

## Chief of Chemical



**Brigadier General  
Thomas Spoehr**

Greetings Dragon Soldiers! It is unbelievable how much has happened since my last Army Chemical Review article. I want to hit on some of the high points. First, working with you—our Corps stakeholders—we have developed a revised Chemical Corps Vision (see also the inside back cover):

**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.**

I ask your support in communicating this Vision to all Chemical Corps Soldiers and those we work with. A vision is a *desirable* and *imaginable* picture of the future that is *feasible* and *focused*. Our Vision was developed with your participation, and I think that it transmits a powerful message on the direction we want our Corps to take. We must now work on the strategies and objectives that must be achieved to complete our Vision.

On 28 June 2007, we will mark the 89th anniversary of the founding of the Chemical Corps. We will celebrate this anniversary 24–27 June during Regimental Week at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Scheduled events include a Warfighter Seminar on 24 June; Colonels', General Officers', and Sergeants' Major Conferences on 25 June; a Regimental Review on 26 June; and the Green Dragon Ball on 27 June. Invitations will be provided soon; meanwhile, please note your calendars and make plans to attend. It will be a great opportunity to exchange warfighting insight. Additionally, the National Defense Industrial Association will conduct the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Conference during the same week (see the complete agenda on page 11 or at <http://www.wood.army.mil/usacmls/nonflash/conference.html>). I look forward to seeing you in June!

Command Sergeant Major Alston and I continue to visit Dragon Soldiers. In November, we traveled to Kuwait and Iraq where we were fortunate enough to visit many Dragon Soldiers serving there. (There is also a new team in Iraq under the leadership of III Corps, and we hope to visit them soon.) Everywhere we went, we saw Dragon Soldiers fully engaged in supporting the war effort by performing a myriad of diverse tasks: hazardous material response, convoy security, quick-reaction force response, forward operating base protection, force protection, and other missions. What was the common denominator in these Chemical Soldiers? Pride in jobs well done—a fact reaffirmed through their chains of command! We also visited Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, where the new Stryker Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicle was being tested. Stryker brigades are already receiving these systems; what a huge addition to our capabilities they present! Our Soldiers really love it.

I am really excited about the Joint Warning and Reporting Network and the Joint Effects Model Programs (see page 12). Both battle management tools are on track and firmly on a path to success. They are linked to the Army Battle Command Systems and are being developed cooperatively with these programs. We are working hard at the Chemical School to support these programs with appropriate training and doctrine material and to increase the amount of institutional training time we give them in our core courses.

We are working quickly to move the Joint Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Reconnaissance System, Increment II, to fielding. We completed a very successful limited-objective experiment on this system with Soldiers from Fort Lewis, Washington, and Fort Richardson, Alaska, and gained much insight. This system consists of the most advanced commercial, off-the-shelf detection and protection equipment available; and it is mounted on a trailer towed by a high-mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicle. The system is designed for use by Infantry brigade combat team reconnaissance platoons, heavy Chemical company decontamination platoons, and a number of other Chemical units.

We are firmly focused on doing two things at the Chemical School:

- Producing tactically and technically trained Dragon Soldiers and leaders.
- Supporting the ongoing war effort.

Let me know if you see an area where we could do better. I encourage you to provide input to me at [ChiefofChemical@wood.army.mil](mailto:ChiefofChemical@wood.army.mil). In the meantime, please continue to take care of your fellow Dragon Soldiers.

*Elementis, Regamus, Proelium!*