

# Maintenance Is the Key to Technical Escort Unit's Readiness

*By Sergeant First Class J.B. Jaso III*


The Soldiers (or "Responders") of Company A, 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), 48th Chemical Brigade, 20th Support Command, depend on equipment to accomplish their jobs. Unserviceable equipment affects unit capabilities; therefore, equipment maintenance is essential in ensuring the safety of American citizens.

Major Damon Yourchisin, commander of Company A, explained that his Soldiers (who are members of the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland) deploy within the United States and overseas to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives incidents. Members of the unit depend on equipment to identify and protect against the chemical and biological hazards that are consistently encountered.

"Maintenance is the cornerstone of any effective organization and especially one as technically oriented as ours," Major Yourchisin said. "Our equipment must be in a

constant state of readiness to effectively do our job at any moment, which we have been called on to do with very short notice."

With that in mind, Major Yourchisin has implemented a maintenance-focused plan to ensure that the entire set of equipment is serviceable and that the company is ready to answer the call—if and when it is made. In addition to weekly equipment checks, the company conducts regular checks on the equipment before, during, and after its use.

"We spend a lot of time maintaining our equipment," stated a member of a Company A sampling team. "It's important to us to be ready when it's our turn to execute the mission." 

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