

# New Warrant Officer Program

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – The Army is scheduled to announce in May a new warrant officer program for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear Soldiers.

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## Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear School (CBRN) starts new Warrant Officer program in 2010

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The U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., proposed the creation of the CBRN Warrant Officer Military Occupational Specialty to provide the Army with the CBRN technical experience at all levels of command.

To create a CBRN warrant officer program, the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School proposed the conversion of certain CBRN officer authorizations in exchange for CBRN warrant officer positions. This allows the Chemical Corps to include Warrant Officers in their professional development model.

Implementing the CBRN warrant officer program requires the Chemical officer branch to convert 13 percent of its positions to warrant officer positions, ultimately decreasing the number of Branch Detail officers accessed by 30-50 percent. These officer conversions apply to all three components: Active Duty, National Guard and Army Reserve. The adjustment provides an increased opportunity for many CBRN lieutenants to serve in platoon leader positions that previously were filled by branch detail officers.

Over a five year period (from fiscal years 2010-2015), converted Active Duty and National Guard lieutenant positions will impact both non-Chemical and Chemical organizations.

Beginning fiscal year 2011, Field Artillery, Air Defense Artillery, and Military Intelligence battalions will see their first two CBRN warrant officer which replaces the Battalion CBRN officer position. Chemical battalions will also experience this conversion in the Assistant S2 position. The career progression and developmental plan for CBRN warrant officer 3s – warrant officer 5s include positions in Explosive Ordinance Disposal and Quartermaster Groups, Tactical Escort Battalions, Combat Support Brigade (Maneuver Enhancement), Chemical Brigades, Division, Corps, Army Staffs and the USACBRN School.

U.S. Army Reserve lieutenant conversions have a slightly different implementation plan, which impacts both Chemical Tables of Organization and Equipment and Table of Distribution and Allowances organizations

beginning fiscal year 2011. Career plans for U.S. Army Reserve CBRN warrant officers predominately remain in Chemical organizations. However there are U.S. Army Reserve CBRN warrant officer 3s through warrant officer 5s advisory positions in Quartermaster Groups, Maneuver Enhanced Brigades, and organizations such as: Mission Support Element, Medical Commands, Command Augmentation Element, U.S. Army Pacific Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command.

Currently, Heavy Brigade Combat Teams, Infantry Brigade Combat Teams, Special Forces and Aviation battalions, Chemical companies, Stryker Brigade Combat Teams and Brigade Combat Team Recon Platoons are not projected to convert any of their CBRN lieutenant positions to CBRN warrant officer positions.

After the official Army announcement in May 2010, soldiers will have six months to prepare their packets for an Oct. 1, 2010 submission to the warrant officer selection board, <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant>. USACBRNS Personnel Development Office, with Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Deputy Assistant Commandants, will screen each warrant officer packet. Once validation and waivers are completed, the warrant officer packets are ready for the November 2010 warrant officer selection board.

The first joint CBRN warrant officer class begins July 2011. Both Marine and Army Chemical warrant officers will undergo the same nine week training program at Fort Leonard Wood.

The CBRN Directorate of Training and Leader Development worked closely with the Marine CBRN warrant officer manager verifying program of instructions so as to meet the demands of emerging CBRN technologies. Projected full Army integration in fiscal year 2027 encompasses a total combined Army CBRN warrant officer strength of 289 and the development of the first chief warrant officer 5's.

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