



CHEMICAL CORPS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION E-News



TOP STORIES



COL Phil Visser Becomes the 26th Chief of Chemical

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CCRA Honors WWII Dragon Soldiers

On 16 September 2010, the CBRN School hosted the 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion reunion. The CCRA made the veterans honorary Life Members of the CCRA and the Commandant awarded them the Honorable Order of the Dragon. *See Page 3*



CCRA Seeking Volunteers for National Officer Vacancies

We are looking for a few good Dragon Soldiers to serve in National CCRA officer positions. *See Page 4*





Meet Our New Commandant and Chief of Chemical

On 12 August 2010, COL Phil Visser assumed command of the US Army CBRN School and became the 26th Chief of Chemical. The CCRA welcomes COL Visser and his spouse, Sherri, and look forward to the new directions they will take the Corps and the School. Colonel Vance P. (Phil) Visser was commissioned in 1984 as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Vanderbilt University ROTC

Program. On his initial assignment in Germany, he served as a Decontamination Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer, 95th CM Co, Giessen, and as the Battalion Chemical Officer for Special Troops Battalion, 3d SUPCOM, V (US) Corps, Wiesbaden. Upon returning to the United States, COL Visser was assigned to 1st Infantry Div, Fort Riley, KS, where he served as the Brigade Chemical Officer for the 2d Brigade; Commander, 12th Chemical Company; and Chemical Officer, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. While in company command, he deployed the company with the "Big Red One" to SWA in support of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. COL Visser then served as an Instructor and Assistant Professor of Chemistry, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. As a Major, COL Visser served at Fort Polk, LA, as the Regimental Chemical Officer and Squadron S-3, Regimental Support Squadron for the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Reassigned to the Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS, in June 2000, COL Visser served as an Instructor and Assistant Professor of Tactics in the Center for Army Tactics and the Chemical Corps' branch representative in the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. COL Visser assumed command of the 2d Chemical Battalion on 10 June 2002. During his command, the battalion deployed as part of 4th Infantry Division (Mech) and Task Force IRONHORSE to Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) I, and members of the Battalion Headquarters deployed as the Command and Control element for the CJTF-7 Port Support Activity for deployment of OIF II equipment into the SWA theater of operations. After battalion command, he served as the Deputy Commander, 13th Corps Support Command (Rear), Fort Hood, TX. COL Visser later served as a seminar leader for the School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth. In May of 2007, he became the first commander of the newly activated 48th Chemical Brigade at Fort Hood. Following brigade command, he deployed to Iraq where he served as the Deputy Director, CJ3 (Future Plans and Operations), Multi-National Forces - Iraq, and the Deputy Director, J33 (Current Operations), United States Forces - Iraq. On 10 August 2010, he became the 26th Chief of Chemical and Commandant of the United States Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School. COL Visser holds Bachelors of Science Degrees in Biology and Chemistry, a Master's of Science Degree in Analytical Chemistry, and a Masters Degree in Military Arts and Sciences. His military education includes the Chemical Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and the Senior Service College Advanced Operational Arts Studies Fellowship.

CCRA Honors WWII Dragon Soldiers



On 16 September 2010, the CBRN School hosted the 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion reunion. Six members of the unit came to the reunion. They are CPT Thurston Smyer, 1LT James Bartels, 1LT Bob Bird, SGT James "Toby" Craft, CPL Noble Costin, and PFC Charles Petron. The CCRA made these veterans honorary Life Members of the CCRA and the Commandant awarded them the Honorable Order of the Dragon. They were all proud to be inducted into the Order of the Dragon. So proud that one veteran slept with his medal on that night. HooAh, Dragon Soldiers!



The 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion was nicknamed the "Detector". The unit was activated on 10 February 1944 at Fort Bragg, NC as the 90th Chemical Battalion (Motorized). It was reorganized and re-designated on 1 December 1944 as the 90th Chemical Mortar Battalion. The 90th was inactivated on 20 February 1946 at Fort Jackson, SC. The unit fought in the Rhineland and Central Europe.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to these Dragon Soldiers for their sacrifices, dedication, and selfless service to our Nation!

*** ANNOUNCEMENT ***

Nominations for CCRA National Officer Positions

We are looking for a few good Dragon Soldiers to serve in National CCRA officer positions. Being an officer does not mean just being present for quarterly meetings. You must be prepared to devote time between meetings to fulfill the responsibilities of the position. We need forward looking and energetic people who are willing to help propel the organization forward. If you fit the bill and you want to serve, or know someone who is willing to serve, refer to CCRA Policy Letter 2: "Chemical Corps Regimental Association Officer Nomination Procedures and Requirements" for eligibility criteria, descriptions of duties and nomination procedures. Policy Letter 2 is on the CCRA website.

The nomination period will close **15 December 2010**.

Positions available for nomination are:

Director (x2)

Vice President for Membership

Vice President for Chapters

Vice President for Programs

Vice President for Administrative Affairs

Secretary

Details on the nomination and selection process can be found on the CCRA Website. Please submit an application if you want to volunteer or know someone who wants to volunteer.

News from our Chapters

Golden Wyverns (SC) Chapter

Golden Wyvern Chapter has its first Annual Golf Tournament. Six teams played in the initial tournament and many more are expected next year.



Everyone had a lot of fun especially our Lady Dragons Team. See more on our [Facebook](#) page under Golden Wyverns.



The Golden Wyverns are working in the local community to keep the U. S. Army Chemical Corps and the Military History of Greenville alive.

News from our Chapters

Golden Wyvern Chapter (continued)

The Golden Wyverns plan to sponsor an Army Family and a Community Family during the Christmas Season this year.

The Golden Wyvern chapter is sponsoring a Toy Drive to collect toys to be distributed by one of our members' Girl Scout Troop to some of the less fortunate this holiday season.



The Golden Wyvern chapter paid a visit to Springwood Cemetery, Greenville, South Carolina, to visit the graves of twenty American Soldiers who died of the Spanish Influenza while training here at Camp Sevier in 1917-1918.

Wyverns taking a lunch together at the Magic Mushroom, No! No! Strike that... Mellow Mushroom !

Ah! Chow Time. No MRE's here!



News from our Chapters

NCR Chapter

The 3rd Annual National Capital Region Chapter Chemical Corps Regimental Association Golf Tournament was held at the Wetlands Golf Course, Aberdeen MD on September 17th, 2010. The Tournament raised \$5,000 for National Capital Region CCRA events.



The NCR CCRA Chapter hosted the Fall social event at the Army and Navy Club in Downtown DC on Tuesday evening, October 26, 2010 during the AUSA Conference here in our Nations Capital. The event was very successful!

Last year we had 4 past Corps Commandants. This year we had our four past Commandants and COL Phil Visser, our new Commandant and Chief of Chemical.



The next NCR Chapter gathering will be at Cynthia and Tom Spoehr's home on the evening of Dec 11 for a Christmas social. Mark your calendar!

News from our Chapters

McClellan Chapter

27 Aug guest speaker was Terry Quarles , Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), FEMA - RGN IV



30 Sep guest speaker was LTC Rick Pelham, Commander of the 46th Civil Support Team (CST).



Guest Speakers on 28 Oct were Roy Williams and Harry Sutton who spoke about the CBRN Exercises at the Service/Joint Colleges.

Article by Mike Abrams
Public Affairs Officer at Anniston Army Depot

'I can neither confirm nor deny ...'

"Do you store chemical weapons?"

"I can neither confirm nor deny...."

At one time, it was not uncommon for officials and public affairs officers at installation like Anniston Army Depot to have that or similar conversations with community stake holders and reporters. As governmental and military leaders developed and refined plans to eliminate the entire U.S. chemical munitions stockpile, various storage locations were identified. Then in January 1996, the Department of Defense issued a news release that listed what was in the Anniston Army Depot chemical munitions igloos. Sister sites around the U.S., as well as a 640-acre Pacific Ocean atoll, were also listed.

Anniston was home to 2,254 tons of nerve agent (GB and VX) and mustard agent.

What a difference 14 years makes.

With a permit from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), construction of the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) began in 1997. ANCDF disposal operations started in August 2003. More than 1,863 tons have been safely demilitarized.

Anniston's significant milestones include:

Aug. 9, 2003-March 2, 2006: 142,428 GB munitions and 96,078 gallons of GB (100 percent)

July 23, 2006-Dec. 24, 2008: 219,374 VX munitions and 196,925 gallons of VX (100 percent)

July 2, 2009-Present: As of Oct. 7, 2010, 207,602 mustard-filled munitions and 104,533 gallons (55.5 percent)

While most of the Aniston stockpile will be demilitarized at the ANCDF, a small percentage of the munitions will be processed in a Dynasafe Static Detonation Chamber (SDC). The SDC was manufactured in Europe and shipped to Alabama two months ago. Construction activities are winding down and SDC testing are ramping up. Demilitarization of overpacked and ANCDF-reject munitions will likely begin in January 2011.

Lt.Col. Willie J. Flucker is currently in command at Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA). He is expected to be the last ANCA commander since disposal operations of the Anniston chemical munitions stockpile is expected to be concluded next year. He was preceded in command by:

Lt.Col. Andrew M. Herbst - July 2008-July 2010

Lt.Col. Phillip M. Trued - July 2006-July 2008

Lt.Col. Darryl J. Briggs - July 2004-July 2006

Lt.Col. Robert E. Jones - July 2004-July 2006

Lt.Col. Bruce E. Williams - Oct. 2000-Aug. 2002

Lt.Col. Tony R. Francis - Nov. 1998-Oct. 2000

Lt.Col. Jimmy E. Martin - Nov. 1996-Nov. 1998

Maj. Richard S. Scheels - April 1995-Nov. 1996

"Do you store chemical weapons at Anniston Army Depot?"

"Yes - for a little while longer. We have approximately 391 tons of mustard-filled mortars, projectiles and ton containers, a stockpile that will likely be demilitarized sometime in 2011."



**"The CCRA wishes its members and their Families
a Safe and Happy Holiday Season"**

Last Roll Call

We Dedicate this Section to Those Who gave the Last Full Measure

Staff Sergeant David E. Suhr, US Army, Retired

SSG (Ret) David E. Suhr, age 52 of Richland, Missouri, a retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant and MScOE DOTLD employee, passed away Saturday, October 2, 2010.

SSG David is survived by:

His wife: Mary of Richland, MO

Children: SSG Aaron Suhr, stationed in El Paso, TX ; SGT Mathew Suhr (Emily) of Arleta, CA; Nathaniel Suhr of Seattle, WA; Danielle Morrow (Bill) of Richland, MO; Sarah Ferguson (SAR D.J.) stationed at Minot, ND

Parents: Darwin and Wynona Suhr of Davenport, IA

Sister: Cynthia Allert of Richland, MO

William C. Patrick III

William C. Patrick III passed away on 1 Oct 2010. Not only was he one of the few experts in the world in biological weapons development and dissemination, he also had the unique ability to relate that information to 1st responders, medical professionals, politicians, and intelligence and military personnel. Bill was a patriot who loved his country and served her for over 60 years. He served in the US Army during World War II; and, from 1951 to 1972, he worked with the US offensive biological weapons program. He served as the Chief of the Product Development Division, Biological Warfare Laboratories for the last 7 years of the program. Mr. Patrick holds 5 US patents pertaining to biological processes and equipment. In 1972 he joined the new US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) and served as its Plans and Programs Officer until 1984, reporting directly to the commander. He participated in the planning, directing, coordinating, evaluating, and reporting on a broad, complex program of medical defense against bio-warfare agents. In 1984, he was promoted to one of the most senior civilian positions at USAMRIID as Program Analysis Officer, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. After retirement, Bill remained active as a biological warfare consultant to the government and private organizations. He was a Team Leader of a United Nations UNSCOM [UN Special Commission] inspection visit to Iraq, and has received the prestigious CIA Meritorious Citation and the Order of Military Medical Merit.

CCRA Contact Information . . .

CCRA National Headquarters

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CHAPTERS

McClellan Chapter

President: Mike Lanphere -256-231-2186

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Michael.Lanphere@us.army.mil

Vice President: Gary Stratton

Operations: Gresham Harris

Treasurer: Penn Wilson

Secretary: Dorothy Quarles

Programming: Ken Miller

Military Liaison: SSG Michael Brown

Advisory Board: Chuck Trull, Jim

Mains, Larry Hilton,

Robert (John) Clark, Curt Sasser

Golden Wyvern Chapter

President: COL James Crout -

james.crout@us.army.mil

FDNY Chapter

President: CPT Hanibl Olmeda

Hanibl.olmeda@us.army.mil

NCR Chapter

Chapter President: Mandy Lopez, Jr.

mandy.lopez@tex-shield.com

NCR Vice President: COL Thomas Woloszyn

Edgewood Vice President: Mr. Joseph Ortiz

Treasurers: Mr. James Snyder and COL Joseph Marquart

Secretary: Ms. Lisa Cramer

Planning Director: Ms. Dee Morris

Ozark (FLW) Chapter

Bobby Williams

bobby.c.williams@us.army.mil

Fort Lewis Chapter

President: CSM Kenneth Graham

Kenneth.graham@us.army.mil

Help increase CCRA Membership!

Do you know any Dragon Soldiers, Active, Retired, or former Dragon Soldiers who are not members of the CCRA? Get them on the web site and get them signed up!

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT PROFILE!

Very soon you will be able to update your contact information on our Website. Until then, if you have any updates please contact Jen Walton [573-329-0600, ccramanager@embarqmail.com] our Business Manager. If you know of a member who is not receiving this newsletter, have them make sure it is not being blocked as "spam" and ensure that their email address is correct. Thanks!

Donations . . .

If you wish to provide a donation to the CCRA, you can send your check payable to CCRA

and send to the CCRA Business Office:

Jennifer Walton - Business Manager
Chemical Corps Regimental Association
PO Box 437, 495 S. Dakota Avenue, Bldg 1607
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473-0437

OR

Donate online using our Website

..... Detach Along This Line and Mail to the Address Above

CHEMICAL CORPS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION DONATIONS

Name (Last, First, MI): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Rank: _____ Active Duty: ___ Reserve/NG: ___ Retired: ___ Veteran: ___ Civilian: ___

Donation: \$250___ \$100___ \$50___ \$25___ Other: \$_____

Donations to the CCRA are tax deductible