

Regiment or Association?

By CPT Mark E. Chipman

The Regiment

On 27 June 1986, General Order Number 21 was read and the colors of the Corps were unfurled establishing the U.S. Army Chemical Corps as a Regiment. The advantages of organizing units into regiments has a long history of establishing a sense of "family" among the members. This family affiliation will be nurtured through the revitalizing of Chemical Corps history, customs, and traditions; wearing of distinctive unit insignia for the Corps; and providing branch support for recurring assignments.

The Chemical Corps Regiment is officially a combat support "Corps," making the regiments designation the "Chemical Corps." The regimental headquarters is at the home of the Chemical Corps, Fort McClellan, Alabama.

The Commandant of the Chemical School is appointed the Chief of the Chemical Corps and, as such, is responsible for all branch-related policies and activities.

Chemical Corps soldiers become members of the regiment after receiving branch-qualifying training (AIT, BNCOC-R, or OBC). Soldiers already branch trained automatically become members of the regiment. Chemical specialties (branch-coded 74 and career management field 54) remain part of the Chemical Corps and wear the Corps Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI) as long as their primary specialty is chemical.

The objective of the Regimental System is to provide an opportunity for affiliation, develop loyalty and com-

mitment, foster an extended sense of belonging, and institutionalize the war-fighting ethos. This, in turn, promotes morale, esprit, and professionalism. The establishment of the Regiment will not take away or add to the Army's organization or structure. The school will teach soldiers the skills they need to win in combat. The Regimental System will motivate them to perform their skills at 100 percent in wartime.

Chemical Corps Regimental Association

Having established the Regiment, the need for an organization to support it and the Chemical Corps Museum became apparent. Major General Gerald G. Watson, as Chief of the Chemical Corps, established the Chemical Corps Regimental Association. This new organization replaced both the former Chemical Corps Museum Foundation and the Chemical Corps Association.

The Association is a *separate non-profit* organization established to promote the heritage, history, esprit, and professionalism of the Corps; advance scientific literacy, education, and artistic endeavors; solicit donations and gifts of funds, material, services, and artifacts on behalf of the Chemical Corps Museum; and contribute donations to the Chemical Corps Museum for the preservation of the heritage and history of the Corps.

The Association is managed by a board of directors composed of active, retired, reserve, and veteran officers and noncommissioned officers, to include civilians. The board meets frequently to review and approve plans and programs designed to accomplish

the purpose of the Association.

All support for the Association is provided from four sources:

- Memberships in the Association.
- Profits from the Museum Gift Shop.
- Donations from Chemical Corps unit, organization and/or installation fund raising activities and events.
- Patronship in the museum.

As a member of the Association you provide:

- Commitment. A positive indication of your loyalty and commitment to the Chemical Corps and its vital defense mission.
- Support for the museum. A portion of your dues will go to the Chemical Corps Museum to help preserve the history you helped make or are making.
- Leadership. Membership in the Association indicated your desire to support a worthy cause and to lead by example.

Membership in the Association may be obtained by writing to the Chemical Corps Regimental Association, Box 5533, Fort McClellan, AL 36205 or calling DSN 865-4845/4036, Commercial (205) 848-4845/4036.

As a final note, the Association does not receive financial support from the U.S. Army. The financial support comes from you the soldier. The existence of the Association and the support given to the Corps depends upon you.

At the time this article was written, CPT Mark E. Chipman was assigned to the Personnel Proponency Office at the U.S. Army Chemical School.