

Chief of Chemical and Commandant, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School



Colonel Vance P. Visser

Greetings, Dragon Soldiers!

During a 10 August 2010 ceremony held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, I was honored to assume the title of 26th Chief of Chemical and Commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School (USACBRNS) from Brigadier General Leslie C. Smith, who served in that position for two years before moving on to become the commander of the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. During his visits to the field and to training locations at Fort Leonard Wood—the Home of the Chemical Regiment—Brigadier General Smith positively impacted thousands of Dragon Soldiers and their Families. Under his leadership, we realized an improvement in our Corps and its capabilities. When the occasion arises, please thank him and his wife Vanedra for their selfless contributions to our Corps.

I am thrilled to join the great USACBRNS team at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence. The excellent leadership team did an outstanding job of managing the transition period between commandants. I wish to thank Colonel Bret Van Camp, the assistant commandant, for his superior service during the interim period and for everything he did to ensure a seamless transition. We are, indeed, blessed with other exceptional leaders as well—Dragon Soldiers like Command Sergeant Major Ted Lopez, Regimental Command Sergeant Major; Colonel Dave Wilcox, Commander, 3d Chemical Brigade; Command Sergeant Major Sheridan Richardson, Command Sergeant Major, 3d Chemical Brigade; and a host of others—all focused on taking care of our Dragon Soldiers and their Families.

After nine years of persistent conflict, our Army, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and the USACBRNS are simultaneously undergoing a transition period as we continue combat operations. I intend to seize this opportunity to publish a Chemical Regiment Vision, Strategy, and Campaign Plan to synchronize our efforts in the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) mission arena. These products will be available by the end of the first quarter, fiscal year 2011 (31 December 2010). Similar USACBRNS products will be published by the end of the second quarter, fiscal year 2011 (31 March 2011). During the coming months, we will share our thoughts and seek to mine the full intellectual capacity of our CBRN leaders to ensure that we successfully guide our efforts into the future. I am anxious to hear from all of you.

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I was deeply touched by two special ceremonies held at our Chemical Corps Memorial Grove at Fort Leonard Wood recently. Our newest Basic Officer Leader Course (Course 05-10) and Advanced Individual Training (Class 019-10) graduates were honored at the Regimental Induction Ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Dragon Soldiers received Regimental crests and took their respective places in the CBRN force. Then, World War II veterans of the 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion were honored at a memorial ceremony (see page 17). At the conclusion of that ceremony, each veteran was awarded the Order of the Dragon. Both ceremonies connected attendees, young and old alike, in a unique way—together as Dragon Soldiers who give **all for the Corps**. I invite each of you to visit Fort Leonard Wood—to witness firsthand the exceptional things that are happening here at the Home of the Chemical Regiment. I look forward to serving with each of you in this new capacity.

Elementis, Regamus, Proelium!