



20th CBRNE Command holds change of command ceremony



Brig. Gen. W Bochat, the commanding general of the 20th CBRNE Command, speaks at the 20th CBRNE Command change of command ceremony on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, Aug. 6. Bochat assumed command of the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. Department of Defense's premier CBRNE formation, from Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood during the ceremony. U.S. Army photo by Maj. Steven M. Modugno.

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The U.S. Army 20th CBRNE Command conducted a change of command ceremony at the Myer Auditorium on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, Aug. 6.

Brig. Gen. W Bochat assumed command of the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. military's premier CBRNE formation, from Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood during the ceremony.

Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Smith, the deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, served as the presiding officer at the time-honored military ceremony.

Smith praised Hood for his accomplishments during his time in command and welcomed Bochat to the one-of-a-kind command.

Smith presented Hood with the Distinguished Service Medal for his time in command and he praised Hood for

building teamwork through trust and supporting combat units around the world.

Smith also thanked the Soldiers and Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command.

"What you do is so important to our nation in the defense of our constitution," said Smith. "Thanks to you, we are ready to step up to the plate and defend our constitution once again."

Since September 2022, Hood led the command as it enabled military operations around the world and supported domestic authorities across the nation.

In his next assignment, Hood will serve as the commanding general for the U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and the deputy commanding general for the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training.

"Thanks for making a difference every day," said Hood. "It has truly been an amazing two years."

A graduate of Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama, Bochat is a career U.S. Army Chemical Corp officer. She also graduated from the National Defense University, British Higher Command and Staff College, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and Combined Arms Service Staff School. Bochat speaks Japanese fluently.

Bochat commanded the 48th Chemical Brigade, 2nd CBRN Battalion and 68th Chemical Company.

Bochat served as the 33rd Chief of Chemical and commandant of the U.S. Army CBRN School on Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Bochat deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Provide Comfort. Bochat served in South Korea twice.

Bochat is the first female commanding general in the nearly 20-year history of the 20th CBRNE Command. She also previously served as the first female chief of staff in the 107-year history of the storied South Korea-based 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division.

Bochat said the 20th CBRNE Command accomplishes critical missions in defense of the nation.

"This organization plays a key role in deterrence and trains every day to ensure that we can deter, mitigate and continue to fight in a CBRNE environment," said Bochat. "What an honor and privilege it is to be able to be the commanding general for the 20th CBRNE Command."

[Read full story](#)

From the Commanding General

Defenders,

I am incredibly proud to lead the 20th CBRNE Command, a team of exceptional Soldiers and Civilians. I want to express my gratitude to the entire command for their seamless transition to this unique Army formation.

In the upcoming weeks, as I visit our formations nationwide and engage directly with our Soldiers, Army civilians, and families, I will emphasize our new operational approach and how we will utilize it to support maneuver forces during large-scale combat operations against near-peer adversaries in an ever-changing threat landscape.

Following the C-B-R-N-E acronym, we will ensure that our 20th CBRNE Command members are *Committed, Brilliant at the Basics, Ready, Nested, and Engaged through discipline, teamwork, and resilience.*

We are unified in purpose and will work to be unparalleled in readiness as we protect our nation from CBRNE threats and confront and conquer the world's most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency, and multinational operations.

The 20th CBRNE Command will fully prepare to tackle any CBRNE challenge with unmatched technical proficiency, unwavering dedication, and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding our nation.

This command plays a pivotal role in deterrence and diligently trains to ensure our ability to deter, mitigate, and continue to operate in a CBRNE environment. It is my honor to serve as the commanding general for the 20th CBRNE Command.

I extend my heartfelt thanks in advance for your dedication to the mission and all that is just and right.

Liberty, We Defend!



W Bochat, BG, USA
Commanding General
20th CBRNE Command



The Defender

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Chaplain's Corner

17 Inches.

I like to try and link what I write to current events and sports seasons, and we are in the thick of things in Major League Baseball. The local Baltimore Orioles have had a great 2023 season, appearing in the American League Divisional Series, losing to the eventual World Series winners Texas Rangers. The old adage is that you can't win a season in August, but you can certainly lose one. While I'm not a huge Orioles fan, I love the game of baseball, its history, its rhythms and the lessons that can be learned about life.

One lesson I love to hear from baseball comes from an old baseball coach named John Scolinos. He started a speech to the American Baseball Coaches of America in 1996 wearing a home plate around his neck. The murmur of snickers and chuckles could be heard from the four thousand-plus coaches in attendance as they beheld the old coach standing before them.

He began by asking the pro coaches in attendance how wide home plate was. Seventeen inches was the reply. He then presented the semi-pro and college coaches with the same question – same response, seventeen inches. High school coaches got the same question, and the response was the same. Lastly, there were some little league and pee-wee league guys in attendance who realized the plate the little guys used was the same as the one used in the big leagues.

Seventeen inches. For those who don't know a lot about baseball, home plate sets the width of the strike zone, the small space the pitcher uses as a target. A pitcher only has that seventeen-inch-wide space to throw towards to be accurate.

Coach Scolinos continued by reminding all those coaches that we simply don't increase the size of home plate for young players or pitchers who are struggling. Seventeen inches remains the standard no matter how young, inexperienced or inaccurate you are. Baseball introduces that standard when players are young and maintains that standard onto the Major Leagues. Coach Scolinos finally brought his point home.

He recognized that in life off the baseball diamond, standards have been widened, broadened and in many cases, eliminated. In school, at work, with our families and our marriages, standards seem to be a thing of the past and compromise has become the norm.

Every week, we see stories in the news about a senior military leader relieved for failure. In most cases, it's unlikely that a leader suddenly decided to make a huge career-ending decision. In many cases, that level of moral or leadership failure is the end result of small measures of compromise of standards over time. In other words, the plate just gets a little wider, a little wider and then just disappears altogether. Imagine baseball with no home plate. Everyone would then get to suggest what is considered a good or a bad pitch. The game would lose all meaning.

Think about your life and the areas you might have widened the plate. Do you hold your kids to a standard? Do you hold yourself to a standard? Your organization? Even if baseball isn't your thing, think about the standard of home plate and let's keep it seventeen inches.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ben Clark
20th CBRNE Command Chaplain
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Joint CBRNE Forum held to recognize troops around world



Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood (left), the commanding general of the 20th CBRNE Command, speaks the National Capital Region Joint CBRNE Forum, June 28. Lt. Gen. Brian W. Cavanaugh (center), the commanding general of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic; commander of Marine Forces Command; and commander of Marine Forces Northern Command; and Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Silva (right), the senior enlisted leader of the 20th CBRNE Command, stand beside the podium. U.S. Army photo by Marshall R. Mason.



COCKEYSVILLE, Md. – The National Capital Region Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Forum brought together service members, civilians and family members to mark the service and sacrifices of CBRNE personnel around the world.

The 20th CBRNE Command, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Chemical Biological Center and Department of the Army Force Development Branch (G8) worked together on the event that was held in Cockeysville, Maryland, July 28.

Hosted by Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, the commanding general of the 20th CBRNE Command, the forum welcomed joint service Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel.

Hood, the senior Chemical Corps officer in the Army, thanked the team from across the National Capital Region for bringing together the forum.

Soldiers and Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command deploy from 19 bases in 16 states to take on CBRNE threats that imperil lives and impede missions.

The forum highlighted the past, present and future contributions of the joint personnel who confront and defeat CBRNE hazards in support of U.S. military operations around the world and civil authorities across the nation. The event coincided with the 106th anniversary month of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps.

The U.S. Army Chemical Corps was established during World War I when chemical weapons were first used in Europe during trench warfare.

Since chemical weapons were banned by the international community, CBRN specialists, who are also called Dragon Soldiers, have focused on safeguarding and enabling maneuver forces to operate in a CBRN-contested environment.

The U.S. Army began training the first enlisted Bomb Disposal Soldiers, the predecessors to today's EOD technicians, on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, in April 1942.

After defeating hundreds of thousands of Improvised Explosive Devices in Iraq and Afghanistan, joint service CBRNE forces are shifting their focus to support large-scale combat operations against near-peer adversaries in support of the National Defense Strategy.

U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Brian W. Cavanaugh, who is the commanding general of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic; commander of Marine Forces Command; and commander of Marine Forces Northern Command, was the guest speaker.

As the Marine Forces commander, Cavanaugh is the senior commander for the U.S. Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), the CBRNE response and consequence management force based on Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Maryland.

A U.S. Naval Academy graduate who is originally from Baltimore, Cavanaugh said that U.S. military forces have to stay ready to fight and win in a CBRN-contaminated environment.

"We must remain committed to building partner capacity and to improving interoperability through tough and realistic combined, joint exercises," said Cavanaugh, a seasoned Marine Corps aviator with 3,000 flight hours, primarily in the CH-53D/E Sea Stallion. "By building CBRN and EOD considerations into exercise objectives at the service and combatant command levels, we improve our ability as a joint force to counter tomorrow's threats."

[Read full story](#)

Army civilian recognized for Ready and Resilient program



Ryan P. Cole was selected as the 20th CBRNE Command Civilian of the Quarter. Cole oversees the command Ready and Resilient program. U.S. Army photo by Maj. Steven M. Modugno.

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – A U.S. Army civilian was recognized for contributing to the readiness and resilience of the U.S. military’s premier CBRNE command.

Ryan P. Cole was selected as the 20th CBRNE Command Civilian of the Quarter for April through June 2024 for his efforts to strengthen the command.

As the program manager, coordinator and senior advisor for the Ready and Resilient (R2) campaign, Cole oversees a wide variety of important programs that support Soldiers, Army civilians and family members on the 19 bases in 16 states where 20th CBRNE Command units are stationed.

The Ready and Resilient Campaign Program includes all aspects of mental, spiritual, physical, social and environmental health.

“Mr. Cole is all things readiness in the 20th CBRNE Command. In addition to his normal duties, he is a tremendous team player. He has continued to be a very valuable member of the G1 team and this organiza-

tion. He has taken the readiness program and expanded on its effectiveness,” said Kent L. Ward, the deputy Assistant Chief of Staff of Manpower (G1) for the 20th CBRNE Command.

A retired U.S. Army master sergeant, Cole grew up in Warren, Ohio, but has lived in Bel Air, Maryland, for the last 13 years.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in environmental management from Columbia Southern University.

During his two decades in uniform, Cole deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and Operation New Dawn in 2010.

Cole said he plans to continue to serve and give back to the 20th CBRNE Command by improving on its Ready and Resilient programs.

[Read full story](#)

Awards

20th CBRNE Command

Maj Gen. Daryl O. Hood – Distinguished Service Medal
 Lt Col. Troy L. Smart – Meritorious Service Medal
 Lt Col. Seth T. Varayon - Army Achievement Medal
 Maj. Mitchell Lokker – Army Achievement Medal
 Maj. Andrew J. Damelio - Meritorious Service Medal
 Maj. Casey D. Richmond – Senior EOD Badge
 Maj. Steven M. Modugno – Army Achievement Medal
 Capt. Michael A. Carrara – Meritorious Service Medal
 Capt. John M. Prevost - Meritorious Service Medal
 Capt. Michelle R. Harris - Army Achievement Medal
 Capt. William P. Mckean – Army Commendation Medal
 Capt. Ali S. Salman - Army Achievement Medal and Certificate of Achievement
 Capt. Evan J. Caval – Army Achievement Medal
 1st Lt. Adam J. Brickens - Army Achievement Medal
 CW4 Jesse S. Deberry – Legion of Merit
 CW2 John I. Hendrick Jr - Meritorious Service Medal
 1st Sgt. Christopher D. Holmstadt - Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal

Master Sgt. Thomas C. Holk - Army Achievement Medal
 Master Sgt. Brian C. Holmes – Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Dustin W. Bangert - Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Douglas C. Yoder - Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Tanya N. Yorro - Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Bryan S. Murray - Certificate of Achievement
 Sgt. 1st Class John S. Neely – Army Achievement Medal
 Staff Sgt. Travis W. Weber - Army Achievement Medal
 Staff Sgt. Dillon M. Alvarenga - Army Achievement Medal
 Staff Sgt. Lawrence S. Simpson - Army Achievement Medal
 Staff Sgt. Douglas S. Smith - Army Achievement Medal
 Staff Sgt. Naphese J. Govan - Meritorious Service Medal
 Staff Sgt. Miguel A. Becerra - Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. Traci A. Bennett - Certificate of Achievement
 Sgt. Tyler J. Bisson – Drivers Mechanic Badge
 Sgt. Quintelius M. Spates - Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. Thomas G. Stevenson - Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. Edwin J. Sanchezdiaz - Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. Andrew Cheung - Army Achievement Medal

Seasoned Army EOD officer becomes new deputy commander

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – A seasoned U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer has taken the reins as the deputy commander for the U.S. military’s premier multifunctional and deployable CBRNE command.

Col. Phillip P. Murrell recently became the deputy commander for the U.S. Army 20th CBRNE Command on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Raised in an Army family, Murrell was born in St. Cloud, Minnesota, but calls Las Vegas, Nevada, home because he has lived there the longest.

Murrell earned his bachelor’s degree in recreation from the University of Nevada.

He earned his master’s degree in business administration (MBA) focused on supply chain management from Arizona State University and his master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

He wanted to become an Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer from the moment that he was commissioned into the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps.

“At the time, EOD had the legacy companies that didn’t have lieutenants in them,” said Murrell. “I had to wait until I was a captain for a slot, which was about the time the Army doubled the size of an EOD company and allowed lieutenants in them, no longer needing captains as the entry point for officers.”

Murrell credits Col. Fidel Arvelo with helping him to get into the course that led him to a career in the life-saving and mission enabling Explosive Ordnance Disposal profession.

EOD technicians take on everything from hand grenades to nuclear weapons and defeat the explosive devices that imperil lives and impede missions.

[Read full story](#)



Col. Phillip P. Murrell, a seasoned U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer, recently became the deputy commander for the 20th CBRNE Command on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Murrell said the command conduct critical missions around the world and across the nation. U.S. Army photo by Marshall R. Mason.

Awards

20th CBRNE Command

- Sgt. Marvin O. Cooper - Army Achievement Medal
- Sgt. Keyonta Curgil - Army Achievement Medal
- Sgt. Jacob R. Finch - Army Commendation Medal
- Sgt. Bradley K. James - Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Certificate of Achievement
- Sgt. Colton J. Keating - Army Achievement Medal
- Sgt. Jacob S. Meenan - Army Achievement Medal and German Badge
- Sgt. Jorge Orta Jr - Army Achievement Medal
- Sgt. Pablo R. Ramosmarrero - Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Steven G. Sandlin - Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. John A. Simonds - Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Tyler C. Wiseman - Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Anas M. Abdulrazzaq - Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Logan R. Collins - Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Logan R. Collins - Army Commendation Medal
- Spc. Lamkoun C. Kone - Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Randolph A. Liranzo - Army Commendation Medal

- Spc. Jonathan L. Hoffman - Army Achievement Medal and Certificate of Achievement
- Spc. Yoothana Chanphut - Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Haven R. Barnes - Army Commendation Medal
- Spc. Keon D. Forbes - Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Aaliyah V. Gonzalez - Army Achievement Medal
- Spc. Brandon A. Braun - Army Achievement Medal
- Pfc. Vinny T. Yang - Army Achievement Medal

48th Chemical Brigade

- Maj. Taylor S. Harrington - Meritorious Service Medal
- Capt. Henry D. Davis - Meritorious Service Medal
- Capt. Kolton C. Kares - Army Commendation Medal
- Capt. Blaine A. Sackett - Meritorious Service Medal
- Maj. Dominic J. Kominos - Meritorious Service Medal
- Capt. Donovan G. Coleman - Meritorious Service Medal
- Capt. Cody L. Manning - Meritorious Service Medal
- Capt. Amy Swiateckimccabe - Meritorious Service Medal
- Capt. Michael W. Vane - Meritorious Service Medal

Wright inspires helicopter mechanics to reach for new heights



Lt. Col. Cameron A. Wright, the Knowledge Management officer for the 20th CBRNE Command, was the guest speaker at the 128th Aviation Brigade graduation ceremony on Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, July 3. U.S. Army file photo by Angel Martinez-Navedo.

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. – An Army lieutenant colonel from the U.S. military’s premier CBRNE command inspired a new group of Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter mechanics to reach for new heights.

Lt. Col. Cameron A. Wright, the Knowledge Management officer for the 20th CBRNE Command, was the guest speaker at the 128th Aviation Brigade graduation

ceremony on Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, July 3.

Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command take on the world’s most dangerous hazards.

As the Knowledge Management officer, Wright drives innovation and knowledge sharing in the command

A seasoned U.S. Army Signal Corps officer who has served around the world and deployed to Afghanistan and Kuwait, Wright spoke to the Soldiers who were graduating from the Army aviation maintenance training course.

“This moment marks not just the completion of a rigorous training program but the beginning of a journey that will shape you into the leaders, experts and role models our Army and our nation need,” said Wright.

A graduate of Montana State University and the University of Maryland, Wright focused on the importance of leadership to success in the U.S. military.

“Leadership is about more than giving orders; it is about earning the respect and trust of those you lead through your actions and your integrity,” said Wright. “Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge.”

[Read full story](#)

Awards

48th Chemical Brigade

Capt. Henry D. Davis - Meritorious Service Medal
 CW2 Joshua E. Laplant - Meritorious Service Medal
 1st Sgt. Rafael Burgosnieves - Meritorious Service Medal
 1st Sgt. Matthew C. Mcculley - Meritorious Service Medal
 1st Sgt. Jeremy Washington - Army Commendation Medal
 Master Sgt. Bertha A. Horne - Army Commendation Medal
 Master Sgt. Steven L. Renslow - Meritorious Service Medal
 Master Sgt. Brandon L. Trail - Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Allison L. Grover - Army Commendation Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Ronathan Mumphrey - Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. Jesus R. Perez - Army Commendation Medal
 Spc. Romeo I. Hall - Army Commendation Medal
 Spc. Johnmichael P. Quilbio - Army Commendation Medal
 Spc. Junxian Wu - Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal

1st Area Medical Laboratory

Lt. Col. Curtis R. Cline - Meritorious Service Medal

52nd EOD Group

Capt. Christopher H. Whelan - Meritorious Service Medal
 Capt. Joseph J. Carothers - Meritorious Service Medal
 Capt. Dylan C. Locklear - Meritorious Service Medal
 Capt. Eugene E. Osborne – Meritorious Service Medal
 1st Lt Matthew R. Hughes – German Badge
 1st Sgt. Sean M. Conley - Meritorious Service Medal
 1st Sgt. Garrett J. Mcguire - Meritorious Service Medal
 Master Sgt. Travis E. Simpson - Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Miguel A. Perez - Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Marcel A. Blood - Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Michael T. Ryan - Meritorious Service Medal
 Staff Sgt. Tyler A. Grieve - Meritorious Service Medal
 Staff Sgt. Flip R. Velghe - German Badge
 Sgt. Tristin E. Lindsey - Meritorious Service Medal

20th CBRNE Command hosts first change of charter ceremony

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The U.S. Department of Defense’s premier CBRNE command held its first command chief warrant officer change of charter ceremony, July 19.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Victoria RamageGarcia assumed the charter for the 20th CBRNE Command from Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jesse S. Deberry, the first command chief warrant officer in the nearly 20-year history of the one-of-a-kind U.S. Army command.

Hosted by Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, the commanding general of 20th CBRNE Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Silva, the senior enlisted leader of the 20th CBRNE Command, the inaugural change of charter ceremony took place at the 20th CBRNE Command Headquarters on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Hood awarded Deberry with the Legion of Merit. Hood said that Deberry had contributed to 20th CBRNE Command combat readiness by coordinating and collaborating with organizations across the U.S. Department of Defense since becoming the first command chief warrant officer in July 2021.

Deberry will report to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency following his three years as the command chief warrant officer for the 20th CBRNE Command.

RamageGarcia became the command chief warrant officer after serving as the CBRN technician for Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Team 1 at the 20th CBRNE Command.

RamageGarcia previously served as the division CBRN technician for the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea.



Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood (center), the former commanding general of the 20th CBRNE Command, displays the command chief warrant officer charter. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Victoria RamageGarcia (right) assumed the command chief warrant officer charter from Chief Warrant Officer Jesse S. Deberry (left) during a ceremony, July 19. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gregory R. Hazeltine.

A native of Pioneer, California, RamageGarcia has served in the U.S. Army for almost 20 years. She has served in a wide variety of leadership positions around the world.

[Read full story](#)

Awards

71st EOD Group

Lt. Col. Gregory A. Butler - Meritorious Service Medal
 Maj. Sean C. Zion - Meritorious Service Medal
 Maj. Jonathan E. Schwebke - Meritorious Service Medal
 Maj. (Chap) Ryan E. Mills - Meritorious Service Medal
 Maj. Kevin H. Han - Meritorious Service Medal
 Maj. James M. Hawthorne – Meritorious Service Medal
 Capt. Connor J. Mccarty - Meritorious Service Medal
 Capt. Cameron M. Clark - Meritorious Service Medal
 Capt. Jacob C. Randazzo – Norwegian Footmarch
 CW3 Stuart W. Meissen – Meritorious Service Medal
 CW2 Anel I. Munoz – Meritorious Service Medal
 1st Sgt. Lucas M. Applewhite - Meritorious Service Medal
 1st Sgt. Elizabeth J. Hudak – Meritorious Service Medal

Master Sgt. David J. Guyette - Meritorious Service Medal
 Master Sgt. Joshua D. Drews - Meritorious Service Medal
 Master Sgt. Billy J. Morgan – Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Lonnie L. Mixon - Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Kevin W. Johnson – German Badge
 Sgt. 1st Class Nathan A. Miller – Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. 1st Class Joshua A. Frier - Meritorious Service Medal
 Staff Sgt. Corey L. Verdoorn - Army Commendation Medal
 Staff Sgt. Keith R. Gentile – Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. Connor A. Chambers - Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. Grant I. Crank - Army Achievement Medal
 Sgt. Grant I. Crank - Meritorious Service Medal
 Sgt. George H. Wang - Army Commendation Medal
 Spc. Fabian G. Lewin - Army Achievement Medal

US Army civilian recognized for supporting EOD technicians

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – A U.S. Army civilian was recognized for supporting Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians who serve in the U.S. Department of Defense’s premier Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command.

Michael S. Nastari was selected as the 20th CBRNE Command Civilian of the Quarter for April through June 2024 for his service as a Military Human Resources Specialist.

Nastari processes civilian clothing allowances for EOD technicians who are required to wear civilian clothes during missions in support of domestic authorities across the nation, including missions to protect the nation’s senior most leaders.

“Michael Nastari provides timely and recurring training down to the company level to ensure that there is a shared understanding on how to pro-

cess and when an EOD Soldier would be eligible for a Civilian Clothing Allowance,” said Kent Ward, the deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Manpower (G1) at the 20th CBRNE Command.

“He has streamlined the process, reducing the time it takes greatly. Over this past quarter, he has processed over 100 CCA packets,” said Ward. “As a result, our Soldiers will be compensated faster for the missions that they have completed.”

Nastari also serves as an Army Reserve lieutenant colonel in the 10th Battalion, 80th Regiment, and he teaches Immediate Level Education (ILE) on Fort Meade, Maryland.

Nastari said assisting Soldiers with complex personnel and pay problems is what motivates him to serve as an Army civilian.

[Read full story](#)



Michael S. Nastari was selected as the 20th CBRNE Command Civilian of the Quarter. Nastari processes civilian clothing allowances for Explosive Ordnance Disposal techs on domestic missions. U.S. Army photo by Maj. Steven M. Modugno.

Awards

20th CBRNE Command Civilians of the Quarter

Ryan P. Cole

Michael S. Nastari

20th CBRNE Command

- Tawana L. Bestor – Meritorious Civilian Service Medal
- Xavier R. Dashiell – Meritorious Civilian Service Medal
- Michele Hood – Meritorious Public Service Medal
- Amy L. Snyder – Meritorious Civilian Service Medal
- Joel A. States – Meritorious Civilian Service Medal
- Frank Amemu-Golo – Civilian Service Commendation Medal
- Thomas M. Eiler – Civilian Service Commendation Medal
- Louis S. Kilmon Jr. – Civilian Service Commendation Medal
- Marshall R. Mason – Civilian Service Commendation Medal
- Ryan P. Cole – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Dawn Dean-Delbridge – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Xiaoyan Jiang – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Rodney J. Mayo – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Michael S. Nastari – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Susan C. Persing – Civilian Service Achievement Medal

- Belinda M. Rodriguez – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Joshua Shareef – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Franklin S. Shinn – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Erica R. Siekierska – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Pamela S. Silcox – Civilian Service Commendation Medal
- Shannon L. Smith – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Thomas R. Timmons – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Marcus E. Woods Jr. – Civilian Service Achievement Medal
- Stephanie R. Carrara – Certificate of Appreciation (Spouse)

52nd EOD Group

- Christine E. Kuhns – Meritorious Public Service Medal
- Steven J. Thomas – Meritorious Civilian Service Medal

CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity

- Christopher P. Barnett – Meritorious Civilian Service Medal
- Michael R. Randolph – Meritorious Civilian Service Medal
- Lionel R. Weinmann – Civilian Service Commendation Medal
- Jabil D. Sayibu – Civilian Service Achievement Medal

US Marine Corps lieutenant general lauds CBRNE forces

COCKEYSVILLE, Md. – A U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant general praised the American troops who confront and defeat the world's most dangerous hazards during the second Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Forum, June 28.

Lt. Gen. Brian W. Cavanaugh, the commanding general of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic; commander of Marine Forces Command; and commander of Marine Forces Northern Command, was the guest speaker at the Joint CBRNE Forum in Cockeysville, Maryland.

Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) specialists and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians attended the forum that coincided with the 106th anniversary of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps.

Hosted by Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, the commanding general of the U.S. Army 20th CBRNE Command, the event brought members of the joint force together to recognize the shared service and sacrifices of the U.S. service members who take on CBRNE hazards in support of combatant commanders and domestic authorities.

Hood and Cavanaugh recently served together in the National Command Center.

"It is an honor to be in the company of such an esteemed group of professionals this evening," said Cavanaugh, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate who is originally from Baltimore.

"I am humbled by the important contributions that each of you, including your incredible family members – makes to our national security and I commend the dedication to excellence embodied by the CBRN defense and EOD communities as a whole," said Cavanaugh.

As the Marine Forces commander, Cavanaugh is the senior commander for the U.S. Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, or CBIRF, the CBRNE response and



Lt. Gen. Brian W. Cavanaugh, the commanding general of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic; commander of Marine Forces Command; and commander of Marine Forces Northern Command, was the guest speaker at the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Forum in Cockeysville, Maryland, June 28. As the Marine Forces commander, Cavanaugh is the senior commander for the U.S. Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, or CBIRF, the CBRNE response and consequence management force based on Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Maryland. U.S. Army photo by Marshall R. Mason.

consequence management force based on Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Maryland.

"Through this lens, my staff and I are acutely aware of the many unique challenges associated with manning, training, equipping and employing CBRN and EOD forces," said Cavanaugh. "The dynamic and essential natures of your mission sets are second to none."

Cavanaugh is a U.S. Marine Corps aviator with 3,000 flight hours, primarily in the CH-53D/E Sea Stallion heavy-lift transport helicopter.

From the halls of the Pentagon to hot spots around the world, Cavanaugh has served in the Marine Corps for almost 35 years.

"Excellence in daily operations and training has an assurance and deterrence value all its own," said Cavanaugh. "Through deliberate choices to conceal and reveal our CBRNE capabilities, the joint force can assure allies, partners and domestic audiences while simultaneously deterring malign actors."

To succeed in large-scale combat operations against a near-peer adversary on the battlefield, Cavanaugh said the joint force relied on CBRNE personnel to stay ready to fight and win in a CBRN contaminated environment.

"Whether providing domestic support to government agencies during a national security special event; deploying in support of combatant commander requirements; or forging relationships that bolster ally and partner capacity, including NATO and the Republic of Korea, to name a few, the highly trained Soldiers and civilians of the Joint CBRNE partners here tonight routinely execute tactical and operational actions of strategic significance," he said.

"Today's deliberate planning and demanding training are necessary to ensure that we meet the standard set forth in our National Defense Strategy: that tomorrow's joint force is capable of achieving its warfighting aims in a CBRN-contaminated environment," said Cavanaugh.

[Read full story](#)

Soldiers, Army civilians complete Norwegian Foot March



ment of Defense's premier CBRNE formation that supports joint, inter-agency and multinational operations around the world.

From 19 bases in 16 states, American Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command take on the world's most dangerous hazards in support of military operations and civil authorities.

Soldiers and Army civilians had to complete the march in less than six hours, with times varying based on gender and age groups, while carrying 24.4 pounds of dry weight in a rucksack or backpack.

To earn the Norwegian Foot March qualification badge, they also had to work a full day following the early hours march.

Of the 75 Norwegian Foot March participants, 31 made the qualifying time.

Maj. Gerrit P. Van Ommering, a Nuclear Operations Officer from 20th CBRNE Command's Nuclear Disablement Team 2 (Infrastructure), crossed the finish line first in just over three hours.

Also known as the Marsjmerket, the foot march began in Norway in 1915 to familiarize Norwegian troops with the tough physical demands of serving in the infantry.

Maj. Steven M. Modugno, the public affairs director for the 20th CBRNE Command, coordinated the event for the installation.

A native of Santa Clarita, California, Modugno said the march demonstrated the grit, determination and endurance of the Soldiers and Army civilians serving on the nation's oldest active proving ground in the science, technology and security corridor of northeast Maryland.

"We have the greatest Army in the world because we have Soldiers and Army civilians who are willing to take on challenges like this foot march to improve themselves," said Modugno.

[Read full story](#)



(Top photo) Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Silva (right), the senior enlisted leader of the 20th CBRNE Command, participated in the Norwegian Ruck March on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, July 3. (Second photo) Soldiers, Army civilians and family members participated in the Norwegian Foot March. The marchers started at 1 a.m. and covered 18.6-mile march across the Army installation, while carrying 24.4 pounds of dry weight in a rucksack or backpack. U.S. Army photos by Maj. Steven M. Modugno.

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Maryland – Soldiers, Army civilians and family members participated in the Norwegian Foot March on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, July 3.

The marchers started at 1 a.m. and covered 18.6-mile march across the Army installation.

The event was hosted by the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. Depart-

52nd EOD Group holds change of command on Fort Campbell

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – The U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group that commands all active-duty Army EOD technicians east of the Mississippi River welcomed a new commander during a change of command ceremony, June 19.

U.S. Army Col. George A. Hill assumed command of the 52nd Ordnance Group (EOD) from Col. Matthew L. Kuhns during the widely attended ceremony on Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where the brigade is headquartered.

The 52nd EOD Group commands units on six Army installations in five states, including two battalions and 14 companies.

The 52nd EOD Group supports the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 82nd Airborne Division, 3rd Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division, 75th Ranger Regiment, and Special Forces units during operations around the world.

The 52nd EOD Group “Defusing Danger” EOD techs also respond whenever military munitions are discovered on or off base and routinely across the nation.

A graduate of Iowa State University, Kuhns served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Kuhns thanked his leadership team for their support and service during his time in command.

“The contributions are far too great to capture in this speech and I know what the senior leaders would do – they would point to their teams and say all the appreciation and glory goes to them,” said Kuhns.

“Much is attributed to humble leaders that actually comes from the spirit of the ‘Defusing Danger’ Soldiers. They have a fire that drives excellence and mission accomplishments,” said Kuhns. “They strive for individual excellence and lift their teammates to collective success.”

Hill is a native of Mammoth Spring, Arkansas, and a graduate of Arkansas State University. He has served in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Multinational Force in Sinai, Egypt.



The U.S. Army EOD that commands all active-duty Army EOD technicians east of the Mississippi River welcomed a new commander during a change of command ceremony, June 19. Col. George A. Hill assumed command of the 52nd Ordnance Group (EOD) from Col. Matthew L. Kuhns during the widely attended ceremony on Fort Campbell, Kentucky. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Conner B. Douglas.



Hill previously served as the operations officer for the 52nd EOD Group and the executive officer for the 184th EOD Battalion, which is part of the group.

“I have a long history in this organization, and I’m honored beyond measure to serve in its ranks again,” said Hill, while also thanking the many former members of the group that he had previously served with who attended the ceremony. “The friendships and relationships that we make in the 52nd Ordnance Group are enduring.”

The 52nd EOD Group is part of the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. Department of Defense’s premier multifunctional and deployable CBRNE formation.

The 20th CBRNE Command is home to 75 percent of the active-duty U.S. Army’s EOD technicians

and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) specialists and EOD techs, as well as the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity, five Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Teams and three Nuclear Disablement Teams (Infrastructure).

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, the commanding general of the 20th CBRNE Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Silva, the senior enlisted leader for the 20th CBRNE Command, both attended the ceremony.

“For those in the audience, I would ask that you look at the men and women that are out there in the formation,” said Hood. “They represent what this organization is really all about – its mission – and the Army at large when it is called to fight and win our nation’s wars.”

[Read full story](#)

Fort Drum Soldiers win Best CBRN Warrior Competition



Capt. Evan Shortsleeve (left) and Sgt. Billy Akebe, from the 59th Chemical Company (Hazardous Response) at Fort Drum, New York, ruck march May 31, during the 2024 International Best CBRN Warrior Competition. Shortsleeve and Akebe were named the competition's winners June 3 during an awards ceremony in Lincoln Hall Auditorium. U.S. Army photo by Melissa Buckley, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office.

FORT DRUM, N.Y. – A team from the Fort Drum, New York-based 59th Chemical Company “Mountain Dragons” took first place out of 30 joint and international teams during the Best Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Competition on Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Capt. Evan P. Shortsleeve, the commanding officer of the 59th Chemical Company (Hazardous Response), and Sgt. Billy T. Akebe, the 2nd Platoon sergeant for the 59th Chemical Company, earned top honors during the competition.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Sabreena Singh and Sgt. 1st Brandon Stubbs from the Schofield Barracks, Hawaii-based 71st Chemical Company came in second place and Capt. Reed Radford and Staff Sgt. Griffin Soderquist from the Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri-based 84th Chemical Battalion took third place.

A Litchfield, Conn., native and Norwich University graduate, Shortsleeve recently led his company through a rotational deployment to South Korea where the company served near the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

During the nine-month deployment,

the Mountain Dragons supported the 23rd CBRN Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division and Eighth Army and contributed to security on the Korean Peninsula and stability in Northeast Asia.

Shortsleeve said his team had to maximize the training time available on Fort Drum and rely on the CBRN expertise in 59th Chemical Company to prepare for the competition.

“We involved our company warrant officer to create academic exams and situational training exercises that we brought with us as a training opportunity,” said Shortsleeve.

The team trained for many different scenarios, including reacting to a CBRN attack, marking a CBRN contaminated area and taking a 70-question exam in full CBRN protective equipment. They also marched seven miles through hilly terrain to prepare for the competition.

The 59th Chemical Company is assigned to the 83rd Chemical Battalion, 48th Chemical Brigade and 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. Department of Defense’s premier CBRNE formation that enables military oper-

ations around the world and supports civil authorities across the nation.

Soldiers and Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command confront and defeat the world’s most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and multinational operations.

The CBRN team from the 59th Chemical Company was the second Fort Drum-based 20th CBRNE Command team to win top honors in their profession this year.

Staff Sgt. Tyler A. Grieve and Sgt. Tristin E. Lindsey from the Fort Drum, New York-based 760th Ordnance Company (EOD), 192nd EOD Battalion, 52nd EOD Group, 20th CBRNE Command, prevailed over the other highly qualified and well-trained EOD teams during the all-Army EOD Team of the Year competition on Fort Liberty, North Carolina, April 21 – 26.

Shortsleeve attributes his team’s success to hard work, preparation and dedication. He challenges his Soldiers to be 1 percent better every day.

“Ultimately, some of the best and worst days of our lives will take place when we only have 10 percent in the tank,” said Shortsleeve. “My charge to our Soldiers is to maximize what that 10 percent is capable of so that they can compete and win in their lives and defeat our adversaries in any condition.”

Originally from Washington, D.C., Akebe said the competition scenarios are being incorporated into company training.

Akebe, who earned his master’s degree in cloud computing from University of Maryland, said the biggest challenge was the Dragon’s Dread, the final event of the competition.

“I overcame it by applying the training that my company commander and I conducted, applying the intestinal fortitude, resiliency and the Army Value Personal Courage,” said Akebe, adding that the company ethos of being 1 percent better every day contributed to the team’s success.

[Read full story](#)

Army EOD officer recognized for helping woman during rodeo

LAWTON, Okla. – A U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer was recently recognized for helping a 76-year-old woman during a rodeo in Lawton, Oklahoma.

1st Lt. Steven M. Von Kessel, the 2nd Platoon leader from the Fort Sill, Oklahoma-based 761st Ordnance Company (EOD), received a thank you letter and his EOD company received a cake for his assistance during the rodeo.

“I want to recognize a young man who represented not only himself but the Army in a kind and professional manner,” said the woman who retired from Fort Sill in 1997.

Von Kessel climbed the steep bleacher stairs to get refreshments for the woman and helped her to navigate the stairs at the end of the rodeo.

“I suspect the others chided him for being such a gentleman,” said the woman. “I would like for his boss to know how admirably he acted in civilian clothes to a 76-year-old lady who still loves a good rodeo.”

Von Kessel said he was grateful for the letter and the cake his company received.

“I am very appreciative of her kind words and for the cake she baked for the company,” said Von Kessel, who has been at Fort Sill since July 2023. “This is my second time attending the Lawton Rodeo. Before last year, I never attended a rodeo so I figured that I would go and see one.”

“If it were my grandmother in a similar situation, I would hope that someone would offer her help,” said Von Kessel. “To me, it was not a big ask at all.”

Von Kessel said the Army Values guide his actions both in and out of uniform.

“I believe that the Army Values provide a good framework for living a life of service. Each value has specific qualities that lend themselves to helping others,” said Von Kessel. “By incorporating them in day-to-day life, you are able to see the value of being of service to those around you.”

A native of the Bronx in New York City, Von Kessel graduated from Villanova University with a bachelor’s degree in economics and minor in psychology. In college, Von Kessel wanted to become an EOD officer because of the competitive nature of the lifesaving and mission enabling profession.

“I believe that I have the privilege of serving with some of the best Soldiers and leaders across the Army, which is something I do not take lightly,” he said.

Von Kessel served on an EOD response mission to clear a lodged round in a M109A6 Paladin howitzer during training where the EOD team disposed of the round while it was still lodged by moving the barrel to the demolition range and assisting in the download of the 4,500-pound tube. This response led to a new disposal procedure being validated.



A U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer was recently recognized for helping a 76-year-old woman during a rodeo in Lawton, Oklahoma. 1st Lt. Steven M. Von Kessel received a thank you letter and his EOD company received a cake for his assistance during the rodeo. Courtesy photo.

“The technicality of this response and the opportunity to work with multiple entities across Fort Sill made this a uniquely challenging and rewarding experience,” said Von Kessel.

The 761st EOD Company is part of the 79th EOD Battalion, 71st EOD Group and 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command, the U.S. military’s premier multifunctional and deployable CBRNE formation.

From 19 bases in 16 states, Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command confront and defeat the world’s most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and multinational operations.

Army EOD technicians from the 761st EOD Company conduct target insertion, range clearance and fire break clearance missions for U.S. Army field artillery and air defense artillery units.

EOD technicians from the 761st EOD Company also enable military operations around the world and respond when military munitions are found on and off base in Oklahoma, Arkansas and across 60 counties in Texas.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Silva, the senior enlisted leader for the 20th CBRNE Command, said he is proud of Von Kessel’s conduct at the rodeo.

“He demonstrated that selfless service is a value and character trait, not just something you do while in uniform,” said Silva, a native of Long Beach, California, and Master EOD technician who has deployed seven times and served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

[Read full story](#)

Army officer overcomes injury to lead rugby team to victory



1st Lt. Rachel D. Henley runs the ball at the Armed Forces Rugby Championship in San Diego. Henley, the 3rd Platoon leader for the 92nd Chemical Company (Hazard Response), was the team captain for the U.S. Army rugby team that won first place by beating the Air Force team 27-5 during the recent competition. U.S. Department of Defense photo by EJ Hersom.

SAN DIEGO – A U.S. Army Chemical Corps officer overcame a calf injury to lead the Army team to victory during the Armed Forces Rugby Tournament in San Diego.

1st Lt. Rachel D. Henley, the 3rd Platoon leader for the 92nd Chemical Company (Hazard Response), was the team captain for the U.S. Army rugby team that took the gold medal by beating the Air Force team 27-5 during the recent competition.

Henley had to make a quick recovery to participate in the tournament.

“I tore my calf while attending the U.S. Armed Forces camp in May and unfortunately was unable to compete in the Netherlands,” said Henley. “With a setback physically, I knew my mentality leading up to the All-Army camp and tournament needed to be strong. With only four weeks of expedited physical therapy, I was picked as captain of the team. I knew even though I wasn’t at 100 percent, I could give 100 percent to being the best leader I could be.”

The Army team was 4-0 going into the championship game against Air Force, after defeating the Marine Corps team 20-12, Air Force team

29-7, Coast Guard team 33-5 and Navy team 20-14.

Henley said the highlight of the tournament was the championship game where her team built on its “brick by brick” motto.

“We started with a strong foundation and build up, each contributing our strengths and our ‘why’ into the brick wall. We did that throughout the camp and continued into the tournament becoming better and better each game,” said Henley. “After each game, our coach always asked if we were satisfied. We all knew that we could play better, and we were hungry to play amazing rugby. We were never satisfied until our last game winning 27-5 against the Air Force.”

At the All-Army team camp at the Chula Vista Olympic Training Center in the San Diego area, Henley and her teammates were able to meet the USA Women’s Olympic Team before they headed to Paris. The USA Women’s Olympic Team won the Bronze Medal during the 2024 Paris Olympics, earning their first ever Olympic medal in history.

Henley, who serves as a centre on

the All-Army team, became interested in rugby because her father, retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Henley, played rugby at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

During his Air Force career, her father flew the C-141 Starlifter strategic airlifter, T-1 Jayhawk training jet and KC-10 Extender refueler and cargo aircraft. He also served in Operation Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Henley played soccer for many years before she realized that rugby was a better sport for her.

She reported to the 92nd Chemical Company in April 2023 where she has led her platoon through numerous training and operational challenges. Henley has also found time to prove her mettle on the rugby pitch.

“I have been chosen for the All-Army Team for three years and the Armed Forces Team once,” said Henley, who grew up in a military family but considers Reno, Nevada, home.

Henley said that overcoming her calf injury taught her to enjoy the opportunities she has to compete and succeed at rugby.

Henley said the trust, toughness and teamwork needed to win on the rugby pitch are similar to the attributes needed to succeed on the battlefield.

“Having this outlet has allowed me to be a successful Army leader in many ways. Rugby has taught me so much about myself, teamwork and strength. Being a strong female, physically and mentally, in this line of work allows me to lead from the front and gain respect and trust from my Soldiers,” said Henley.

“Playing specifically for the Army squad has made me even more proud to serve,” said Henley. “The All-Army motto is ‘For Those Who Can’t.’ It creates a greater sense of honor and pride when putting on the rugby jersey, representing our fallen Soldiers.”

[Read full story](#)

CBRNE Soldiers train for large-scale combat operations at NTC

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – Highly specialized Soldiers trained to enable ground combat units to close with and defeat near-peer enemy forces during simulated combat operations at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, California.

The 110th Chemical Battalion “Iron Dragons” and 707th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) “Thunderbirds” participated in National Training Center rotation 24-07.

The Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington-based units supported the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, during the combat training center rotation. Both units are part of the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. military’s CBRNE formation that enables joint, interagency and multinational operations around the world.

U.S. Army combat units hone their warfighting skills against fierce opposition forces from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during combat training rotations in the “the box” – shorthand for the Mojave Desert training center that is almost as big as the state of Rhode Island.

As the Army transitions from decades of counterinsurgency operations, training rotations are focused on preparing maneuver units for large-scale combat operations against a near-peer enemy that could use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons.

Capt. Jabari R. Turner, the commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company for the 110th Chemical Battalion, said that teamwork was the key to success during the combat training center rotation.

“These missions provided a realistic simulation of potential real-world tasks, offering invaluable experience and a strong foundation for future operations,” said Turner, who is originally from Petersburg, Virginia. “The collective effort and determination of the team not only ensured the successful execution of these critical missions but also reinforced our readiness and capability to perform under realistic combat conditions.”



U.S. Soldiers assigned to 110 Chemical Battalion, 48th Chemical Brigade, supporting 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, conduct hazardous material operations during rotation 24-07 at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, California, May 3. U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Nathaniel W. Garrett.

Turner graduated from the Virginia Military Institute with a degree in psychology. He has been in the Army for eight years.

As the HHC commander, Turner said his company enables the 110th Chemical Battalion to accomplish its high stakes missions by maintaining operational cohesion, enhancing decision making and contributing to the overall readiness of the battalion.

“The rotation training is highly realistic, meticulously designed to replicate the complexities and pressures of modern combat environments,” said Turner. “The training incorporated realistic battlefield conditions and terrain challenges.”

Capt. Connor J. McCarty, the commander of the 707th Ordnance Company (EOD), said his Soldiers successfully provided Explosive Ordnance Disposal support to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, during the training rotation.

“EOD echelons below the company-level were successful in contributing to the brigade’s mission and operating within the principles of mission command in a contested environ-

ment,” said McCarty, who has served in the U.S. Army for seven years.”

McCarty said the training leveraged the National Training Center to test their ability to command and control while conducting EOD operations from within a CBRNE Task Force in a non-permissive environment.

A U.S. Military Academy at West Point graduate from North Smithfield, Rhode Island, who has served in South Korea, McCarty said EOD technicians are shifting their focus to preparing for large-scale combat operations after more than 20 years of defeating Improvised Explosive Devices in Iraq and Afghanistan.

McCarty said his EOD company had the opportunity to integrate and train with the 110th Chemical Brigade during numerous events before the combat training center rotation.

“The 707th EOD Company has a strong working relationship with the 110th Chemical Battalion and we have a very good understanding of their tactics, techniques and procedures and how they operate,” said McCarty. “This proved to be invaluable during the rotation.”

[Read full story](#)

EOD techs train to defeat explosive drones on McChord Airfield



U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians trained to confront and defeat explosive Unmanned Aerial Systems during an interagency exercise on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. EOD technicians from the 707th Ordnance Company (EOD) "Thunderbirds" and 787th Ordnance Company (EOD) "Sasquatches" worked together to render safe the simulated explosive payload on a drone during Operation Cascade Defense. Courtesy photo.

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. – U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians trained to confront and defeat explosive Unmanned Aerial Systems during an I Corps-hosted interagency exercise at McChord Airfield on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

EOD technicians from the 707th Ordnance Company (EOD) "Thunderbirds" and 787th Ordnance Company (EOD) "Sasquatches" worked together to render safe the simulated explosive payload on a drone during Operation Cascade Defense.

Many other joint and interagency partner organizations participated in the exercise, including the FBI Seattle Office's Special Agent Bomb Technician and Hazardous Evidence Collection Team, U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Joint Base Lewis-McChord Department of Emergency Services and I Corps Protection Cell.

The Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington-based 787th EOD Company and 707th EOD Company are part of the 3rd EOD Battalion, 71st EOD Group and 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. military's premier multifunctional and deployable CBRNE formation.

1st Lt. Charles M. Paschal, the 2nd Platoon leader for the 707th EOD Company, said Operation Cascade Defense gave the U.S. Army EOD technicians the chance to hone their lifesaving and mission enabling skills.

"This was one of the most realistic training exercises that EOD units at Joint Base Lewis-McChord have been able

to experience," said Paschal. "There was little to no simulation involved with the training and everything was done like it would on a live response call."

Paschal said the 787th EOD Company team trained with a military police escort and live explosive tools.

"They even had an FBI Special Agent Bomb Technician present to help guide the 787th EOD Company technicians on what the forensics process for prosecution would look like in the real world," said Paschal.

Paschal earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a focus on forensics from the University of North Georgia. He became an EOD officer because he wanted to help keep his fellow Soldiers safe.

"The EOD teams received great feedback speaking to the professionalism and technical expertise that was displayed by the response team along with the mastery of their craft," said Paschal, who previously responded to a domestic EOD call in Seattle when law enforcement officials discovered a large stockpile of ordnance.

Sgt. 1st Class Adam L. Ritter from the 787th EOD Company created the drone and the training explosive device attached to the drone. He also served as the observer and controller during the exercise to ensure the response team took the proper safety precautions to render safe the drone and explosive device.

1st Lt. Luke M. Gualtieri, the 1st Platoon leader from the 787th EOD Company, served as the duty officer during the exercise where he directed his EOD techs and managed the scene while keeping the Provost Marshall Office informed and ensuring the area cordon was secure.

"Exercises such as Cascade Defense prepare our EOD techs to better conduct their overseas and domestic missions by placing a large emphasis on interoperability," said Gualtieri. "It is easy in a training scenario for a team leader or duty officer to notionally manage aspects, like a security cordon, but when they must do it for real it is not only a learning experience but it also identifies weak points, which helps develop future training plans."

A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, who earned his bachelor's degree in Russian from the University of Pennsylvania, Gualtieri responded during a mission to dispose of World War II era ordnance that washed up on a beach in Washington state.

Gualtieri said Operation Cascade Defense helped his EOD techs to forge a stronger relationship with Joint Base Lewis-McChord Emergency Response personnel.

"Although this was a training scenario, it could very easily become a real-world incident," said Gualtieri. "If we train together on a variety of incidents, it will allow us to operate together should an event arise."

[Read full story](#)

Nuclear Disablement Teams train with Army Special Forces unit

FORT JOHNSON, La. – Soldiers from Nuclear Disablement Team 1 recently honed their mission readiness with 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) troops during a combat training center rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center on Fort Johnson, Louisiana.

Maj. Cory P. Chatigny, a Nuclear Operations Officer with Nuclear Disablement Team 1, said the NDT members trained to support night missions under simulated fire at a clandestine radiological dispersal device facility.

“The mission was unique due to the facility and location of the objective,” said Chatigny. “The facility was designed to look like a small warehouse that was turned into a make-shift weapons manufacturing site. It forced us to really take in the environment quickly – all the while at nighttime with night vision while ammunition blanks and simulators were going off around us – and to figure out what type of activities were being carried out in this facility.”

Chatigny said the training rotation with the 7th Special Forces Group gave the team the opportunity to focus on staying ready to deploy on short notice.

“We have focused on developing a scaled down NDT package that better fits the Special Forces mission set,” said Chatigny. “Using a 20th CBRNE aviation asset, we tested our ability to deploy with a tailored equipment set that fit mission requirements.”

NDT 1 brought protective equipment, radiation detectors and decontamination kits that were delivered to the training site by helicopter.

“The team has had internal discussions about how we would accomplish this type of mission, but until you are participating with a real-world mission or at a combat training center rotation, it’s just what it was, talking,” said Chatigny.

“JRTC gave us a realistic look at what we brought onto the objective,” he said. “We learned if it impeded us or was vital, tested our physical fitness under a stressful situation and stressed our own internal tactics, techniques and procedures and identified what can be improved.”

Chatigny said the NDT received positive feedback for their participation in the training rotation, adding that the exercise was both challenging and rewarding.

“For me personally, this is one of the most realistic training events I have attended,” said Chatigny. “We had the privilege of working with U.S. Army Special Operation Forces and Department of Energy subject matter experts instructing us on how we can improve. JRTC provided us with the opportunity to train outside of the box.”

Chatigny said the NDTs bring unique skill sets to the fight that need to be maintained through tough and realistic training.

NDTs directly contribute to the nation’s strategic deter-



U.S. Army Soldiers with the 7th Special Forces Group participate in a ruck march during the annual Best ODA Competition at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, Sept. 9, 2020. The 7th Special Forces Group’s mission is to organize, equip and train forces for deployment to conduct worldwide special operations and support regional combatant commanders, American ambassadors and other agencies in more than 30 countries. U.S. Air Force file photo by Airman 1st Class Robyn Hunsinger.

rence by staying ready to exploit, characterize and disable nuclear and radiological infrastructure and components to deny near-term capability to adversaries.

The U.S. Army’s Nuclear Disablement Teams are part of the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. military’s premier CBRNE formation.

The NDTs include Nuclear and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (FA 52) officers and Soldiers with EOD, nuclear medical science and health physics areas of expertise. The teams support both conventional and special operations units.

Born in Fort Ord, California, and raised in Springfield, Kentucky, Chatigny earned his bachelor’s degree in homeland security from Eastern Kentucky University and his master’s degree in business organization and security management from Webster University.

During his 13 years in the Army, Chatigny has deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, as a Military Police platoon leader. He served as deputy director of the U.S. Central Command Joint Personnel Recovery Center in Qatar.

Chatigny became a Nuclear and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (FA 52) officer because he wanted to take on the world’s most dangerous hazards.

“My undergraduate and master’s degrees had me focus on emergency and consequence management and I felt I could continue that education in the FA 52 career field,” said Chatigny. “I saw switching to the FA 52 functional area as a challenge and wanted to push myself into that career field.”

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NDTs, Army Rangers train to seize underground nuclear facility



Ground, Maryland-headquartered 20th CBRNE Command is home to 75 percent of the active-duty U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) specialists, as well as the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity and Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Teams.

NDTs directly contribute to the nation's strategic deterrence by staying ready to exploit and disable nuclear and radiological Weapons of Mass Destruction infrastructure and components to deny near-term capability to adversaries.

The NDTs have previously trained with Army Rangers and Special Forces troops during combat training center rotations.

"The NDTs have been collaborating with the 75th Ranger Regiment and other Special Operations Forces to increase interoperability and interdependency across nuclear and radiological problem sets with U.S. Army Special Operations Command and 20th CBRNE Command support, said Heffelfinger, a native of Moore Township, Pennsylvania, who previously served as an Air Defense Artillery officer.

As the U.S. military prepares to deter or defeat near-peer adversaries, Heffelfinger said having Nuclear Disablement Teams that are trained, equipped and ready is critical for supporting conventional and Special Forces units during large-scale combat operations.

"The highlight of the exercise was the integration of the NDTs and 75th Ranger Regiment teams," said Heffelfinger. "Both have a vested interest in radiological and nuclear issues, so being able to train together and learn each other's tactics, techniques and procedures provided both with additional skills. It also ensured that if we train together or respond to a real-world crisis in the future the teams are already familiar with each other's capabilities."

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U.S. Army Nuclear Disablement Team Soldiers and Army Rangers seized and exploited an underground nuclear facility during a training exercise. Nuclear Disablement Team 1 trained with Army Rangers from the 75th Ranger Regiment during operations under simulated fire at the decommissioned pulse radiation facility, June 6. U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Daniel R. Hernandez.

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – Nuclear Disablement Team Soldiers and Army Rangers seized and exploited an underground nuclear facility during a training exercise.

Nuclear Disablement Team 1 trained with Army Rangers from the 75th Ranger Regiment during operations under simulated fire at a decommissioned pulse radiation facility, June 6.

Maj. Aaron J. Heffelfinger, the team chief for Nuclear Disablement Team 1, said the facility was an optimal training site.

"This training location challenges the force for planning, execution and especially communications," said Heffelfinger. "Being a former reactor site, it also has the security measures in place to make it a realistic target."

The Nuclear Disablement Teams are part of the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. military's premier CBRNE formation.

In addition to the highly trained and deployable Nuclear Disablement Teams, the Aberdeen Proving

EOD techs support Army recruiting at New York City Fleet Week



Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians supported Army recruiting with a pier-side booth during New York City Fleet Week. Sgt. Matthew W. Davis and Sgt. Mathew C. Bumgarner from the Fort Drum, New York-based 760th Ordnance Company (EOD) demonstrated the tools of their high-stakes profession near the USS Intrepid Museum in Manhattan where warships were berthed for the festivities, May 25 – 27. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew W. Davis and Sgt. Mathew C. Bumgarner.

NEW YORK – Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians supported U.S. Army recruiting at a pier-side booth during New York City Fleet Week.

U.S. Army EOD technicians from the Fort Drum, New York-based 760th Ordnance Company (EOD) demonstrated the tools of their high-stakes profession near the USS Intrepid Museum in Manhattan where warships were berthed for the festivities.

Staff Sgt. Matthew W. Davis and Sgt. Mathew C. Bumgarner represented the 760th EOD Company and helped the Army to generate 50 new leads during Fleet Week.

The EOD technicians answered questions from an Army EOD display that included bombs suits, robots and

other tools of their lifesaving and mission enabling profession.

“We interacted with almost 10,000 people over the course of the weekend and sharing what we do with the public was ultimately the best part of the event,” said Davis, an EOD team sergeant from Milford, Michigan.

Bumgarner said the visitors were interested in what Army EOD techs do to safeguard people and support military operations around the world.

“The museum goesers definitely flocked to our booth to see the robot and the bomb suits,” said Bumgarner, an EOD team sergeant from Tuttle, Okla.

“We were bombarded with questions by tons of curious kids and adults

alike. Some knew of EOD already but many had no idea what we do in our profession and were all very interested in learning,” said Bumgarner. “The response was overwhelmingly positive as a whole and made for a very great event.”

The 760th EOD Company enables military operations around the world and covers domestic response mission across the northeastern United States.

The company is part of the 192nd EOD Battalion, 52nd EOD Group and 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command, the U.S. military’s premier multifunctional and deployable CBRNE formation.

From 19 bases in 16 states, Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command confront and defeat the world’s most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and multinational operations.

Held in the nation’s largest city for 36 years, New York City Fleet Week brings together U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and allied ships, along with other members of the U.S. military.

“Fleet Week is about celebrating those who serve and recognizing the unyielding strength of our Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard team,” recently said Rear Adm. Wesley McCall, the commander of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.

“Our service members are excited for the opportunity to engage the community and create lasting connections with the people of New York during this time-honored tradition,” said McCall.

This year, the Norfolk, Virginia-based Amphibious Assault Ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) made a port call in New York City for Fleet Week, along with several other U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard vessels and two German Navy ships.

[Read full story](#)

US Army EOD technicians participate in Exercise African Lion

TANTAN, Morocco – U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal techs trained with U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps personnel and members of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces during Exercise African Lion.

EOD techs from the Yakima Training Center, Washington-based 53rd Ordnance Company (EOD) participated in U.S. Africa Command's largest joint and combined exercise.

Hosted by Morocco, Ghana, Senegal and Tunisia, the exercise brought together more than 8,100 participants from 27 nations.

Led by the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa, for U.S. Africa Command, the exercise marked the 20th anniversary of the African Lion exercise series.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Quinton R. Reese, the 3rd platoon leader with the 53rd Ordnance Company (EOD), said EOD techs from his platoon supported the exercise.

"We trained alongside Moroccan Armed Forces counterparts in counter Weapons of Mass Destruction training as well as the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force in a first of its kind USMC-led Joint Unit Recovery Team course put on by the United States Marine Corps' only Personnel Retrieval and Processing Company focused on mortuary affairs."

EOD technicians protect the personnel recovery missions by mitigating explosive hazards, including mines, booby traps and damaged aircraft ejection seats.

Joint service EOD techs also support the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency during investigation and recovery missions around the world.

Reese said members of the 53rd EOD Company as well as a platoon of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces and a U.S. Air Force port support team qualified as Unit Recovery Teams and could earn a secondary military occupational specialty.

This would mirror the Marine Corps Personnel Retrieval and Processing



U.S. Army EOD technicians from the 53rd EOD Company trained with U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps personnel and members of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces during Exercise African Lion. Sgt. Joseph Meyers explains how to properly calibrate the CEIA metal detector for the soil to a class that included U.S. Marine Corps Personnel Retrieval Specialists. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Maj. John Schulten.



Technician occupational specialty.

Staff Sgt. John Thomas from Oakley, California; Sgt. Joseph Thomas Meyers from Surprise, Arizona; and Spc. Michael Holland from Dayton, Tennessee, certified to serve on the Unit Recovery Team following the personnel recovery training.

"The highlight of the training with the U.S. Marine Corps was the culminating exercise conducting a simulated recovery as a team," said Thomas.

Meyers said the personnel recovery training brings a new capability to the 53rd EOD Company.

"Being certified as a Unit Recovery Team member will aid not only the 53rd EOD Company but the EOD

force as a whole by providing a new capability when attached to other units in a deployed environment," said Meyers.

Reese said the EOD training scenarios were as realistic as possible for personnel recovery missions during large-scale combat operations.

A native of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Reese said he was inspired to serve as an Army EOD officer by a mentor from the 53rd EOD Company, the same company he serves in now.

The 53rd EOD Company is based at Yakima Training Center, Washington, a 327,000-acre training center that can accommodate brigade-sized units for maneuver exercises.

[Read full story](#)

US Army CBRNE command participates in exercise in Mexico



Exercise Fuerzas Amigas 2024 is an annual disaster-response exercise between the U.S. and Mexican militaries held from June 24-28 to strengthen partnerships and increase operational compatibility in the event of a cross-border humanitarian crisis. American Soldiers from the U.S. military's premier Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) command participated in a bilateral exercise with the Mexican Army in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, June 24 - 28. U.S. Air Force photos by Cathryn Lindsay.

CUIDAD JUAREZ, Mexico – American Soldiers from the U.S. Department of Defense's premier Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) command participated in a bilateral exercise with the Mexican Army in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, June 24 - 28.

Soldiers from the Fort Riley, Kansas-

based 172nd Chemical Company (Hazard Response) supported Exercise Fuerzas Amigas.

The U.S. Army Chemical Company Soldiers were among the approximately 220 U.S. troops and 300 troops from the Mexican Armed Forces who participated in the annual exercise.

The annual Theater Security Cooperation exercise was designed to strengthen the military-to-military partnership between the United States and Mexico.

U.S. Army North served as the Joint Force Land Component Command and maintained operational control of the exercise.

Part of U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Army North conducts defense of North America exercises and security cooperation activities to increase readiness and deter strategic competitors.

The exercise included command and control synchronization, chemical decontamination, mass casualty triage, evacuation and search and rescue training.

U.S. Army Hazard Response companies conduct Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) reconnaissance, surveillance and decontamination operations with conventional and Special Forces around the world and provide support to civil authorities across the nation.

The 172nd Chemical Company is assigned to the 2nd Chemical Battalion, 48th Chemical Brigade and 20th CBRNE Command.

Headquartered on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, in Northeast Maryland's science, technology and security corridor, the multifunctional and deployable 20th CBRNE Command is home to 75 percent of the active-duty U.S. Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians and CBRN specialists, as well as the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity, Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Teams and Nuclear Disablement Teams (Infrastructure).

Soldiers and Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command deploy from 19 bases in 16 states to confront and defeat the world's most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and multinational operations.

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NATO troops conduct live-agent training exercise in Canada

CANADIAN FORCES BASE SUFFIELD, Alberta, Canada – NATO forces recently honed their skills during live-agent chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) training at Exercise Precise Response on Canadian Forces Base Suffield in Alberta, Canada.

CBRN troops from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States trained together at the Suffield Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) site.

The Chemical Weapons Convention Team from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons also participated in the exercise.

American Soldiers from the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command's 46th Chemical Company (Technical Escort), 10th Chemical Company (Hazard Response) and 1st Area Medical Laboratory represented the U.S. Army in the exercise.

The Fort Bliss, Texas-based 46th Chemical Company (Technical Escort) and Fort Carson, Colorado-based 10th Chemical Company (Hazard Response) are part of the 22nd Chemical Battalion, 48th Chemical Brigade and 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. Department of Defense's premier deployable and multi-functional CBRNE command.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven K. Cutlip, the assistant team leader of a CBRNE Response Team in the 46th Chemical Company, said the exercise forged stronger bonds with NATO allies and allowed junior Soldiers to expand their perspective during a full profile CBRN mission.

"Precise Response 2024 really helped open our minds to more approaches when conducting Sensitive Site Assessments and Exploitations, sampling operations and decontamination operations," said Cutlip. "Other nations allowed U.S. Soldiers to observe their training and this enabled us to add or remove some tactics when executing our mission essential tasks."



During Exercise Precise Response, Dr. Carmela Jackson Lepage, PhD, a Defence Scientist at the Defence R&D Canada Suffield Research Centre, oversees safety and mentors Sgt. Chantia Dennis and Sgt. Bashiru Alhassan from the 1st Area Medical Laboratory while they process a chemical warfare agent sample for theater validation of the presumptive results reported by the NATO Sample Identification Biological Chemical Radiological Agents (SIBCRA) team. Courtesy photo.

Cutlip said his team took advantage of the expertise at Canadian Forces Base Suffield.

"The complexity of the targets, space to have equipment preparation, being collocated with NATO allies, having subject matter experts and scientists on ground to answer those hard questions made the Canadian Forces Base Suffield the ideal location for the training exercise," said Cutlip.

The 1st Area Medical Laboratory is assigned to the 44th Medical Brigade and 20th CBRNE Command.

Sgt. Chantia Dennis, a Medical Laboratory Specialist, performed laboratory identification during the annual exercise.

Dennis said training with live agents provided a new perspective on the importance of her mission enabling and lifesaving profession.

"Unpackaging chemical agent samples from a diverse set of transport systems was challenging and unex-

pected," said Dennis. "They were all different."

Maj. Suzanne E. Mate, the chief of the 1st Area Medical Laboratory Chemical Threat Assessment section, said the exercise gave her Soldiers the opportunity to validate their skills.

"As a leader, seeing the growth in confidence and competence of the Soldiers by the end of the exercise and receiving validation of their expertise by our DRDC cadre was the highlight of the exercise," said Mate.

Mate said the exercise helped to prepare her team for deployments.

"Precise Response was tough, challenging and realistic training. The Precise Response exercise design simulated real-world deployment preparation and execution for CBRNE mission with integration into a NATO operational workflow," said Mate. "We will work with these NATO partners downrange if deployed to a European theater."

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Command supports Ulchi Freedom Shield in South Korea



routine and defensive-oriented exercise designed to strengthen security on the Korean Peninsula and stability in Northeast Asia.

The exercise integrated live training and constructive simulations that brought together South Korean, U.S. and multinational member states.

The training events focused on conducting multi-domain operations leveraging land, sea, air, cyber and space assets and non-kinetic effects.

20th CBRNE Command Soldiers and Army civilians deploy from 19 bases in 16 states to confront and defeat the world's most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and multinational operations.

Soldiers and Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command routinely deploy to South Korea for exercises and send a Chemical Corps company to support rotational forces.

One of the 20th CBRNE Command's Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Team supported the exercise.

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Derek N. Lipson, Special Operations Command-Korea commander, presented Soldiers from the WCT with the Korea Service Defense Medal for their service during the exercise.

Maj. Steven M. Modugno, 20th CBRNE Command public affairs director, said the 20th CBRNE Command routinely trains with South Korean CBRN Defense Command forces on the Korean Peninsula and at combat training centers in the United States.

"It is always an honor to train together with ROK military partners during exercises on the Korean Peninsula," said Modugno, a native of Santa Clarita, California, who previously served with the South Korea-based 2nd Infantry Division. "For more than 70 years, U.S. troops have proudly stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our South Korean allies on Freedom's Frontier and defended liberty together."

[Read full story](#)



American Soldiers from the 59th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Company (Hazardous Response) "Mountain Dragons" are bolstering the Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance combined defense posture during a rotational deployment near the Korean Demilitarized Zone. Courtesy file photos.

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea – The U.S. military's premier deployable and multifunctional Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) command participated in Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS) 24 in South Korea, Aug. 19 - 29.

Soldiers and Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command trained with Eighth Army and Combined Forces Command units during the exercise.

Conducted to strengthen Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance, UFS 24 is a