

Operations at the U.S. Army Chemical School

By Major Amy Ehmann

NOTE: Recommend that you read “The MANSCEN Construct” on page 21 prior to reading this article.

Overview

The U.S. Army Chemical School (USACMLS) is part of a triad of schools called the Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN). MANSCEN falls under the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and includes the U.S. Army’s Chemical, Engineer, and Military Police Schools. By merging the sovereign schools at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, MANSCEN has pooled many resources and combined many of the functions previously conducted by each school. However, each school continues to produce branch-specific products in the form of doctrine, training, leader development, organization, materiel, and soldiers (DTLOMS). The MANSCEN commanding general provides command and control for the triad of schools as well as Fort Leonard Wood, while the school commandants provide the strategic direction for their individual Regiments and are responsible for individual school operations.

The U.S. Army Chemical School Mission and Organization

The mission of USACMLS is to provide the nation with values-based soldiers, leaders, and teams trained in basic combat skills and chemical disciplines that are prepared for success in any future operational environment. The school also develops concepts, doctrine, force structure, materiel requirements, and technologies to ensure the vitality of U.S. forces on the battlefield of the future. Additionally, Congress has directed the consolidation of all Department of Defense (DOD) NBC training at the Chemical School. Thus, this one institution has an Army mission; a joint mission for the Air Force, Navy, and Marines; and an international advisory mission. The figure on page 25 depicts the organization that allows the school to accomplish its missions.

Commandant

The commandant provides the chemical proponent of the MANSCEN triad. Proponency—

- Provides quality chemical-specific training.
- Develops leaders qualified to ensure mission achievement.
- Designs chemical organizations consistent with the

Army’s needs.

- Identifies and articulates chemical materiel requirements.
- Ensures the recruitment and retention of chemical soldiers of the quality and quantity required by the Chemical Branch.

Regimental Command Sergeant Major (CSM)

The school CSM is also the Chemical Regimental CSM. He serves as the principal enlisted assistant and advisor to the commandant and assistant commandant (AC) on all enlisted matters and manages the enlisted personnel within the school. He has direct oversight of chemical noncommissioned officer (NCO) courses taught at the MANSCEN NCO Academy.

Assistant Commandant

The AC directs the daily operations of the Chemical School and supervises all elements assigned or attached to the school. His functions include—

- Exercising responsibilities as the branch and personnel proponent to ensure the relevance of the Chemical Regiment.
- Providing leadership, focus, and direction for NBC doctrinal, training, leader development, organizational, and materiel requirements.
- Supporting joint, national, and international program initiatives in NBC defense, arms control, and counterproliferation.
- Conducting the training of more than 5,000 chemical and transportation students per year.
- Managing over 40 combat development items.
- Coordinating joint NBC doctrine.
- Supporting chemical and biological domestic preparedness and other protection initiatives.
- Coordinating between USACMLS and MANSCEN and other TRADOC schools and agencies.

NBC Joint Service Integration Group (JSIG)

The NBC JSIG coordinates and integrates the NBC defense requirements across DOD. The group ensures that all services operate with common NBC doctrine, training, and equipment, which ensures the wisest use of

limited resources and enables uniformed personnel to conduct joint NBC operations.

DTLOMS Integration

The DTLOMS Integration Office provides a focal point for the school's effort in the areas of doctrine, training, leader development, organization, materiel, and soldiers. Under the DTLOMS director are the departments responsible for doctrine and personnel proponentcy, as well as combat and training development.

Operations Branch

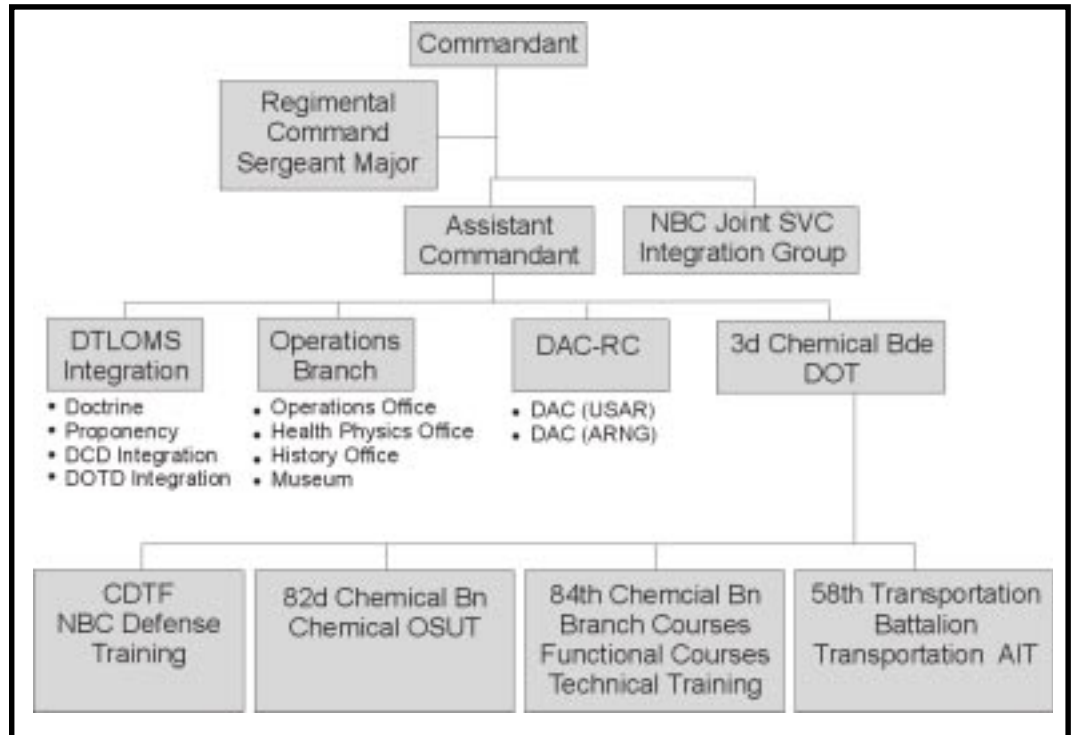
• Operations Office.

This office coordinates the school's administrative functions and advises the leadership on personnel, administrative, and policy matters. The staff serves as the school's interface with MANSCEN agencies, including the Public Affairs Office; Directorate of Resource Management; Directorate of Public Works; Directorate of Information Management; and Directorate of Plans, Training, and Mobilization. The Operations Office is the primary liaison between MANSCEN Executive Services and the Chemical School for all visitors, foreign and domestic.

- **Health Physics Office.** This office operates the Edwin R. Bradley Radiological Laboratory, a unique training facility licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Agency. This laboratory is the only Army facility that qualifies individuals in Installation Radiological Protection, Control, and Safety. The program teaches maintenance, storage, and calibration of radiac instruments and radioactive material in installation shops and warehouses. Other courses taught by the laboratory include the Calibrator Custodian Course, the Operational Radiation Safety Course, and the Radiological Safety Course. These courses encompass radiation monitoring, decontamination, depleted uranium instruction, X-ray and laser instruction, radiological safety standards, and radiac calibrator safety.

- **History Office.** This office serves as the proponent for historical activities of the Chemical Branch and acts as the point of reference for the history of the branch. The

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historian advises the commandant on Army and TRADOC historical program responsibilities and represents the commandant on matters relating to military history. He prepares periodic documented histories of the branch dealing with significant mission-related activities. He develops and administers the historical source-document collection—including significant, unique, and rare printed and nonprinted material—as the corporate memory of the branch. He serves as a consultant and adviser for inclusion of military history into the curricula.

- **Museum.** The director, Chemical Museum, strives to foster an appreciation for the history and tradition of the Chemical Corps and the U.S. armed forces. He collects, preserves, documents, exhibits, and interprets objects of historical interest pertaining to the history of the Corps. He develops and conducts historical education and training programs for initial-entry training soldiers, students, and permanent party military personnel. Finally, he works with the museum counsel to collect, preserve, document, exhibit, and interpret objects of historical interest pertaining to the history of Fort Leonard Wood, 1940 to present.

Deputy Assistant Commandant (DAC)- U.S. Army Reserve (USAR)

The DAC-USAR oversees total force integration. He ensures that Reserve Component (RC) needs are addressed by the school and MANSCEN by participating in policy development and programs influencing RC matters. He

reviews chemical training and doctrinal materials for RC applicability and adequacy and assists in verifying training materials with RC units. He provides liaison between the Chemical School and TRADOC, Combined Arms Center, Chief of Army Reserves, Army Reserve Personnel Center, National Guard Bureau, U.S. Army Reserve Command, U.S. Forces Command, and RC units. Further, he advises Active Component officers separating from active duty about RC programs and requirements, provides instruction on the roles and missions of the RC to classes conducted at the school, and advises Reserve students attending training. Additionally, he administers the Joint Senior Leaders Course and the Chemical Pre-Command Course, participates in Homeland Security planning and policy development (to include WMD consequence management doctrine and training development) and represents the commandant and/or AC in his absence.

Deputy Assistant Commandant (DAC)- Army National Guard (ARNG)

The DAC-ARNG serves as the senior National Guard representative to USACMLS with duties that include serving as liaison between USACMLS and the staffs of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and the Director, Army National Guard; counseling and advising ARNG students attending USACMLS; answering inquiries from the field; serving as liaison with ARNG chemical units and state adjutant general offices; and providing input on programs of instruction, force-structure documentation, doctrine, publications, regulations, and any other documents which may impact the ARNG. In addition, the DAC-ARNG serves as USACMLS's point of contact for issues concerning National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams.

3d Chemical Brigade and Directorate of Training (DOT)

All training functions fall under the control of the brigade commander making him dual-hatted as both the commander and the director of training. Under the 3d Chemical Brigade are four separate battalion-level command organizations, each unit with its own unique and separate mission.

- **Chemical Defense Training Facility (CDTF).** The CDTF exposes military, civilian, and foreign NBC specialists to operations in a toxic chemical agent (VX and GB) environment. This training allows NBC specialists to overcome their fear of conducting missions in a chemically contaminated environment.
- **82d Chemical Battalion.** The 82d is the Chemical Corps's one station unit training (OSUT) battalion. This battalion is charged with taking new civilians and transforming them into the newest chemical soldiers. New chemical soldiers spend 20 weeks at Fort Leonard Wood attending both basic and advanced individual

warfighting and chemical operations training. Upon graduation, these soldiers are given the military occupational specialty (MOS) code of 54B and become members of the Chemical Corps, following in the footsteps of thousands of Dragon Soldiers before them.

- **84th Chemical Battalion.** The 84th is a unique and diverse organization. Within the 84th are the Chemical School staff, all of the instructors for the different Chemical School courses, as well as the officers and NCOs attending basic, advanced, and specialty NBC training.

The Contingency Support Detachment helps fulfill the joint and combined responsibilities of the Chemical School established by Congress. The detachment provides NBC defense training to DOD and other governmental agencies and advises and assists supported agencies in the selection and acquisition of NBC defense equipment. In addition, it performs primary instruction duties for the people conducting chemical weapons treaty verification programs. The detachment provides support to numerous high-level agencies including the White House and the Secret Service.

- **58th Transportation Battalion.** The 58th provides consolidated interservice advanced individual training (AIT) to new basic training graduates in the area of heavy equipment transportation. Soldiers in MOSs 88M and 77F are all trained on how to safely operate and maintain our heavy equipment transport systems from a 5-ton truck to heavy equipment transport trailers capable of carrying our M1 battle tanks.

Summary

The Chemical School strives to meet the needs of the Chemical Regiment, the Army, and the nation through resources directly under its control and resources consolidated under MANSCEN. The commandant has direct responsibility for branch-specific doctrine, training execution, leadership development, and personnel proponency. She relies on the chemical soldiers and civilians within MANSCEN to focus on organizational design, materiel development, and training development. The leadership of the Chemical School continues to provide the strategic vision and the approval authority for all chemical-specific efforts within the school and MANSCEN. Chemical products are developed by and approved by soldiers and civilians who have a vested interest in the future of the Chemical Corps.

Major Ehmann recently graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and is currently assigned as the operations officer for the United States Army Chemical School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.