CHEMICAL CORPS BRIEFS

CHEMICAL CORPS ORGANIZATION

It is understood that the Chief Chemical Officer intends to appoint a Committee to study and make recommendations to him in regard to the organization and functions of the Chemical Corps, the Committee to be selected principally from leaders in industry or education. Among the specific matters for inquiry are the following:

1. Whether the assigned missions of the Chemical Corps should be enlarged or contracted.
2. The feasibility of conducting portions of the program by contractual means with industrial, scientific and educational institutions.
3. Changes aimed at strengthening the organization and improving the operation of the Office of the Chief Chemical Officer.
4. Corps-wide organizational changes with a view to delegation of greater responsibility to key assistants.

ABOLISH UNIT GAS OFFICER POSITIONS

New regulations abolishing the positions of unit CBR officers and CBR non-commissioned officers, formerly designated as unit gas officers, were referred to by Maj. Gen. Charles E. Loucks, Deputy Chief Chemical Officer in addressing the 1954 graduating class in the advanced course in the Chemical Corps School at Ft. McClellan, Alabama, last June. He spoke of this change as having resulted from approximately two years study and commented that the responsibility for training and readiness for operations in respect to CBR has now been more definitely placed upon troop commanders. General Loucks also noted that recent instructions from the Department of the Army direct CBR training be included in all Army training programs, including field exercises and maneuvers.

General Loucks told the graduates that the future of the Chemical Corps rests largely upon them, stating, “it will in fact depend very much upon you whether it is we or our enemies who first produce new developments and bring them to military effectiveness.”

GEN. BURNS TO HEAD R&E

The Chemical Corps has announced that Brig. Gen. John R. Burns, Chief of the Chemical Corps Training Command with headquarters at Ft. McClellan, Alabama, will assume command of the Army Chemical Center and the Chemical Corps Research and Engineering Command on September 1.

Other announced changes include: Col. William R. Currie, now Deputy, to replace Gen. Burns as head of the Training Command; Col. William R. Sullivan to the office of the Chief Chemical Officer as Executive Officer, replacing Col. DeLancey R. King, who has a new assignment in the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 Logistics, Department of the Army.

ARMY SAFETY AWARD

ARMY CHEMICAL CENTER, MD. For its low accident frequency rate for the year 1953, as compared to the average accident and injury rates for 1951 and 1952, and its all-around accident prevention program, the Army Chemical Center received the Department of the Army Award of Merit for Safety.

The 1953 accident rate reflected a reduction of 36 over the two previous years.

Although this is the first time the Chemical Center has received the Department of the Army award, last year two other safety awards were received, one from the National Safety Council and the other from the Armed Forces Chemical Association.

DR. KATZ RETIRES

ARMY CHEMICAL CENTER, MD.—Forty years of Government service without a day of sick leave is the unique record held by Dr. Sidney M. Katz, former consultant at the Chemical Corps Chemical & Radiological Laboratories, Army Chemical Center, Md.

Dr. Katz retired in May this year after serving at the Chemical Center 25 of his 40 years a federal employee. At a retirement ceremony he received a letter of appreciation for his valuable service presented by Maj. General William M. Creasy, Chief Chemical Officer, who was then the Army Chemical Center Commander.

PHOSPHATE WORKS AT MUSCLE SHOALS

In a recent statement released to the press, Maj. General William M. Creasy, Chief Chemical Officer, Department of the Army, disclosed that the classified Army Chemical Corps Plant located on the TVA Wilson Dam Reservation at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, is engaged in the manufacture of chemical compounds used in the production of nerve gas, popularly known as G gas. It has previously been announced that such gas is being made at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Denver, Colorado.

This plant presently known as the Muscle Shoals Phosphate Development Works, was started in late 1950 and completed in 1953 at an approximate cost of $50,000,000. It was designed by the Viron Corporation of America and constructed by the Southern Constructors under the supervision of the Corps of Engineers.

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