OFFICER # 1:

The Army is steeped in customs and traditions. One of its greatest traditions is to honor those great soldiers who have gone before us and the therefore the history of our Regiment. These brave soldiers can be honored in many ways; but at functions such as these we participate in tonight, there exists a solemn ritual that has grown throughout the years and continues to grow as time goes on. The ritual is the making of the Regimental Punch. This tradition honors the deeds and accomplishments, indeed the very heart of our past by adding a beverage from each major battle, campaign, and major accomplishment the Regiment has participated in since its conception.

_Name of Senior Officer_, with your permission, we will prepare the Chemical Corps Regimental punch for the enjoyment of the assembled mess.

SENIOR OFFICER:

You may prepare the Regimental Punch.

OFFICER # 1

Every military Regiment is conceived, then gestates, and matures. The Chemical Corps’ conception was forged in a hard time, a dangerous time,
WHEN OUR NATION DISCOVERED IT WASN'T PREPARED. THE ENTIRE WORLD HAD PLUNGED INTO MORTAL COMBAT AND NOW OUR YOUNG NAIVE NATION JOINED IN THE FRAY OF WORLD WAR I, AND A NEW TYPE OF WARFARE, GAS WARFARE! CHLORINE, PHOSGENE, AND A NEW LIQUID CALLED MUSTARD WERE BEING USED IN EUROPE. THE UNITED STATES WAS TO SUPPORT ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND OTHER ALLIED NATIONS AGAINST THE AXIS POWERS. TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THIS NEW TYPE OF WARFARE THE NATION CONCEIVED THE 30TH ENGINEER REGIMENT (GAS AND FLAME), LATTER TO BE RENAMED THE FIRST GAS REGIMENT. IT WAS ESTABLISHED AT CAMP AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON D.C. IN THE SUMMER OF 1917. IN HONOR OF OUR CONCEPTION AND BIRTH WE ESTABLISH THE BASE OF OUR PUNCH. THE BASE MUST BE STRONG AND WORTHY OF OUR NOBLE BEGINNINGS. WE THEREFORE START WITH A FINE AMERICAN BOURBON SIPPING WHISKEY, A BEVERAGE ONLY MADE IN THE UNITED STATES.

OFFICER # 2:

OFFICER # 1:
UPON ITS ARRIVAL IN EUROPE WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, THE 1ST GAS REGIMENT WAS ILL EQUIPPED AND UNTRAINED. THE BRITISH SPECIAL BRIGADE BROUGHT THIS FLEDGLING UNIT UNDER ITS WING; NURTURING, TRAINING, AND FORMING IT INTO A HEADSTRONG CHILD THAT WANTED TO PROVIDE THE BEST COMBAT SUPPORT IT COULD FOR AMERICAN COMMANDERS WHO EVEN THEN DID NOT TOTALLY APPRECIATE US FOR WHAT WE WERE AND WHAT WE COULD DO FOR THEM. IN HONOR OF THIS MATURATION PROCESS WITH THE BRITISH ARMY, WE ADD AN APPROPRIATE BEVERAGE
THAT IS WELL KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE FORMER EMPIRE WHERE THE SUN NEVER SET.
WE ADD A BOTTLE OF ENGLISH GIN.

OFFICER # 2:
"WHEN THE AMERICAN ARMY ARRIVED IN FRANCE ALL THE IMPORTANT GASES AND THE
PRINCIPAL MEANS FOR PROJECTING THEM HAD ALREADY BEEN DEVISED. BASIC GAS
DEFENSE DOCTRINE, AS WELL AS, INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE PROTECTIVE MEASURES
AGAINST GAS ATTACK HAD BECOME FAIRLY WELL ESTABLISHED AND STANDARDIZED.
(YET THE AMERICAN ARMY) . . . WAS UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO USE A WEAPON
WHOLLY NEW TO ITS TRADITION AND EXPERIENCE AND WAS ENCOURAGED IN ITS
RELUCTANCE BY THE INITIAL DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING ANY QUANTITY OF GAS SHELLS
FROM THE FRENCH. BUT THE ARMY DISCOVERED BY EXPERIENCE THAT GAS COULD
ONLY BE COUNTERED BY GAS, AND THROUGH SHEER NECESSITY LEARNED TO USE IT."
Rexmon C. Cochrane, Historian for the Chief Chemical Officer, 1958

OFFICER # 1:
WORLD WAR I WAS Fought ON FRENCH SOIL; THE CAMPAIGNS THE REGIMENT FOUGHT
IN HAVE FRENCH NAMES SUCH AS LORRAINE, AISNE-MARNE, ST MIHIEL, AND MEUSE-
ARRGONNE; AND THE FIRST TOXIC CHEMICAL FIRE MISSION THE REGIMENT FIRED WAS
FOR THE FRENCH ARMY. NEARLY SIX HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT LOST
THEIR LIVES ON FRENCH SOIL. IN HONOR OF OUR VERY CLOSE TIES WITH THE FRENCH
AND OUR COMRADES WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE ON FRENCH SOIL, WE
REVERENTLY ADD A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE.

OFFICER # 2:
"IN THE BRIEF TIME IT WAS DEPLOYED, THE 1ST GAS REGIMENT NEVER MATCHED THE
SOPHISTICATION OF THE BRITISH SPECIAL BRIGADE, BUT, THE REGIMENT MADE
SUPERHUMAN EFFORTS TO MEET ARMY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE’S NEEDS AND MOVED
THEIR STOKES MORTARS WITH ADVANCING INFANTRY RATHER THAN REMAIN IN THE
TRENCHES, AS THE BRITISH DID. WHILE TEMPORARILY ATTACHED TO THE XXXII
FRENCH CORPS, THE REGIMENT CONDUCTED ITS FIRST INDEPENDENT OPERATION. AT
2230, seven hundred 8-inch Livens projectors, emplaced the night before and loaded with sixty-pound drums of phosgene, were fired at two targets located 1,500 meters away.”


OFFICER # 1:

The War to End all Wars didn’t and the world again found itself in conflict with the same Axis powers. The nation again had to call upon its young men and women. It also needed the services of the Regiment, which between the wars had become a true branch in the Army. Chemical units were found on all fronts in direct combat support roles. Between the wars, America had resolved to deter the use of chemical weapons, so the Chemical Corps developed its own weapon system, the 4.2 inch mortar to deliver an arsenal of chemical weapons upon any enemy who dared use them on U.S. soldiers. The European theater saw the introduction of the first mechanical smoke generators and the first use of incendiary devices to attack vital enemy installations. In honor of our regiment’s service in the European Theater of Operations, we add a bottle of Brandy.

OFFICER # 2

"The 4.2 chemical mortars are marvelous weapons. After we had a platoon attached to the battalion, I was scared to death they would take them away from us and attach them to some other outfit; the demand for them was so great. The Germans were deathly afraid of them and the prisoners told us that they thought they were some kind of new secret weapon like an automatic cannon, because they had such tremendous effect and could be fired so rapidly. I do not recommend that they be made organic in the infantry. I much prefer that we have attached chemical troops like we had in Sicily. Their cooperation and proficiency was all anyone could ask for. We shall always want a platoon attached to us, and we think that the best results are obtained by cooperative, attached units like we had. Without
EXAGGERATION, I WOULD SAY THE 4.2 IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE SINGLE WEAPON USED IN SUPPORT OF INFANTRY I HAVE EVER SEEN. WE HAVE YET TO SEE AN ENEMY POSITION THAT WAS TENABLE WHEN WE FIRED ON IT WITH WP AND HE FROM THIS MORTAR. THEY CAN REACH INTO ALMOST PERFECTLY DEFILADED POSITIONS, AND THEIR EFFECT IS DEVASTATING. . ."

LTC PATTERTON, COMMANDER, 3RD BATTALION, 180TH INFANTRY REGIMENT,

OFFICER # 1


OFFICER # 2:

"THE GAS ATTACKS OF WORLD WAR I DID NOT RECUR, BUT THE CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE WAS IN THE POSITION OF BEING READY FOR A TYPE OF WAR THAT DID NOT HAPPEN. THUS THE CWS, THE ONLY TECHNICAL SERVICE HAVING COMBAT TROOPS ARMED WITH WEAPONS IT HAD SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR ITSELF, WAS FORCED TO SHOW ITS FLEXIBILITY. THE SERVICE SOUGHT TO FULFILL ITS SUPPORTING ROLE WITH SMOKE, FLAME AND INCENDIARIES’ WITH 4.2-INCH MORTAR AND FLAME THROWER; AND HAVING NO GAS TO CONTEND WITH, ITS DECONTAMINATION COMPANIES PROVIDED FRONT-LINE TROOPS WITH THE MEANS FOR SIMPLE PHYSICAL CLEANLINESS. . . THE FLEXIBILITY AND INGENUITY DEMANDED OF CHEMICAL TROOPS IN WORLD WAR II. . ."
ARE, OF COURSE, QUALITIES THAT MILITARY MEN HAVE AND WILL ALWAYS FIND ESSENTIAL.”


OFFICER # 1:

World War II marked the end of one era and began another. The nuclear era and with it the Cold War brought new concepts to warfighting and new missions to the Chemical Corps. No one expected to fight in Korea, but it happened and the Chemical Corps was called on again. The mountainous terrain of Korea required the abilities of the 4.2 mortar and the screening capabilities of the mechanical smoke generator. Chemical Soldiers provided continuous support for UN Forces from the Pusan perimeter to the Yalu and back to the 38th parallel. One of the Corps’ units spent more time in the line than any combat unit during the defense of the Pusan perimeter. In honor of our heroic service in the Korean War we add Soju, the drink of the Korean People.

OFFICER # 2:

"We are fighting mostly against the Chinese now, as the North Korean units are broken badly... These Chinese are well equipped with small arms, automatic weapons, and mortars. The Chinese usually attack down draws and bottoms, and in covering these approaches our mortars have done their best work. The Chinese take terrific losses, but they keep on coming. Our mortar men get into frequent small-arms fights." - - 13 Nov 1950

"I feel very strongly that if the Chemical Corps is to continue to have chemical Mortar battalions, it should procure and train the correct type of combat officer for this duty. I would not give a tinker’s damn if such an officer did not know one end of a test tube from another, but I would insist that he have a thorough knowledge of infantry organization, tactics, and
WEAPONS. I WOULD NOT CARE ABOUT A COLLEGE DEGREE IF THE OFFICER HAD THE WILL TO FIGHT." --31 DEC 1950.

LETTERS FROM LTC EDGAR V.H. BELL, COMMANDER, 2D CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION TO MG E.F. BULLENE, CHIEF CHEMICAL OFFICER, U.S. ARMY

OFFICER # 1:
THE 60’S AND 70’S FOUND AMERICAN FORCES DEEP WITHIN THE TROPICAL INTERIORS OF VIETNAM. THERE, CHEMICAL SOLDIERS PLANNED AND EXECUTED AERIAL DEFOLIATION MISSIONS AND USED CS GAS TO ROUT AN OFTEN ELUSIVE AND UNIDENTIFIABLE ENEMY FROM TUNNELS AND FORESTS IN THE STEAMING, DARK JUNGLE. VIETNAM SAW THE LARGE-SCALE USE OF FLAME FIELD EXPEDIENTS AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICES TO PROTECT AMERICAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. TO COMMEMORATE THE CORPS’ ROLE IN VIETNAM, WE CHOOSE THE SOLDIER’S FAVORITE - BUDWEISER.

OFFICER # 2:
“OUR EQUIPMENT WAS A .45 PISTOL, JUNGLE FATIGUES AND BOOTS, A FLOPPY HAT, A FLASHLIGHT, A KNIFE, CS PROTECTIVE MASK, AND A GRAPPLING HOOK AND PARACHUTE CORD. THE CORD AND HOOK WERE USED TO MOVE EQUIPMENT WE FOUND TO INSURE IT WASN’T BOOBYTRAPPED. COMING OUT OF THE TUNNEL WAS DANGEROUS, TOO. A LITTLE GUY STRIPPED TO THE WAIST AND COVERED IN DIRT COULD EASILY BE MISTAKEN FOR A VC AND SHOT BY HIS OWN SIDE. WE TOOK TO WHISTLING “DIXIE” AS WE EMERGED JUST TO LET THE TROOPS ON THE SURFACE KNOW WE WERE ON THEIR SIDE. WE DIDN’T THINK THE VC COULD WHISTLE “DIXIE.” EXPLORING TUNNELS IN VIETNAM WAS DIRTY BUSINESS, BUT WHEN WE WALKED THROUGH THE FRONT GATE [BACK AT BASE CAMP] WE WERE ALWAYS LOOKING GOOD LIKE GOOD DRAGON SOLDIERS, STANDING TALL.”
- MSGT LOUIS MORRISON, 28 JULY 1968
OFFICER # 1:
A changing political climate and declining perception of the threat after Vietnam led to a decision in March of 1973 to disestablish the Chemical Corps as a branch of the Army. But before the action was completed, recognition of the growing global chemical threat caused its reversal. The lessons learned from the 1973 war between Israel and Egypt revealed the emphasis the Soviet Union had placed on chemical warfare and United States remembered what Black Jack Pershing said at the close of World War I. He had said, "Whether or not gas will be employed in future wars is a matter of conjecture, but the effect is so deadly to the unprepared that we can never afford to neglect the question." The Army re-evaluated the United States’ chemical posture and capabilities. As a result, in 1976, the Secretary of the Army withdrew his earlier recommendation to disestablish the Chemical Corps and in July of that same year, the Army’s Chief of Staff authorized the resumption of commissioning officers in the Chemical Corps. To honor this occasion, we add a bottle of Jeremiah Weed, the Official Liqueur of the Regiment to the Punch.

OFFICER # 2:
"It is almost a public admission by the Army that they made a mistake when they inactivated it and now they are activating it again. In the early 1970s, the Army made a historic mistake when some of the do-gooder politicians decided we could do away with chemical warfare by inactivating units. We found that is not the case. We need chemical decontamination specialists; we need smoke generator specialists; this moment of activation today signifies that the Army realizes that."
COL William T McLean, Commander, 13 SUPCOM, 1 Sep 1981 on the occasion of the activation of the 2d Chemical Battalion
OFFICER # 1:
The Regiment was again called upon to serve the Nation in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. It was at the very "point of the spear" as the United States began ground offensive operations to liberate Kuwait. Elements of the Regiment were at the breach with the 1st Infantry Division ahead of the combat forces providing smoke, decon, and recon support; multiplying the 'Big Red One's" combat power. Others were with the 3d Armored Division as it took part in the exploitation to destroy the Republican Guard Divisions. Others were with the Screaming Eagles as they to venerate the members of the Battalion who fought in those operations and to share in their experience, we add a bottle of the water.

OFFICER # 2:
"All we could do was assume the worst. We didn't have time to be scared for ourselves; we were too concerned about our 100-plus soldiers. Everything was so fast and furious at the time, and the tanks were moving fast. The soldiers ended up processing over 500 POWs.

CPT Brian Butler, Commander 46th Chemical Co, at the close of the War

OFFICER # 1:
After 11 September 2001, the United States was plunged into what some are now calling World War III. America’s Joint Military Might began it’s Global War on Terrorism by taking the fight to the very individuals that started it in Afghanistan and then to Iraq to liberate it’s people and stem the growing tide of Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferation. The Regiment’s involvement has been one the keys to our successes Afganistan, Iraq, other actions related to this Global War on Terrorism, the protection of our military installations, and the protection of the populace of this great nation. To honor our actions to date in this crusade, we add a cup of strong Middle Eastern tea.
OFFICER # 2:

“The Corps’ Chemical Battalion was superbly prepared to respond to respond to the nuclear, biological and chemical threat that never materialized. Although not called upon to operate in their traditional mission profile, the “Dragon Soldiers” became the unit of choice for no loss critical missions in support of the Corps. From command and control of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) HET upload to escorting convoys, to establishing a comprehensive outreach (program) to the Iraqi community. This unit always stepped forward with the leadership, organization and discipline to accomplish the mission. In every task, the “Dragon Soldiers” reflected a positive and cooperative attitude that ensured success. BG Charles Fletcher, Commander 3d COSCOM, 2003.

OFFICER # 1:

[Address the Senior Officer], the punch is nearly complete, yet not quite. It contains tokens of the past, but lacks the ingredients that make our Corps and our soldiers unique - the elements of the battlefield.

To pay tribute to those who have preceded us and to honor those who represent the Corps today, we must add the finishing touches to the Sacred Punch.

The dragon’s fire remains the most intimidating weapon on the battlefield. A touch of flame to light the way . . . (add Tabasco)
The dragon’s breath gives the maneuver force the decisive edge. Smoke hides and deceives, it teases and taunts. A smattering of fog oil to fuel the fight . . . (add Karo syrup)

Water and ash neutralize the effects of the poisons of war. Diligent and determined, decon keeps the killers in the fight. A token bit of STB to ensure purity . . . (add powdered sugar)
[ADDRESS THE SENIOR OFFICER], SIR THE ELEMENTS ARE PRESENT AND IN THE CORRECT PROPORTIONS. THE PUNCH IS NOW COMPLETE AND READY FOR CONSUMPTIONS.