

# NBC training has new importance

By Sgt. First Class  
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4/100th Chemical Battalion

The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Eric K. Shinseki, foresees in his "Army Vision" a variety of missions for the Army, including conflicts involving the potential use of weapons of mass destruction. This means that U.S. armed forces could face combat in a nuclear, biological or chemical environment. The events of September 11 and our country's response to it have placed significant emphasis on an encounter with NBC weapons. With an understanding of these weapons, along with proper training, our military personnel can be capable of surviving, fighting and winning in a hostile environment contaminated with nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

The 100th Division, by virtue of its mission to provide quality military training, teaches soldiers occupational skills that enhance the commander's ability to make decisions that ensure his unit survives in an NBC environment, wins in combat, and accomplishes its mission. The 4th Battalion of the 3rd Brigade, Huntsville, Ala., trains and qualifies soldiers in the 54B Chemical military occupational specialty.

The battalion is under the command of Lt. Col. A. Wayne Carter and Command Sgt. Maj. John J. Perry. It trains and qualifies soldiers in the 54B10 and 54B20/30 skill levels, with courses in general NBC training and in the Biological Integrated Detection System. The unit provides all instructors and materiel needed to conduct all phases of training in these skills.

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Lt. Col. A. Wayne Carter  
*Battalion commander*

When Carter took command in July 2001 he was acutely aware of the significance of his new assignment.

"The 4th of the 100th has always been a high-speed, train-to-standards unit," he said, "but since September 11th of last year, we've shifted into an even higher gear to meet the special needs of our customer units within the 100th Division's area of responsibility."

The unit's aggressive schedule is evidenced by the number of back-to-back missions it has received since September 11, 2001. When the attacks occurred, the unit was already on a training mission at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. By the time it completed that mission and returned home, the battalion had already received requests from the 81st Regional Support Command to train and qualify soldiers of the 310th, 318th and the 326th chemical companies, who had recently been activated and were scheduled to deploy to support the war on terrorism. The

4/100 quickly activated staff and instructors, and accepted the challenge.

Teaching large numbers of students is nothing new to the staff and instructors (called "Dragon Soldiers") of the 4/100. During annual training 2002 at Fort Leonard Wood, the unit completed the final qualification phase of the NBC course and graduated almost 200 soldiers in the 54B chemical MOS. That is the largest number of students ever taught by a chemical TASS (The Army School System) battalion on that installation.

In acknowledgement of the unit's accomplishments, last summer the U.S. Army's Chemical School's TASS Accreditation Team presented the 4/100 with the "Chemical TASS Superior Performance Award" — a 20-pound crystal trophy — for fiscal year 2002. The unit finished in front of six other battalions.

Additionally, a recent article in the spring 2002 issue of Army Reserve Magazine recognized the 4/100's BIDS detachment as the Army's leader in training soldiers in Biological Integrated Detection System.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Perry, the reason the 4th Battalion is able to meet its challenges and accomplish its missions goes beyond the efforts and hard work of the soldiers of the unit.

"An important reason the 4th Battalion is so successful," he said, "is because the families of our soldiers are also considered part of the unit. We accomplished our multiple 'pop-up' missions, in large part, due to the support of the families of our

See **CHEMICAL**  
on the next page