.2-inch chemical mortars in support of the 1st Infantry and 82d Airborne Divisions. In March 1945, the battalion supported the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany, providing the close fire support that proved instrumental in holding the bridgehead. 

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