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# RED DRAGON REPORT

## ***2018 Red Dragons Gathering***

**August 8-12 Fort Campbell, KY**

Fort Campbell is the station of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Chemical Company "Dragon Masters," who will join us for several events. It's important for these soldiers to meet the senior veterans, especially those from Korea and Desert Storm, to show them the history that makes "Red Dragon" such a proud name. There will also be a contingent from Fort Hood.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO**

**ONE** Make your hotel reservations no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be at the Riverview Inn, 50 College St., Clarksville, TN about 12 miles from the Fort. Call 931-552-9331 or 877-487-4837. BE SURE to say you are with the Red Dragons in order to get our special rate of \$98.00 for a king or two double beds.

**TWO** Send me money! By July 1, please send a check for \$20 per person to cover the banquet, hospitality room, refreshments, etc. Send your check to

Red Dragons Association  
1455 Spanish Lakes Ave  
St. Gabriel, LA 70776

**THREE** Bring your "Sunday go to meetin'" clothes for the Memorial Banquet.

**FOUR** Bring small items to donate for the raffle on Friday night.

## Gathering Schedule – Guests welcome at any time

- Wed 8 Aug Noon early arrivals – hang out in Dragon’s Lair
- Thu 9 Aug 0900 Visit 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Museum  
1400 Battalion 101-year history brief  
1730 Reception – active duty chats with veterans
- Fri 10 Aug 1000 Program to be determined  
1730 Social time  
1800 Memorial Banquet, Fireshot, Raffle
- Sat 11 Aug Visit to MB Roland Distillery

## Texas Chapter Formed for Chemical Corps Regimental Association



The Lone Star Dragon Chapter of the Chemical Corps Regimental Association held its inaugural meeting in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriot Courtyard hotel here Friday evening.

The chapter, with more than 80 members and hoping to grow, draws its members from Army Chemical Corps Soldiers, retirees and

veterans from throughout the state according to the chapter president, retired Col. Mike Brown.

Brown said the establishment of a Chemical Corps association chapter in the Fort Hood area, home to the 48th Chemical Brigade, provides a means to connect today’s troops with those who went before them, Army veterans and retirees, so that past lessons learned aren’t lost through the years. He

added that the chapter, with three distinct districts - Fort Hood, San Antonio and Fort Bliss also plans to do all it can to assist Army families within its ranks. Needless to say, a large share of the membership is current or former Red Dragons.

## **Norm DeRosier Memorial Financial Report**

Balance YE 2016	\$ 276.65
Donations	\$ 12,105.00
Other expense (net)	\$ (1,182.87)
Reunion Expense	\$(11,260.93)
Reunion Income	\$ 2,545.00
Coins	\$ (1,162.00)
	\$ 1,320.85

## **Bob McGeorge Awarded Bronze Star**

At the Centennial gathering, a long overdue Bronze Star was awarded to Mr. Robert McGeorge, for his service in Korea in 1953. Bob served in the C Company communications section with effectiveness and efficiency, making wire runs of as much as 10 miles in all kinds of weather conditions, in the dark and often under fire. On the night of July 13-14, 1953 C Company's positions were over run. Bob repeatedly left the shelter of HQ to go up the mountain in the dark, subject to being shot by North Koreans or by jumpy South Koreans who were in full retreat. He maintained the lines so well that when B Company lost their communications, they were able to tap into C Company's net and continue firing. Bob's award was presented by BG William E. King, IV.



## Report on 2017 Reunion - Branson

2017 was the Centennial gathering of the Red Dragons – 100 years after the formation of our parent unit, the 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment. In the preceding two days the Battalion Soldiers and Leaders trekked through the hills of Pea Ridge, AK, studying the Civil War battle that was fought there.

Afterwards, the active duty Red Dragons joined up with Korean War and Desert Storm veterans in Branson, MO. Past and present Red Dragons exchanged history and stories learning a great deal about the proud heritage from those two wars and what the Battalion is doing today. A historical presentation and museum display also covered World Wars I and II. The occasion included a trip to Fort Leonard Wood where select Red Dragons attended the Chemical Corps Annual Ball as well as an intimate memorial dedication walk where flowers were laid on the monuments to Red Dragons fallen in three wars.

At the Memorial Banquet, the Soldiers honored our fallen Red Dragon comrades in reading the names of those who died in Korea. The evening included a revival of a fifty-year old custom – drinking from the muzzle of a 4.2 inch mortar. Participants in what is now called the “Fireshot” ceremony ranged from the most junior private first-class to BG William E. King, IV, Commanding General of the 20<sup>th</sup> CBRNE Command.



A group picture at the 2017 Red Dragon Centennial

Wreath Laying  
Remembrance



# Red Dragons Support Hurricane Harvey Relief

In the severe flooding of Southeast Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, 75 Red Dragons were detached for duty bringing relief supplies to the stricken areas. Delivery was made with organic transport, and with air transport to outlying areas. Facilities were minimal, with the team bedding down some nights in a parking garage, and other nights on the hallway floors of a local high school. Soldiers and leaders were moved by the devastation and suffering they encountered, and were very satisfied to participate in this most important mission.



Red Dragons on the Harvey Relief mission bivouac in a parking garage

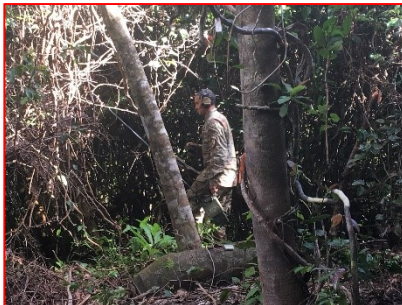
Soldiers unload cases of water at a Red Cross delivery point

# Red Dragons Charged with Key Mission in Panama

When abandoned chemical munitions were found on San Jose Island, Panama, the Army gave the mission of neutralizing them to forty soldiers and leaders from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chemical Battalion. The 8 unexploded bombs, from a 1940s Army testing ground, contained phosgene and CK gas. The 500 lbs bombs were detonated in place, to cut open the casings, set off the internal burster tubes to mitigate the known existing explosive and chemical hazards. The mission occurred in the supposed rainy season in September and October as agreed to between the countries of Panama and the U.S. as well as treaty protocols of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Rain and a saturated tree canopy would help to mitigate how much chemical agent gasses would be released into the air. Video cameras left in position showed that upon detonation, the gas hazard covered hundreds of yards in the jungle and impacted the localized environment as expected. Despite handling of hazardous agents and explosives, not a single injury occurred during the mission.



Preparing for Post-Detonation Re-Entry



Conducting Final Pre-Detonation Checks



# TAPS

Name	Service	Date of Death
Woodcock, Thomas	1952-3	24 Aug 2012
Harvie, Chester T.	1953	26 Nov 2012
Matkoskey, Charles	5/50-5/51	27 Oct 2016
Caplan, Sidney	Med '42-'45	20 Sep 2016
Questel, John	2/52-11/52	31 Mar 2017
Wiltfeuer, Robert H.	3/49-10/51	19 Jul 2017
Guerin, Thomas J	C: WW II	11 Aug 2005
Rowe, Lee A.	A '42-'45	29 Dec 2010

Compiling the annual TAPS is a bittersweet experience for me. Many of the names are friends of mine, friends I have seen at Red Dragon gatherings over decades. I know a lot about the time they spent as warriors, and something of their lives as husbands, fathers, and breadwinners.

Others I never met, but I know about them from men they served with and from worn documents in the National Archives.



I miss them all, friends or not. Their deaths diminish me, but their memories lift me up. Now I am the keeper of their memories, and they will live as long as I share their stories with others.

Walt Eldredge

***FREEDOM IS NOT FREE***

Red Dragons Veterans Association  
1455 Spanish Lake Ave  
Saint Gabriel, LA 70776-5331

