



### Robinson Barracks

On April 15, 1953 the Officer Candidate School area at Fort Sill was formally named "Robinson Barracks" in honor of 1LT James E. Robinson, Jr., a 1943 graduate of Field Artillery OCS, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in World War II during an attack near Untergriesheim, Germany in 1945.



### The Jark

The term "Jark," was coined by the OCS Cadre to describe a fast paced trip from Robinson Barracks to the top of Medicine Bluff 4 (MB4) and back at port arms, a physically onerous task. The events were held every Saturday and Sunday afternoon for those candidates who had accumulated a certain number of demerits. The step was 42 inches and the pace was 120 steps per minute. The prescribed uniform varied throughout the school's history, but in most cases it was the fatigue uniform, baseball cap, pistol belt with full canteen, poncho with first-aid kit, combat boots and rifle. Total distance: 4.2 miles.

## Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame

In November 1967, Colonel Marlin W. Camp, Commanding Officer of the Officer Candidate Brigade, directed Colonel Henry A. Grace, the Deputy Commanding Officer, to form a committee of officers to consider creating a Hall of Fame. The U.S. Army Artillery and Missile Center at Fort Sill established the Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame by General Order # 115 on 29 June 1968 to honor distinguished graduates and to serve as a source of enduring inspiration and pride to Artillery Officer Candidates of the future.

The Hall of Fame is located in Building 3025 on the corner of Austin and Jones Roads. The building was named Durham Hall in 1999 in honor of 2LT Harold Bascom "Pinky" Durham, Jr., who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam in 1967. Building 3025 was built in 1942 and served as an administration and reception building during the World War II expansion and was the OCS Brigade Headquarters from 1952 until 1968. It is the last remaining wooden barracks structure on Fort Sill.

1070 OCS graduates have been inducted into the Hall of Fame as of May 1, 2015 based on achieving the rank of Colonel (O-6) or above, the award of the Medal of Honor (MOH) or Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), appointment or election to an office of national prominence, or for distinguished service to their nation, community, profession or vocation.

### Tax Deductible Contributions to the FAOCS Alumni Chapter

The FAOCS Alumni Chapter Incorporated has been designated a tax exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(C)(3). Contributions to the FAOCS Alumni Chapter are tax deductible. Contributions are used to maintain the Hall of Fame, promote historical research and conduct educational programs to preserve the legacy of the Officer Candidate School program. To make a tax deductible contribution please send a check or money order payable to "The Field Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter". Clearly designate on the check that it is a charitable contribution and send to:

**Field Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Inc.**  
**PO Box 33612**

**Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-0612**

## DURHAM HALL The Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Fort Sill, Oklahoma



**The Hall of Fame is maintained by Alumni Chapter volunteers**

**OPEN BY APPOINTMENT**

**To arrange a Hall of Fame visit**  
**Call 580-355-JARK (5275)**  
**admin@artilleryocsalumni.com**

**www.artilleryocsalumni.com**

## **Durham Hall**

### **Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Overview**

#### **MAIN FLOOR**

Inductee photographs are displayed in class order on the walls and a center partition in the main hall.

The Four-Star Room contains display cases and memorabilia from the five Fort Sill OCS graduates who attained the rank of Four-Star General.

The Hall of Heroes Room honors the two Medal of Honor recipients and the 84 Distinguished Service Cross recipients from WW II, Korea and Vietnam.

The Commandants Room has photographs of the OCS Commandants and the Commandants Trophy.

#### **East Room (Main Floor)**

General Officer , National Guard, Reserve, Fort Bliss, Fort Bragg, Camp Davis, Fort Monroe, Fort Riley, Branch Immaterial (Fort Benning) OCS and Honorary Inductee photographs are displayed.

Memorials to the 1,316 Artillery OCS graduates who died during World War II (932), Korea (69) and Vietnam (315) are prominently displayed.

Class Rosters for the 1940's, 50's, 60's, and 70's along with a Master Roster of all known graduates.

A collection of Military, Artillery and OCS related video presentations are viewable on the East Room HD TV.

A computer station with a wide variety of searchable databases, historical information and digital images of the OCS experience is available on request.

#### **SECOND FLOOR**

Class photos are displayed on several walls. A diagram of the locations is displayed on an easel near the entrance to the main room. Class roster books are available at the east room upstairs computer station.

Various items of OCS memorabilia and historic documents donated by graduates are on display throughout the upper level, and a large collection of photographs and news clippings are found in binders.

Battery guidons and several donated Honor Graduate guidons are hanging in the eastern room or displayed in the pullout drawers or display cases. A collection of Military, Artillery and OCS related video presentations can be viewed on the upstairs East Room HD TV.

## **Fort Sill Artillery OCS History 1941-73**



The Army's officer candidate schools were inaugurated under the authority of a War Department directive dated 26 April 1941. The Field Artillery OCS was established at Fort Sill with the first class of 125 candidates reporting on 10 July 1941, and billeted in tents. The first class graduated 79 on 1 October 1941. That same year, a second class of 125 reported on 19 August.

The 13-week course was for warrant officers and enlisted men who had served at least six months at the date of enrollment in the course. The course covered gunnery, communications, tactics and other subjects. In mid-1943, the course was expanded to 17 weeks to include more instruction in the subject of tactics, Army administration, military law, mess management and other general military subjects.

General R.N. Danford, World War II Chief of Field Artillery, and Brigadier General George R. Allin, Commandant of the Field Artillery School, set early procedures and standards for their OCS candidates. They directed the candidates be worked as hard as possible to weed out those who could not take the pressure.

As originally organized in June 1941, a Commandant of Candidates headed OCS with a staff of three. The first Commandant was Captain Carl H. Jark, who retired as a Lieutenant General. By November 1942, the staff had expanded to 66 officers and the course capacity was 6,600 candidates: 12 classes of 550 candidates each.

With the fall of the Japanese Empire and the cessation of hostilities in August 1945, the need for Field Artillery officers became less critical. On 12 December 1946, the Fort Sill OCS was officially closed when class number 179 graduated 21 individuals. Since opening in April 1941, 26,209 Second Lieutenants had graduated and received commissions from school.

The outbreak of hostilities in Korea demanded an immediate response, so the Fort Sill OCS reopened on 21 February 1951. The first class since 1946 reported to attend the new 23 week course at Fort Sill. Fifty-seven candidates started with the class and 28 were commissioned. In 1954, several National Guard classes were established for a rigorous 11-week summer course. Then in June 1957, Army Reserve classes began a similar program.

Due to the conflict in Southeast Asia, the enrollment rapidly increased and by 1967 the Officer Candidate Brigade had six battalions with 42 batteries. The FY 1967 expansion program was highlighted by the construction of 13 new barracks and administrative facilities to support a programmed input of up to 9600 candidates. In February 1967, a general order re-designated the tactical organization of the Officer Candidate School as the Officer Candidate Brigade, and the title of "Commandant" was changed to "Commanding Officer."

For the next few years the OCS program at Fort Sill consolidated its program to parallel the decreasing need for lieutenants. On 7 July 1973, after the American withdrawal from Vietnam, the school closed with the graduation of class 4-73, a graduating class of only 26. More than 48,500 Second Lieutenants were commissioned between 1941 and 1973.

