Corps NBCC Operations

—displaying and tracking the information

by MAJ John F. Gallen

I would like to discuss how a Corps Chemical Section operates its NBCC and how information is displayed and tracked in the Corps NBCC.

FM 3-100 states that, in addition to making detailed analyses, the NBCC—

- Receives, evaluates, and disseminates reports of NBC attack.
- Estimates the effects of nuclear detonations and makes fallout predictions.
- Estimates the effects of enemy chemical and biological attacks, including hazard predictions.
- Coordinates reconnaissance and survey activities with higher, lower, adjacent, and allied units.
- Maintains an NBC situation map.
- Provides advice to G2 on NBC intelligence matters.
- Provides technical assistance to all staff levels.
- Provides technical assistance for interrogating enemy prisoners of war about NBC matters.
- Selects designated observers.
- Identify Corps decon site.

In III Corps, the Corps NBCC operates from a 5-ton expando van that locates in the FSE complex of the Corps Main. This location facilitates coordination and synchronization of the NBC effort. Additionally, the "lash-up" with the artillery enhances the offensive chemical operations procedures to include chemical weapons release and chemical target analysis. The FSE complex is dispersed from the main combat cell of the Corps; however, it's still easy for the chemical personnel to perform the additional missions as outlined above.

The Corps Main's mission is to plan for the future battle; to do this it must have current and accurate information. Within the Corps NBCC, NBC attacks are monitored and chemical assets current status is maintained. Other NBC resources (such as, overgarments, NAAKs, and other CDE items) are also tracked.

How much information is monitored, what should be monitored, and how the information is maintained/displayed can vary from NBCC to NBCC. Here is the way one NBCC displays information and how it operates in the field environment. This mode of operation has proven efficient and successful through use on numerous exercises over the past two years.

There are six basic charts on the NBC status board display in the NBCC: Chemical Task Organization, Enemy NBC Activity, Weather Data, NBC Assessment Situation Report, Chemical Defense Equipment Status, and NBC Operational Information. This display is mounted on a velcro board adjacent to the NBCC work table. Each chart is removable and portable for ease of use and transport.

Figure 1 shows how the six boards are displayed in the van.

Figures 2 through 7 show the individual charts and their particular makeup.

The Task Organization Chart (figure 2) is used to display, using unit symbols, the current chemical task organization within the Corps Chemical Brigade. Additionally on this chart the unit's map grid coordinates are displayed as well as the particular mission of the unit, that is, DS, GS, OPCON and so forth.

The Enemy NBC Activity chart (figure 3) is devoted to enemy NBC activity to include threat condition from our TACSOP, first strike data from the initial enemy use of NBC, and a log of enemy strikes on the Corps units.

Weather Data (figure 4) is a standard chart displaying current EDM, CDM, and general forecast data pertinent to the area of operations.

The NBC Assessment SITREP chart (figure 5), is used as a summary chart for briefings and recommendations. It's used to delineate impacts and effects on future operations assessments. - The Chemical Defense Equipment Status chart (figure 6) displays overall Corps status of NBC items of interest.

NBC STATUS BOARD

CHEMICAL TASK ORGANIZATION	ENEMY NBC ACTIVITY	WEATHER DATA
	SAMPLE	
NBC ASSESSMENT SITREP	CHEMICAL DEFENSE EQUIP STATUS	NBC OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Figure 1.

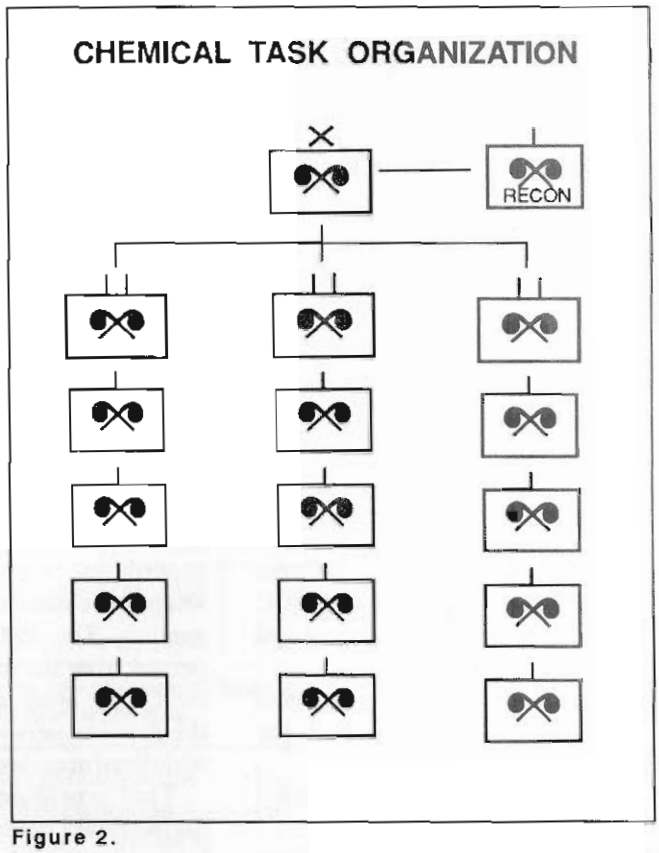

Figure 2.

ENEMY NBC ACTIVITY

NBC THREAT CONDITION

NUCLEAR _____

BIOLOGICAL _____

CHEMICAL _____

FIRST STRIKE DATA

DTG _____

LOCATION _____

AGENT _____

STRIKE SN _____

TYPE ATK _____

ENEMY STRIKE SERIAL NUMBER LOG

ALFA DELTA FOXTROT GOLF HOTEL

SAMPLE

Figure 3.

WEATHER DATA

EFFECTIVE DOWNWIND MESSAGE

Z _____

A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

CHEMICAL DOWNWIND MESSAGE

Z _____

W _____

X _____

Y _____

Z _____

W _____

X _____

Y _____

GENERAL FORECAST

WIND DIRECTION _____

WIND SPEED _____

PRECIPITATION _____

CURRENT TEMP _____

STABILITY

INVERSION _____

NEUTRAL _____

LAPSE _____

SAMPLE

ASSESSMENT

FAVORABLE _____

MARGINAL _____

UNFAVORABLE _____

Figure 4.

NBC ASSESSMENT SITREP

AS OF _____

ATTACKS: SINCE _____ THERE HAVE BEEN _____ NUCLEAR, _____ BIOLOGICAL AND/OR _____ CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN III(US) CORPS AREA OF OPNS.

EFFECTS:

IMPACT:

SAMPLE

ASSESSMENT:

RECOMMENDATION:

Figure 5.

CHEMICAL DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL STATUS

NBC EQUIPMENT (SYSTEMS)

SYSTEM	AUTH	O/H	STATUS
M1059			○
M3A4			○
M12/PUMP			○
RECON			○

LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

UNIT	MISSION	STATUS

NBC RESUPPLY STATUS

ITEM	STATUS	REMARKS
BOOTS	○	
FILTERS	○	
FOG OIL	○	
GLOVES	○	
M13 DAP	○	
NAAK	○	
SUITS	○	
PB	○	
STB/DS2	○	

CRITICAL AREAS/REMARKS

SAMPLE

C C I R

AS OF _____

CURRENT ○ 24 HOURS ○ 48 HOURS ○ 72 HOURS ○

CDR'S INFO ELEMENTS	UNIT CURR	24H	UNIT CURR	24H	UNIT CURR	24H	UNIT CURR	24H
DEF EQUIP	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MUNITIONS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
DECON	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SMOKE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
RECON	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
THREAT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
STATUS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Figure 6.

NBC OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

1. GENERAL
   - MOPP STATUS _____
   - OEG _____
   - RS STATUS _____
   - WHNS STATUS _____

2. NBC PRIORITIES
   - SMOKE
   - DECON
   - RECON

3. COMMANDER'S INTENT/MISSION

SAMPLE

4. RETALIATORY INFORMATION
   - FIRST USE CONFIRMED _____
   - PRE-CONDITIONAL REQUEST SUBMITTED _____
   - REQUEST FOR RETALIATION SUBMITTED _____
   - CHEMWARN DISSEMINATED _____

5. CHEMICAL ROUNDS DAILY PLANNING ALLOCATIONS

UNIT	155 GB	203 GB	155 VX	203 VX

Figure 7.

NBCC SHIFT BRIEF

1. EMEMY ACTIVITY
   - NBC ASSESSMENT SITREP _____
   - NBC THREAT CONDITION _____

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION
   - MOPP LEVEL _____
   - STATUS OF CHEM WPNS EMPLOYMENT
     - AUTHORIZATION _____
     - WEAPONS/AMMO STATUS _____
     - DIV/CORPS ARTY EMPLOYMENT _____
   - UNIT STATUS
     - CHEM BDE STATUS _____
     - DIV/BDE PROBLEMS _____
   - CDE, SUPPLIES, AND PERSONNEL STATUS _____

SAMPLE

3. WEATHER DATA
   - ANALYSIS FOR CHEM WPNS USE
     - FAVORABLE _____
     - MARGINAL
     - UNFAVORABLE _____

Figure 8.

Although these are basically logistically oriented, the Corps Chemical SStaff monitors status to be able to advise the G4 staff on problem areas in NBC defense equipment.

The NBC Operational Information chart (figure 7) displays current operational information pertinent to the current battle as well as for use in the planning of future operations.

These charts have been tested on numerous CPXs and FTXs and proven to be an efficient way to accomplish the responsibilities of the NBCC. Though not all-inclusive, they provide a good snapshot for the Corps chemical officer of the current NBC situation as well as a departure point for future operational planning.

An additional topic that should be discussed is that of briefing NBC information, whether in a shift change or one on one with the Corps chemical officer, visitors or even commanders.

Figure 8 shows a briefing format that's used by NBCC personnel to brief NBC operational information. It's a quick, down-and-dirty method of presenting the information in a briefing. Information is taken directly from the NBCC charts.

Tracking of operational NBC information is an important function in the Corps NBCC. Any method used that facilitates this task and makes the system more efficient is acceptable. What was presented here was a method used successfully during numerous exercises but is not necessarily the ultimate solution. There are other ways of functioning and this is only one of them. If an organization finds a method which works, it should utilize that method to the maximum.

At the time this article was written, MAJ John F. Gallen was III Corps Chemical Section Plans and Exercise Officer. MAJ Gallen was previously assigned as assistant division chemical officer, 3d Infantry division and has served as a G3 operations officer, brigade chemical officer, and chemical detachment commander.

letters

Dear Editor:

In reply to "A distraught 54B leading the way," in your January 1991 issue, I would like to provide guidance and experience. I understand where the "senior 54B SFC" is coming from.

I returned from Germany (Aug 90) where I served as the HHD First Sergeant of an Artillery Group (equivalent to a battalion), 15 months, authorized MOS 13Z, and back to my staff position for the remainder of the tour.

My NCOERs reflected both the first sergeant time and as the group NBC staff NCO. For the group NBC staff NCO rating, it covered the two 71Ls I was responsible for, CTT training, group ammunition NCO, and assistant operations sergeant.

I cannot see how serving as a first sergeant (outside 54B) will hurt this sergeant's career. I was selected on the recent master sergeant's list where I feel serving as the HHD first sergeant helped my selection. The advice that has been going around for some time is to go after the tough demanding jobs and not to stay stagnant. Personally, I would not take DA's input and take the unit of assignment as final, i.e., going back to staff, looking for another job.

As long as this sergeant takes the effort to review his (or her) DA Form 2A, DA Form 2-1, and has a sharp up-to-date DA photo, I cannot see where his opportunity for selection to master sergeant would be slim. Bottom line – do not give up

– SFC(P) Mark B. Johnson, NBC Staff NCO

Dear Editor:

In the NBC article, "A Gas," in the Fall 1990 ARMY Trainer, the writer mentioned, "Get candles from supply and an empty coffee can."

I am a civilian translator, working at the POMs-Site Brunssum/18th CEC in the Netherlands. My secondary task is that of NBC instructor, responsible for training the Dutch civilians on the site.

My experience in the past using "candles and cans" is miserable, to say the least. I found it a primitive way of working (the candle kept going out), so I put on my thinking cap and came up with the idea of a "hot plate." It works great (in all kinds of weather), even when using a tent, as we do, as mask confidence chamber.

The CS capsule is placed in an old metal ashtray that is then placed on the preheated hotplate. Within seconds, I have the desired results. I get my power supply, which also provides light, using an extension lead from the nearest source to the tent. After the exercise, the power is simply turned off, the hotplate allowed to cool, and Bingo! I'm ready for the next group.

This way of working is much cleaner than using cans, candles, and matches – especially when using a tent.

– Andy Holmes