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From the Regimental Command Sergeant Major

Greetings to all Dragon Soldiers!

This past month, I visited Fort Stewart, Georgia, and spoke with all the 3rd ID Dragon Soldiers stationed there. The 3ID Division Command Sergeant Major, CSM Grant, put in a good word on how adaptable the 74D Soldiers in the Division were during the last deployment. I also visited the 3rd BCT, 3ID at Fort Benning, and got the same kinds of accolades from the Brigade CSM.

Special congratulations to COL(P) Thomas Spoehr on being selected for promotion to Brigadier General. We are truly blessed to have such an outstanding leader as our next Chemical General Officer.

This month, I am preparing to go to Dugway, Utah, to observe exercises to test new equipment to see if it can be integrated into our inventory of CBRN defense items.

I am truly happy with what the Chemical Corps is accomplishing around the world. I want you all to know that I am only here to serve my fellow Dragon Soldiers. If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to ask me.

As always, I am very proud of you, and keep on doing the great things each of you are doing.

PATRICK Z. ALSTON
CSM, USA
Chemical Corps Regimental CSM

From the Personnel Proponent SGM

SGM Evans is TDY this month and I have the honor of filling in for her. I wanted to take a quick moment to remind everyone that June is coming upon us extremely fast and that means the Chemical Corps' anniversary. We are gearing up here for Regimental Week (25-29 June) and the wheels are turning fast. Many events have been planned including: Dragon's Peak Competition, Regimental Review, Green Dragon Ball, CCRA Golf Tournament, Regimental Run, and more. Additional information can be found on the Chemical School Home page; just follow the link marked "Regimental Week". During that same week the Joint CBRN Conference (formerly the WWCC) will be run by NDIA. We hope to see a record number of Dragon Soldiers in attendance this year.

JOSEPH BAKER
MSG, USA
Chemical Proponency Operations NCOIC

NCO Promotion Numbers for 1 May 2006

<u>RANK</u>	<u>PROMOTED</u>	<u>THRU SEQ #</u>	<u>REMAINING ON LIST</u>	<u>LIST DATE</u>
SGM	0	0	1	JUN 05
MSG	0	13	7	OCT 05
SFC	0	0	145	JAN 06

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CUT-OFF SCORE</u>		<u>PROMOTED</u>		<u>ELIGIBLE</u>	
	<i>PZ</i>	<i>SZ</i>	<i>PZ</i>	<i>SZ</i>	<i>PZ</i>	<i>SZ</i>
SGT	350	350	46	29	46	29
SSG	798	798	0	0	44	76

Congratulations to BNCOC Honor Grads

The following information is provided for Chemical BNCOC Class 01-06, which graduated 5 April:

Honor Graduate: SSG Jorge Arzabala (Co F, 82nd Chem Bn, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO);

Leadership Award: SSG Craig Brown (HHC, 84th Chem Bn, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO);

High APFT Award: SSG Christopher Hill (1st Armored Training Bde, Ft. Knox, KY);

Commandant's List: SSG Craig Brown (HHC, 84th Chem Bn, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO); SSG Randall Boatner (4th Civil Support Team (WMD), Dobbins AFB, GA); SSG Stephanie Brown (HHC, 3rd Chem Bde, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO); SSG Christopher Massey (12th Chem Co, 1st ID, Kitzingen, Germany); SSG Albertha Tinsley (512th Maint Co, 21st Support Command, Mannheim, Germany).

Dragon's Peak Competition Scheduled for 24–29 June 2006

For the second year, the U.S. Army Chemical School's Personnel Proponency Office will sponsor the Dragon's Peak competition to identify and recognize the top Soldier and NCO in the Chemical Corps. The competition will be held during the Joint CBRN Conference and Regimental Week, 24-29 June 2006.

Last year's contest consisted of units submitting a packet and Soldiers/NCOs taking an on-line test. This year, unit representatives will come TDY to Ft. Leonard Wood to compete in six events to include a PT test, hands-on and written tests, weapons qualification, land navigation, and a board appearance. The winners will be announced at the Green Dragon Ball. Units must provide standard name line NLT 12 May 2006. POC is MSG Joseph Baker, DSN 676-7374 or commercial (573)563-7374; e-mail: Joseph.baker1@wood.army.mil.

Joint CBRN Conference Sponsored by NDIA

This year we will celebrate the Chemical Corps' 88th Anniversary during Regimental Week, 26-28 June 2006, at the US Army Chemical School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. On 27-28 June 2006, the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) will hold the Joint CBRN Conference, also at Fort Leonard Wood. Information for the NDIA conference is available at the following website:

<http://www.ndia.org/Template.cfm?Section=6300&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=11394>

MANSCEN Drill Sergeant of the Quarter

Congratulations to a fellow Dragon NCO, SFC Joe Johnson, who was selected as the Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN) Drill Sergeant of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter, FY 06. SFC Johnson is a Drill Sergeant Leader at the MANSCEN NCO Academy/Drill Sergeant School. Hooah!

Equal Opportunity Advisor/Representative Winners

We wish to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of a handful of Chemical NCOs who are fulfilling duties as Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA) or Equal Opportunity Representative (EOR) at Fort Leonard Wood. Each of them has been selected as winners for this highly competitive post-wide distinction. Congratulations to the following Dragon Soldiers: The 2006 EOA of the Year was SFC Michelle Custard, HHD 3rd Chem Bde. The FLW EOR of the Quarter for 1st Qtr, FY 06 was SFC Dwight Mitchell, MANSCEN NCO Academy. The 2nd Qtr, FY 06 winner was SSG Memorina Barnes, also from the MANSCEN NCO Academy. Way to represent the Corps!

Rangers Need Decon/Recon Team Personnel

By MSG Christopher J. Foster

The 75th Ranger Regiment has just activated a new Decontamination Reconnaissance Team (DRT) within each of their Battalions. They are looking for some high-speed Dragon Soldiers to fill the new slots. They are authorized 12 junior enlisted and 6 Sergeants. This may be a good career move for some of our Chemical Soldiers, with a lot of school opportunities such as Tech Escort and Ranger School.

If you have any Soldiers in mind, please send their standard name line, and I'll forward it to HRC. For more info, contact MSG Foster at DSN 835-6087 or commercial, (706) 545-6087. Rangers Lead The Way!

(MSG Foster is the Regimental CBRN NCO with the 75th Ranger Regiment.)

Johnston Island Website

If any of you retired Dragon Soldiers were ever stationed on Johnston Island, you might find this website interesting. Listen to "JI Saturday Night." <http://www.johnstonmemories.com/index.htm>

(Submitted by Mr. Dan Galarza, Battelle, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.)

Combatives in the Lion's Den

By SFC Barbra Borja



SGT Frasure and SPC Fones demonstrate combative techniques



Chuck "The Iceman" Liddell declares SGT Frasure victorious.

The Army Combatives Program was spearheaded 12 years ago in the 2nd Ranger Battalion, Ft. Lewis, WA. Since then it has been mandated by the Chief of Staff for the entire Army to fully integrate the Modern Army Combatives Program into their training plan, with the goal that Soldiers achieve Level I certification. Levels I through IV are taught and certified at the Army Combatives Training Centers at Ft. Benning, GA and Ft. Bliss, TX.

Through initiatives and directives given by the battalion leadership, the 23rd Chemical Battalion has become the proponent for combatives training within 555th Combat Support Brigade (ME) (P). CSM Barnes identified four NCOs that emulate the Warrior Spirit and ethos through superior physical training and prior combatives experience. On 5 December 2005, SSG Andorfer, SSG Jimenez, SGT Armendariz, and SGT Holder began Level I certification training and over the course of the next four months completed Level II and Level III certification on 7 April 2006. SGT Armendariz was the Honor Graduate of the Level III Course.

CSM Barnes has directed that every Soldier in the battalion will fight and become Level I certified. "Each Soldier must possess the mindset that when all else fails and hand to hand combat is imminent, every Soldier has the necessary skills to overcome an opponent" stated CSM Barnes.

Using the crawl, walk, run approach to attaining these goals, the entire battalion conducts 45 minutes of combatives training immediately following daily PT. The main focus has been placed on mastering drills one through four, which includes escaping the mount, trap and roll, passing the guard, and achieving the mount, as well as various arm bars and chokes. When asked about

the progression the battalion has made in the last four months, CSM Barnes simply states "Before we started combatives training, 95% of the battalion did not know the difference between the Guard or the Mount or what a rear naked choke was. Now, the Soldiers often stay later than the allotted time to perfect a move to get it right. This training has and continues to be beneficial and has increased the competitive spirit within all Soldiers of the battalion".

Soldiers' confidence levels have dramatically increased as they continue to gain proficiency in combatives techniques and procedures. The Battalion Commander, LTC King stated, "This is the first step of many in achieving the Warrior Ethos that the Commandant has challenged each of us to accomplish."

While conducting Platoon EXEVALs, UFC® Light Heavyweight Champion, Chuck "The Iceman" Liddell, paid a personal visit to the Soldiers of the battalion at the Platoon Defensive Live Fire Site. During his visit he became familiar with weapons systems, visited with Soldiers, signed autographs, and officiated a Super Welterweight bout between SPC Fones and SGT Frasure. SGT Frasure was declared the winner by tap out by means of a straight arm bar.

The 23rd Chem Battalion has scheduled a battalion-wide Combative Smoker on 22-23 May 2006 that will determine the battalion's best fighters within the 13 different weight classes. Recently, Soldiers across the battalion have been heard echoing the sentiments of the Bn CSM, "Make 'em tap."

For more information on the Modern Army Combatives Program, refer to FM 3-25.150 or visit the Ft. Benning website @ www.benning.army.mil.

(SFC Borja is the 23rd Chem Bn Operations Sergeant, Ft. Lewis, WA.)

Iron Fury Exercise Tests NCO Knowledge

By Richard LeBlanc

Planning stability and support operations while fighting insurgents and handling a barrage of media inquiries may be routine to senior military officials, but for those completing the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer's Course (ANCOC), the task can seem to be overwhelming. Still, the Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN) Noncommissioned Officer Academy has incorporated this event into a weeklong simulation exercise called Iron Fury. More than 30 students from the MANSCEN Chemical ANCOC Course 04-05 participated in this exercise October 31-November 4, 2005.

This exercise was also supported by Battle Training and Simulation Division (BTSD) staff members, to include senior mentors from the Chemical Officer Advanced Course 04-05. The senior mentorship program is the brainchild of Chemical ANCOC First Sergeant Jeffrey Garcia. The captains which made up the senior mentors staff included; Captains Jonathan Larmore, Matthew Kelly, Joshua Miller and Daniel Batesman. The senior mentor concept has been incorporated into Iron Fury with a great deal of success.

The senior mentors augment the Small Group Leaders (SGLs) in guiding the students during this very critical training. The SGL staff included; SFCs Dwight Mitchell, Stephen Ellison, and George Kelly. Comments from the SGLs and their Senior SGL, SFC Anthony Santa Maria have been very positive regarding this mentorship program. SFC Santa Maria states, "The Tactical Operations Centers (TOCs) within the Battle Simulation Center at the MANSCEN building on Fort Leonard Wood provides Chemical ANCOC students the forum to execute the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) at the Brigade Combat Team (BCT) level that provides them with the invaluable skill sets to actively be an instrumental part of command level battle staffs within the capacity as a CBRN Noncommissioned Officer. The training provides the opportunity for Chemical ANCOC and CMC3 students to work together which builds the foundation of the officer and NCO relationship which is priceless and gives NCOs great confidence when working on a staff where they will arrive and already know their role as they will make a tremendous and immediate impact."

Comments from the senior mentors have also been very positive, such as, "Integration was a key, good insight of MDMP", "NCOs looked at the nuts and bolts of the operation", "Saw the whole process, where to fit in and support the plan".

Iron Fury is actually a large practical exercise culminating from a series of building blocks events of prior weeks of training. The purpose of the exercise is for the students to understand the process of the Military Decision Making Process and apply these learned skills in a realistic, complex simulation. The students are brought together so they can see the interaction between themselves and recognize how capabilities are integrated into a combined arms operation. During the exercise, the students act as commanders and staff officers during a tactical scenario and make decisions based on what they've learned during their professional development. The exercise uses a combination of computer, digital products, briefings, white cell information, and intelligence reports to develop a realistic common operating picture (COP). The students are given a division-level operations order, placed into brigade tactical operations centers, to include a Chemical Battalion and a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Center (NBCC).

Once the students are in their respective brigade tactical operations centers, the simulation, interaction, and information flow begins. As the simulation proceeds, students in surrounding units get information and relay it over the radio into the Division tactical operations centers, just as they would do in an actual theater of operations. Information is also sent into the brigade tactical operations centers through an electronic media. All of the Division and Brigade tactical operations centers in the simulated digital operations center are intertwined through an intranet to enable the students to relay real time information sharing. The students formulate plans based on situational reports from division and surrounding units. The information is flowing both vertically within the units and horizontally across the units at the same time through e-mail, shared folders and collaborative planning within the operational cells. White cell information is used to add complexity to the environment the students have to work.

(Continued on next page)

Iron Fury Exercise Tests NCO Knowledge (continued)

To ensure the training the students receive is relevant, the BTSD leaders are constantly relooking and refining this exercise. Lessons have been taken from current operations and the updated critical task list and incorporated into Iron Fury. Engaging a canny, treacherous enemy causes the students to develop refined war fighting strategies. As the students are doing their military planning, they are forced to develop this plan against possible actions that the enemy could do. The enemy being fought in the exercise uses similar tactics and capabilities to those being used by current foes of the United States. However, Iron Fury also has the full spectrum capability to conduct conventional operations in complex rural and urban terrain. It is a total training package that encompasses force on force, unit's fighting insurgency forces, and a myriad of problems with the population, and finally transitioning to a stability and support operations.

Traditionally, stability and support has been the most challenging part of any operation. It is only during the past decade that support and stability has been a primary focus for Army planning. It is the internal protection of the population, nation building, organizing a police force, food and water delivery, situations that we have not done in prior operations. Stability and security, with a legitimate government

functioning and in control, is the only way that U.S. forces will leave.

Advantages of using simulation in the exercise instead of training in the field include; updating, changing, and upgrading the scenario and equipment. Also, the ability to manipulate the foe to act upon the battlefield in a particular way at a concise time, provides the students a more detailed picture of an asymmetrical operational area. The simulation allows the SGLs to challenge the students in a tactical field problem with Soldiers in units maneuvering on a battlefield could not be done. The exercise can be stopped at any time, an After Action Review (AAR) can be conducted issues resolved and the exercise can be continued. This would be very hard to do in a live exercise.

Conducting training in a controlled environment such as a simulation where outside factors do not come into play is a safe and cost effective method. Can you imagine the actual cost to bring a division to the National Center (NTC) or a brigade to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). By using simulations as a building block to higher level exercise's, eventually leading into full spectrum combat operation saves the U. S. Army money on equipment, and resources.

(MSG(R) Richard Le Blanc is a Chemical Analyst with Anteon Corporation, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. This article originally appeared in the January-June 2006 issue of the Army Chemical Review, and is reprinted with permission.)



Combined Arms Rehearsal



Operational Cell at Work

3/104th Chemical TASS Battalion Fields New Courses

By MSG Terry Thrasher



Level A Suit? What is that?" That was only one of the many questions asked by the students of the 2006 Army Reserve Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer's Course (ANCOC) class. The class, taught by the 3rd Bn (CM), 104th DIV (IT) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, ran from 17 MAR to 1 APR 06, and used the latest version of the ANCOC Program of Instruction (POI) and Training Support Package.

The course is full of new and exciting material. The new blocks of instruction include 30 hours of Hazardous Materials First Responder training. Students learn sensitive site exploitation, use of the Emergency Response Guide, the laws and regulations pertinent to Hazardous Materials Handling, and the use of the NIOSH Guide to Hazardous Chemicals.

The Army Chemical Corps has turned a corner in its history. The danger of terrorist attacks on US soil and the increasing use of hazardous materials in manufacturing around the world have lead to a sea change in training. Chemical Corps training is increasingly focused on civilian HAZMAT response and on military support to civil authorities.

The new course material also includes 40 hours of instruction on the MCS-Lite software and computer system. This software allows the plotting of enemy and friendly units in real time and the planning of operations and plotting of CBRN hazards. This is the first class of Reserve Chemical Soldiers to receive formal training on this system. The Army Reserve is rising to the need for new and better training in these areas, and the students are eating it up.

With new Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) equipment being fielded by the Army every few months, the training programs of the Chemical Corps must constantly be updated to keep up with developments. This was the reason that the Chemical Corps has fielded a new version of the Reserve 74D10 course. The 3rd Bn (CM), 104th DIV (IT) has just completed the first session of the course to be taught by the Total Army School System (TASS) battalions for this calendar year.

The course includes equipment never taught by the TASS battalions before, such as UDR-13 and the KARCHER Decon Apparatus. The course also included instruction on standard pieces of equipment, though common in the active duty army, may be new to some of the reserve Soldiers. These included the M22 ACADA, the M12, and M17, and the 157 Smoke Generator.

The students especially enjoyed a Practical Exercise using the Garmin 2 GPS Simulator used with the AN/VDR-2 Radiation Detector. The standard probe used on the AN/VDR 2 is replace by a training probe which uses a computer program and an internal GPS receiver to simulate the rise and fall of radiation levels surrounding a nuclear detonation. With the assistance of SSG Kevin Bowers of the 84th Chem Bn, a simulation was set up on the grounds of Nord Hall.

As the technology of CBRN defense continues to improve and the operational relationship of the army and civilian authorities continues to change, the US Army Reserve Chemical Soldiers will continue to rise to the challenge.

(MSG Thrasher is an Instructor with the 3/104th Chemical TASS Bn.)

95th Chemical Company “Arctic Dragons”



(Yes, That Does Say -43 F!)

Joint Service General Purpose Mask
(JSGPM) Testing
Cold Regions Test Center
Fort Greeley, Alaska
27 February – 13 March 2006

Cutting Edge Techniques for Conducting Chemical Lane Training Exercises (Part 1 of 2)

By Master Sergeant Russell E. Gehrlein

As a senior NCO, I have seen a variety of approaches to unit chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) training. There are some good ideas out there, but there are also some not-so-good ideas. A challenge that all chemical trainers face is getting an event on the training schedule, keeping it there, and executing that training to standard. Lane training is a time-tested technique that commanders can use to bring intense training resources together and focus on selected tasks. It is an extremely effective tool when used with CBRN collective tasks at platoon or company level.

As an Active Army chemical observer-controller/trainer (OC/T) assigned to an Army Reserve training support battalion in the 91st Division (Training), I had the opportunity to plan, prepare, and execute more than fifty chemical lane training exercises (LTXs) with a variety of Army Reserve and National Guard combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) units. Over a four-year period, I conducted LTXs on platoon smoke and operational decontamination, company level react-to-chemical-attack missions, regimental CBRN staff operations, and chemical company decontamination and reconnaissance. Most of this training was conducted in the spring of 2003, before several Reserve Component (RC) units were mobilized to deploy to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. I also had the opportunity to conduct two react-to-chemical-attack LTXs with my brigade headquarters company the following year. I presented some initial observations and suggestions on planning chemical LTXs in the January 2001 issue of *Army Chemical Review*, "Chemical Lane Training Exercises: Essential Planning Considerations." (See www.wood.army.mil/chmdsd to request archived articles.) However, for this article, I will place more emphasis on mission execution. I will share what our team used to make chemical training realistic, how the OC/Ts accomplished their mission with the supported unit, and what lessons were learned along the way so that scenarios can be repeated instead of recreated in future exercises. I hope that chemical trainers will

find helpful techniques to carry forward in their training exercises.

Platoon Smoke/Decontamination Operations

One of my first missions during this assignment was to work with the organic chemical platoon (smoke/decontamination) of one of the National Guard's enhanced separate brigades. As an OC/T, I was a trainer and an evaluator during the platoon's annual training (AT). This platoon had just received renovated mechanized smoke generator systems. It had not yet used the new equipment for collective training when it received a mission to provide smoke support for two armor battalions and an infantry battalion during a ten-day field training exercise (FTX) in a harsh desert environment. The platoon's missions included providing on-order, mobile screening smoke during an armored movement and stationary obscuring smoke for task force breaching operations.

The mechanized smoke operations, major multiechelon training events, both went well. It was great to see an armor brigade taking rehearsals seriously. They had CS and CSS elements with them during rehearsals, to include engineer assets and a smoke platoon. Being a part of the planning and preparation process with the supported unit also helped the smoke platoon earn a "thumbs-up" on the mission. As an observer, the only suggestion that I made was to add more in-depth internal rehearsals using terrain models.

The one tricky part of the whole process was the placement of the OC/Ts during the mission. We saw two options: place the OC/Ts inside the smoke track itself or direct the observation from a specific vantage point. In the first option, I was positioned in one track and my partner was positioned in the other. We were able to view the teamwork that took place and take good notes from start to finish. The second option, vantage point observation, was conducted during the lane-breaching demonstration.

(continued on next page)

Cutting Edge Techniques for Conducting Chemical Lane Training Exercises (Part 1 of 2) (continued)

After two summers of smoke operations, the chemical platoon had the chance to support decontamination operations. And it excelled in the execution phase as expected. However, the platoon really made its mark in the meticulous planning and preparation phases. The day before mission execution, the platoon sergeant conducted a detailed rehearsal with his Soldiers. But he also went one step further and arranged a combined rock drill with the armor battalion. He not only talked through the vehicle wash down and mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) gear exchange from start to finish, but he also had the drivers and vehicle commanders from each vehicle walk through a scaled-down version of the decontamination site, move through each station, and state their actions so that all would know what to do and where to go. This effective rehearsal technique was, no doubt, instrumental to the nearly flawless mission execution conducted at combat speed and in MOPP4 gear the next day.



Breaching operation, 116th Bde Chem Platoon, Boise, Idaho

React-to-Chemical LTXs

Before I describe in more detail what a good, effective react-to-chemical-attack LTX looks like, here's what it does not look like. Near the end of my first AT in the Idaho desert, I was invited to witness the following: Two nonchemical OC/Ts arrived at the support battalion headquarters field site and stated, through their actions, that they would just "throw

some CS grenades and see how they do!" There were no training and evaluation outline (T&EO), no realistic scenario, no rehearsal, not much of an OC/T coverage plan and, in my opinion, no legitimate LTX. A year later, I offered our services to create a better training event. After executing this type of LTX more than twenty times on weekends and during AT, our team had the standing operating procedures down to a science. Thorough planning is always the key to success!

 In a nutshell, here is how our team executed a react-to-chemical-attack LTXs. Prior to the event, all coordination with the training unit was complete, the OC/Ts were well-trained, a realistic and doctrinal scenario was set, intelligence reports and chemical downwind messages (CDMs) had been forwarded, and a rehearsal was conducted. The time had come to throw the switch on the M22 automatic chemical-agent detector alarm (ACADA). My OC/Ts watched Soldiers and leaders to ensure that they donned their masks properly before giving the signal to go to MOPP4 status. They assessed a few casualties, primarily with untrained Soldiers and Soldiers suffering from claustrophobia. I placed myself at the battalion tactical operations center (TOC) and watched for a size, activity, location, unit, time, and equipment (SALUTE) report to go to higher headquarters. I observed teams for the M256 chemical-agent detector perform tasks using real time. OC/Ts took safety precautions by directing every Soldier they saw to drink water from their canteen while in MOPP4 to maintain hydration. After the agent was properly identified, I received the nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) 1 report, waited a few minutes, and then forwarded an NBC 3 report. After the expected time of contamination had passed, the unit leaders requested permission to conduct unmasking procedures. When we received the "all clear," we sent the information to higher headquarters with a request to unmask Soldiers. Thirty minutes later, we conducted an after-action review (AAR) with key leaders.

(To be continued next month.)

(MSG Gehrlein is the Editor of the Chemical Enlisted Newsletter, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. This article originally appeared in the January–June 2006 issue of the Army Chemical Review, and is reprinted with permission.)

“Your Work Matters to the Corps”

By Master Sergeant Russell E. Gehrlein

A couple of months ago, I received an e-mail from a young Dragon Soldier, a Specialist, who was looking for a little career advice on how to PCS from his current duty station. He did not say where he was located. In my Army career, I have had some input along the way, so I took a stab at handling his question. Things have changed dramatically in the way that Human Resource Command makes assignments now, so I thought this might be helpful to some other junior enlisted Soldiers out there who want to do the same thing. Here's what I wrote him:

Thanks for writing. You have some big questions. I'm not sure I'm the best person to answer them, but I'll tell you what I know from almost 20 years as a Chemical Soldier.

I don't know where you are, but your ability to PCS from your current duty station depends on a lot of things. Are you in a unit getting ready to deploy? If so, you will not PCS until after you return to CONUS. Did you reenlist for this duty station? If so, you are probably locked in for at least a year. Are you in a Unit of Action that has a 36-month life cycle? If so, you're there for a while. Are you overseas? Then, you know when you are going to PCS, once your tour is over. Are you up for reenlistment soon? If so, you will have certain reenlistment options which allow you to go somewhere different.

You may be able to request a PCS. Back in the day, we used a DA Form 4187. Now, we have great tools like the Assignment Satisfaction Key (ASK). If you don't know what that is, you need to ask your supervisor. It allows you to volunteer or submit your preferences for a special duty assignment or location on the ASK website, and you can request to go overseas also, if you are not already. You need to know it's not about your desires, ultimately, but the needs of the Army. Therefore, you probably can't even request to come to Ft. Leonard Wood until you are at least a Staff Sergeant. (There aren't very many slots for SGT and below.)

You really need to be getting some career counseling from your first line supervisor, whether or not they are a Chemical Soldier. If you are in a non-Chemical unit, you should have access to a Senior Chemical NCO at your Bn, Bde, Division, or Corps level. Seek them out after you've given your squad leader/platoon sergeant/1SG a chance to help you out.

Hope this gives you some ideas. Take care, and be safe out there.

Keep in mind; the most important assignment you will ever have is the one you are in right now.

Wanted: Chemical Newsletter Articles

Many thanks to the contributions of the following Dragon Soldiers: **1SG Robert Aldenberg, MSG Christopher Foster, SFC Barbra Borja, Mr. Dan Galarza, and Mr. Richard LeBlanc.**

This is your newsletter. I challenge all enlisted Dragon Soldiers and leaders who are interested to submit an article to be published. The article should be no more than one page in length, and focus on CBRN-related subjects or on what some of our outstanding Chemical Soldiers are doing (both on and off duty). If you have found ways to overcome some of your unique challenges and are willing to share your results with fellow dragon Soldiers worldwide, that is the kind of things we want to see.

The Chemical Enlisted Newsletter will accept articles from the field, but reserves the right to edit material. Submitted articles must include the author's name, rank, and unit. Supporting documentation or pictures may be requested. Send your articles to the Editor, MSG Gehrlein, at Russell.Gehrlein@us.army.mil NLT the 10th of the month.

NCOES Dates

ATTENTION ANCOC and BNCOC students. You can check the link below for the packing list and other important information before you arrive at Fort Leonard Wood:

ANCOC: <http://www.wood.army.mil/mncoa/cmancoc/ancoc1st.htm>

BNCOC: <http://www.wood.army.mil/mncoa/cmbncoc/bncoc1st.htm>

NCOs selected to attend NCOES must check with their Command or Installation School personnel to receive their DA Form 1610 or appropriate orders and start date for Phase I BNCOC (Common Core). Phase I BNCOC is conducted at many installations and it is not feasible to list all dates and locations for them. There is no longer a Phase I for ANCOC.

Phase II Chemical BNCOC and ANCOC will be conducted at the NCO Academy at Ft. Leonard Wood. If you have questions pertaining to the new NCOES system, contact your local schools NCO for details.

Chemical ANCOC Class Dates for FY 06

Class #	Report Date	Start Date	End Date
002-06	04 Apr 06	05 Apr 06	26 May 06
003-06	08 May 06	09 May 06	30 Jun 06
004-06	10 Jul 06	11 Jul 06	31 Aug 06

Chemical BNCOC (Phase II) Class Dates for FY 06

Class #	Report Date	Start Date	End Date
002-06	15 Feb 06	16 Feb 06	25 Apr 06
003-06	17 May 06	18 May 06	26 Jul 06
004-06	08 Jun 06	09 Jun 06	16 Aug 06

EDAS Data/General Information and Notes

For both L4 and L5 Courses:

Students attending these courses must have a valid reservation in ATTRS, and must have a valid civilian driver's license in their possession. Soldiers without a license will not be inprocessed, and will be forwarded to their gaining installation or MACOM without attending training. Before attending the institutional part of training, Soldiers will need to complete the Distance Learning (DL) phase first. When a student registers for Phase II, it will automatically register them in Phase I, and an e-mail will alert them to the enrollment and instructions for completion.

L4 Course: Students must be currently assigned or enroute to one of the following BIDS units: 7th Chem Co (BIDS, P3I), Fort Polk, LA; 13th Chem Co (BIDS, P3I) and 31st Chem Co (BIDS, JBPDS), Fort Hood, TX; 332nd Multi-Compo Chem Co (BIDS, JBPDS), Camp Carroll, Korea; 307th Multi-Compo Chem Co (BIDS, JBPDS), Kitzingen, Germany, and Lodi, NJ; 316th Multi-Compo Chem Co (BIDS, JBPDS), Ft. Polk, LA, and Puerto Rico; BIDS (JPBDS, P3I) Platoon, 61st Chem Co, Ft. Lewis, WA; BIDS (P3I) Platoon, 95th Chem Co (BIDS, P3I), Ft. Richardson, AK; 375th Chem Co (BIDS, JBPDS), St. Louis, MO; 310th Chem Co (BIDS, JBPDS), Anniston, AL; 374th Chem Co (BIDS, JBPDS), Sacramento, CA, or the 342nd (BIDS, JBPDS), Chicago, IL.

L5 Course: Students must be currently assigned or enroute to a L5 duty position.

Chemical Proponent Office at Fort Leonard Wood

(Phone Numbers are DSN; Com prefix is (573) 596-0131, ext. 3-xxxx)

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Chemical Branch at Human Resources Command

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The Chemical Newsletter is Available Through E-mail and On-line

The Chemical Enlisted Newsletter is available through e-mail. Users must have MS Word to read all documents. Any Soldier or individual may request to be placed on the e-mail distribution list by sending a request to MSG Gehrlein at Russell.Gehrlein@us.army.mil. Please include your name, rank, unit, and email address (e-mail must be an AKO account or .mil). In addition, if you PCS or change your email address, please update your AKO personal information and notify me so I can keep the mailing list accurate.

The newsletter can now be found online, at the new and improved U.S. Army Chemical School website, located at: <http://www.wood.army.mil/usacmls/>.

On The Web

Army Knowledge Online: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/login/welcome.html>

Army University Access Online (AUAO): <http://earmyu.com/>

Assignment Satisfaction Key (ASK): https://isdrad06.hoffman.army.mil/ask/ask_update_welcome.asp

Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL): <http://call.army.mil/>

Chem-Bio Defense Quarterly Magazine: <http://www.jpeocbd.osd.mil/magazine.htm>

Chemical Corps Regimental Association (CCRA): <http://www.chemical-corps.org>

Chemical School Home Page: <http://www.wood.army.mil/usacmls/>

CML: Army Chemical Review Magazine: <http://www.wood.army.mil/chmdsd/default.htm>

Department of the Army (DA) Publications: <http://www.usapa.army.mil/>

Drill Sergeant Assignment Team: https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/epinf/drill_sergeant.htm

Enlisted Records Evaluation Center (EREC): <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/erec/index.htm>

Fort Leonard Wood: <http://www.wood.army.mil>

Human Resources Command Online: <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/index2.asp>

MANSCEN NCO Academy: <http://www.wood.army.mil/mncoa/default.htm>

Natick Soldier Center: <http://www.natick.army.mil/Soldier/index.htm>

NCO Journal Online: <https://www.bliss.army.mil/usasma/usasma-NCOJournal.asp>

QM/CM Branch Web Page: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/epgm/default.htm>

Recruiter Assignment Team Homepage: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/epag/recruiting2.htm>

Tech Escort School: www.omems.redstone.army.mil/default.aspx?site_id=128&page_id=314

U.S. Army Homepage: <http://www.army.mil/>

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