

lineage and honors

The 44th Chemical Company was first activated at Fort D. A. Russell, Texas, on 25 April 1942 as Company A, 81st Chemical Battalion. It was a chemical mortar battalion equipped with 4.2-inch mortars. The company participated in the Louisiana Maneuvers from 4 April 1943 to 4 May 1943.

In May 1943, the company trained at Camp Johnston, Florida, in amphibious and commando operations. The 81st Chemical Battalion embarked for England 20 October 1943. The company participated in amphibious and assault training along the coast of England. On 15 February 1944, the battalion was attached to V Corps and was further attached to the 1st Infantry Division on 20 April 1944. A company was attached to the 16th Infantry Regiment for Operation Overlord, the cross-channel assault.

The company, in support of the 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry, landed at Easy Red Beach on D-Day and it was awarded a distinguished unit citation for its actions during the Normandy assault landings. On 22 February, Company A, 81st Chemical Battalion, was reorganized and redesignated as Company A, 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion. The company returned to the United States and was inactivated at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on 7 November 1945.

During World War II, the company saw 313 days of combat, fired a total of 30,685 rounds of high explosives and 17,335 rounds of white phosphorous, and captured 131 prisoners of war. The company received credit for participating in five campaigns—Normandy (assault landing), Northern France, Central Europe, Rhineland, and Ardennes-Alsace.

Company A, 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion was redesignated the 44th Chemical Smoke Generator Company and activated on 1 August 1951 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as part of the Third Army. The company embarked for England on 19 April 1952 and was assigned to the 6th Chemical Battalion. The company was again inactivated on 20 October 1953.

On 6 January 1955, the 44th Chemical Smoke Generator Company was redesignated as the 44th Chemical Company (Smoke Generator), and, on 1 April 1956, was activated in Germany as part of the Seventh Army Chemical Command. The 44th was assigned to the 34th Anti-

Aircraft Artillery Brigade on 6 January 1958. On 12 February 1959, the company became part of the 4th Chemical Battalion, and was inactivated several months later on 15 June 1959.

The 44th Chemical Company was again activated as a Provisional NBC defense company on 21 September 1979 as part of the 2d Armored Division. The company was officially activated on 1 March 1980. The 44th reorganized as a J-series heavy division chemical company on 17 April 1984. A decontamination platoon of the company is forward stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany with the 2d Armored Division (Forward).

Since the company's activation at Fort Hood, Texas, the company has participated in REFORGER 84, the Blazing Skies exercises at Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, and in the Combined Arms in a Nuclear and Chemical Environment Force Development Test (CANE II). Elements of the company have deployed to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California, on six brigade rotations.

In March 1985, the company's smoke platoon was mechanized with M113 personnel carriers equipped with the XM55 small turbine alpherin jet ejector (STAJE) smoke generators. The smoke platoon of the company was the first to employ mechanized, mobile smoke at the National Training Center.

During Operation Stalwart Knight (a brigade rotation to the National Training Center in March 1986) the 44th Chemical Company deployed as a chemical company team. The company team consisted of one organic decontamination and smoke platoon and one attached corps smoke platoon from the 46th Chemical Company.

On Operation Deep Strike 87 at the National Training Center, the company operated as a company team controlling a decontamination platoon, two smoke platoons, and an NBC reconnaissance squad. It conducted several deliberate decon missions, and its equipment consumed 300 barrels of fog oil during the operation.

The Dragons of Hell from the Hell on Wheels Division proudly serve and are ready to support, any time, any place. The company continually lives up to the old motto of the 81st Chemical Battalion, Equal to the Task.