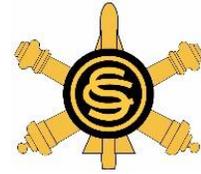




ARTILLERY OCS ALUMNI CHAPTER
PO Box 33612
Fort Sill, OK 73503-0612
580-355-JARK (5275)



February 2019
Greetings to Artillery OCS Alumni and Friends

- **Two-way communication with our alumni is more important now than ever before. We appreciate your support and think you will be pleased with the result of our efforts here at Fort Sill.**
- **This annual newsletter is sent to everybody on our postal mailing address list. The mailing list goes through a verification process to get the latest addresses from the Postal Service and gives us a yearly opportunity to get a hard copy of our correspondence into your hands. For those who are interested, we include a one-page reunion announcement and invitation on page 2.**
- **Some of you consider the paper copy of our newsletter to be the “dead-tree edition” and prefer the digital format. Not everybody in our group is equipped to read things on a smart phone, a laptop screen or a desktop monitor, and some still prefer to hold it in their hands to read. The newsletter team is not so hung up in the digital world that we forget direct mail was once the only way to reach our alumni and still the way most of you get information from us.**
- **Our monthly email update is sent to all email addresses we have on file, but our records indicate many are never opened by the intended recipients or end up in junk email boxes or even identified as spam and blocked by the receiving (ISP) Internet Service Provider.**
- **If you are not getting the monthly emails, please help us by providing a current email address.**
- **We lose contact by email with a lot of graduates as a result of the dreaded hard bounce. After we receive a hard bounce three consecutive times from an email address our Email Service Provider removes that address from our contact list. No more correspondence is sent to that address. We lost contact with 108 graduates that way last year. We know most of the addresses in the group we lost are valid, but our bulk emails to them were blocked or identified as spam. If you are automatically removed from our mailing list, the only way to get back on is to go to the website and click on the link that reads: “Join our Email List.” Follow the instructions to sign up and opt-in to receive the email news and updates. We cannot manually add you if you were removed.**
- **Our graduates, family members and other interested parties are key to preserving our history and keeping the legacy of the Artillery Officer Candidate School alive and readily available to the public. Please read the newsletter to find out what happened over the last year and our plans for the way ahead. Let us know what you think. We sincerely appreciate your feedback and support.**
- **The Annual Artillery OCS Alumni Reunion invitation is on page 2 for those who are interested.**
- **The Annual Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Newsletter is on pages 3-11.**

Contact us by email: admin@artilleryocsalumni.com



The 35th Annual Artillery OCS Alumni Reunion: May 8-11 at Lawton/Fort Sill

You and your guests are invited to attend the 35th Annual Artillery OCS Alumni Reunion May 8-11, 2019 at Lawton-Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Activities in the planning stage include:

- Optional Golf outing at the Fort Sill Golf Course on Wednesday morning (May 8)
- Icebreaker and Buffet (casual) - Wednesday evening (May 8) at Hilton Garden Inn, Lawton
- Artillery Live Fire Training Exercise with Static Equipment Displays and interaction with soldiers
- Durham Hall (Building 3025 - the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame) open for visitors
- Optional Morning Jark Stroll up Medicine Bluff 4
- Special Presentations and Q&A Sessions with Distinguished Graduates * Location TBD
- Tours of training facilities and updates from the Artillery Schools
- Tours of the U.S. Army Artillery Museum and the Air Defense Artillery Museum
- Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Membership Meeting and Progress Report * Location TBD
- Social and Buffet (casual) - Thursday evening (May 9) * Location TBD
- Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony (coat & tie) - Friday evening (May 10) * Location TBD

A tentative schedule will be posted on the Alumni Chapter website (www.artilleryocsalumni.com) as soon as available. **The final schedule of events will be provided during the sign-in on Wednesday May 8th.**

Sign-in and the Casual Icebreaker-Bufferet will be at the Hilton Garden Inn Lawton-Fort Sill Convention Center, located at 135 NW 2nd St, Lawton. Sign-in will be from 9 am until 5 pm on May 8. Additional optional activities will be available on Fort Sill during the day. Come enjoy fellowship and good food at the icebreaker kicking off at 5 pm followed by a buffet at 6:30 pm in the Great Plains Ball Room. Late sign-in will be available during the evening event.

Registration fees for the 2019 reunion are:

- **OCS Alumni and Cadre: \$225**
- **Spouses and Guests: \$200**

The fee includes evening meals and complimentary beverages on May 8, 9 and 10 and noon meals on May 9 and 10. Also included is a pro-rated share of the printed reunion mailings, registration materials, Hall of Fame Program, event liability insurance and other costs directly associated with the reunion. **Advance registration and payment is required for all reunion attendees. The deadline for receipt of paid registrations is April 26th. If we receive your paid registration and you are unable to attend - your payment will be refunded.**

The 2019 Reunion Registration forms and other information are available on the 2019 Reunion page at www.artilleryocsalumni.com/reunion. If you are not able to access the forms, or download and print it, please call us at **580-355-5275 or email us at admin@artilleryocsalumni.com. We will mail you a hard copy of the registration packet (includes registration forms, Fort Sill Access Policy, Request for Unescorted Access to Fort Sill Form 118a, and contact information for local lodging).**

As soon as we receive your paid registration, you will be placed on our special reunion information email list and receive updates on our planning and all relevant information available for the 2019 reunion.

***Please read the annual Artillery OCS Alumni News
On the following pages (3-11) - Thank You***

Artillery OCS Alumni News - February 2019

Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter

The Chapter Officers are Bill Ford (Artillery OCS TAC Officer 1966) President, COL (Ret) Harvey Glowaski (Class 1-67) Vice- President, Mike Dooley (Deputy Commandant U.S. Field Artillery School) Treasurer and Randy Dunham (Class 10-69) Secretary. The Directors are BG (Ret) Billy Cooper (Class 1-69), COL (Ret) Wayne Hunt (Class 21-70), LTC (Ret) Dave Kendall (Class 8-65), Rich Cobin (Class 19-67) and LTC Dave McRae (Commander, 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery).

Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Annual Meeting - May 9, 2019

The Annual Meeting of the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter, Inc., will be held at Fort Sill, Oklahoma during the 35th Annual Reunion. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday May 9 (time & location TBD). In addition to the regular business and updates on Chapter activities, three directors will be elected to fill the expiring three-year terms of BG (Ret) Billy Cooper, Bill Ford and Randy Dunham. Bill Ford and Randy Dunham will seek re-election and nominations will be accepted from the floor. Chapter bylaws require current membership in the United States Field Artillery Association, to run for the position of Director, to vote in the election or to vote on any other business that comes before the membership. There are currently 231 individual members including 160 Life Members on the roster. A quorum is five (5) percent of the membership.

Fallen Comrades – three more were added during 2018

Thanks to LTC (Ret) Doug Richmond (Class 126-66) for letting us know we had missed a Fallen Comrade from the Vietnam War. We immediately re-opened the file for CPT David B. Peterson. We found an erroneous written response from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in 2007 to an inquiry on his source of commission to be the cause. I wish we had re-visited this sooner. We are now fortunate to have access to many more information resources than we had just a few years ago. We put together a memorial page for CPT David Bruce Peterson (Class 126-66) who was KIA March 21, 1969 and his name was added to the Vietnam Memorial in the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame. He only had 27 days left of his tour of duty, when he died:

<http://www.artilleryocsalumni.com/vietnam/petersondb.pdf>

We discovered two more graduates who died during World War II: 1LT Eugene F. Holmes (Class 51-43) died in a mid-air crash with another airplane during liaison pilot training. 1LT James W. Currance (Class 55-43) had served in the European theater of operations with the 278th Field Artillery Battalion from July 15, 1944 to May 19, 1945 and participated in the north France, Rhineland and central Europe campaigns. After hostilities ceased, he was transferred to the United States for further training at the Liaison Pilot Course, Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was killed on a routine training flight when his liaison plane crashed and burned near Cache, Oklahoma.

The documentation used for World War II is the National Archives Honor List of Dead and Missing Army and Army Air Forces Personnel. The official accounting includes all individuals who were killed or died, or became and remained missing, between the President's declaration of unlimited national emergency on May 27, 1941 and January 31, 1946. It includes both battle and non-battle dead or missing.

The initial Artillery OCS Fallen Comrade compilation came to an end late in 1969, after only 194 graduates who died in the Vietnam War had been identified. There were no listings from WW II or Korea in the files. Since 2004, we have confirmed that 935 of our graduates died during World War II, 69 during the Korean War and 315 during Vietnam. Information on 1,319 individuals identified and documented to date can be accessed on the website. Those who died during Vietnam are recognized on the memorial board inside the Hall of Fame.

2018 Alumni Reunion

117 graduates and 65 guests attended the reunion in May. The weather cooperated and most everybody seemed to have a good time. Sixteen graduates were inducted into the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame.

The Artillery Punch prepared during the Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony traces its origin to 1860 at the Santa Barbara Barracks in Milan Italy. On June 24, 1859, during the Battle of Solferino in northern Italy, the Commander of the Horse Artillery Regiment *Voloire* fell in battle. The Regiment, garrisoned in Santa Barbara Barracks returned his remains to his family in Cairo, Egypt. The escort secured bottles of sacramental wine from the Coptic Orthodox Church of Saint Barbara where part of the relics of our Patron Saint are buried.

Upon return to the Santa Barbara Barracks, the wine was used in a Regimental ceremony honoring the Horse Artillerymen lost during the battle. Each year, members of the Regiment maintain the spirit of the sacramental wine by reconstituting it from the wine, and now Artillery Punch consumed at the celebration, that has become the annual Santa Barbara ceremony for the Regiment. More than 150 years later a large quantity of that punch ended up on the top of Signal Mountain and was buried there for safe keeping. It was eventually used as the base charge for the Artillery Punch prepared at a Fort Sill Saint Barbara Day Ceremony. A quantity of that ceremonial punch was secured and ended up in a refrigerator at the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame. It became the base charge for our punch, which is carefully reconstituted each year to continue the tradition.

The Fires Bulletin

Fires, previously known as the Field Artillery Journal and later the Field Artillery Bulletin is available on-line at: <http://sill-www.army.mil/firesbulletin>. Fires is a joint effort of the Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery branches and free to the public. It is published bi-monthly by the Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE), Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The Editor is Marie Berberia.

The 2018 Redbook is now on-line: Everything you might want to know about FA and ADA units worldwide

The entire archives of the publication, available on-line includes every issue since 1911: Field Artillery Journal (1911-1950), Artillery Trends (1957-1969), Field Artilleryman (April 1969- 1972), Field Artillery Journal (July 1973- May/June 1987), Field Artillery Bulletin (July/Aug 1987- March/April 2007) and Fires Bulletin (May/June 2007 to date).

The U.S. Field Artillery Association stopped printing and mailing hard copies of the Artillery Journal to members in 2014. The current Artillery Journal, available to members only on the USFAA website is basically the Fires magazine with a different cover.

Membership Dues - there are none

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter does not have any membership dues and does not collect or process the membership applications or dues for the U.S. Field Artillery Association.

Membership in the USFAA is not required to participate in our activities or attend the reunions. USFAA membership is voluntary. It is a personal choice and gives you the right to vote on the business of the Alumni Chapter during the annual meetings at Fort Sill or at any special meeting called by the President or in his absence the Board of Directors.

If you join the Field Artillery Association or renew your membership, please do not send your payment to the Alumni Chapter. Send it directly to the Field Artillery Association and make your check payable to "USFAA."

General Tommy Franks (Class 5-67)

On Monday, January 21st, General Franks suffered a stroke and, after tests, underwent surgery to remove a blood clot. The surgery was successful, and his medical team is optimistic for the future. The Franks family is very appreciative of the doctors and medical professionals who have given him such great care.

OCS at Fort Benning

In April 1973, a Branch Immaterial Officer Candidate School was created to replace the branch specific courses and the length of the course was reduced to 14 weeks. OCS for female officer candidates remained at Fort McClellan, Alabama until December 1976, when it merged with the branch immaterial OCS program at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The mission of OCS remains; to train selected personnel in the fundamentals of leadership; basic military skills; instill professional ethics; evaluate leadership; candidate's potential; and commission those who qualify as second lieutenants in all sixteen basic branches of the Army.

LTC Matthew B. Chitty, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment (OCS), 199th Infantry Brigade reported in the January 2019 Newsletter of the United States Army Officer Candidates School Alumni: The battalion's been busy over the fall and early winter training officer candidates. By the end of March, we will have commissioned over 600 second lieutenants in the Regular Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve. Unlike last year, we are not required to increase our size as our current structure is sufficient to achieve our goals. In addition to our mission of training and commissioning officers, the battalion will focus inward and improve some of our systems. The cadre will take a thorough look at all training material to ensure the material is current and relevant. Moreover, we will implement a more in-depth cadre training process to ensure our officer candidates get the best from our instructors. Both of these goals will be complete before this summer.

Tribute to Anna Lou Johnson - (1933-2018)

Anna Lou Johnson was Executive Secretary and Managing Director of the U.S. Field Artillery Association from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 1999. She was the first employee of the "reborn" Field Artillery Association and went on to guide the Association, the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter and the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame for more than two decades.

She was instrumental in the success of the first gathering of Artillery OCS graduates at Fort Sill in 1984 and anyone who attended one of the alumni reunions over the next twenty years surely remembers her. Anna Lou was able to successfully wear several hats during her time with the Field Artillery Association and continued to devote time to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter after retirement.

The job description of the Managing Director of the U. S. Field Artillery Association does not include planning, coordinating and executing the Artillery OCS Alumni Reunion or any specific activities associated with the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame. The Alumni Chapter initially experienced a few bumps in the road with Anna Lou out of the picture, but a new way forward was found. The Alumni Chapter has survived, thanks to the solid groundwork she helped set in place. Anna Lou Johnson passed away on February 8, 2018.

Those of you who will soar with eagles in the morning should not hoot with owls at night"
LTG Carl H. Jark First Commandant of the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School
at the graduation of Class 4-73 the Final OCS Class at Fort Sill on July 6, 1973

Visit the Chapter Website often for updates on our activities: www.artilleryocsalumni.com

Endowment Fund

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Endowment Fund (a Charitable Organization Endowment Fund with the Lawton Community Foundation) was established in 2005. In accordance with the fund agreement, the annual distribution (if not gifted back to help the fund grow) is for preserving the memorabilia and archives of the Artillery Officer Candidate School, maintaining the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame and providing educational programs for the public. The Fund Balance was \$157,722 on January 25, 2019.

To achieve maximum growth, the Board of Directors chose to gift back the annual distributions until the last two years. The November 2018 distribution of \$7,189 was deposited into the Chapter Checking account. It is anticipated that future distributions will help fund the yearly operating expenses associated with the Chapter website, educational outreach in the Artillery Museum and administration of the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame.

Alumni Chapter Scholarships for 2018

Three \$1000 Scholarships were awarded during 2018. Congratulations to the following recipients:

- Katherine A. Bolen, Clemson University
- Conner R. Jarolimek, University of Colorado
- Austin A. Wiley, Kanas State University.

The budget for 2019 includes \$3,000 for Scholarships. The Alumni Chapter has awarded thirty-two individual scholarships totaling \$26,500 to deserving students since 2007.

The United States Army Officer Candidate Schools Alumni Association (TUSAOCSAA)

The mission of their organization is serving and honoring the OCS program and preserving the legacy of its graduates. Plans to build an **OCS Heritage Center** to be constructed within Wigle Hall at **Fort Benning**, Georgia were announced in July 2018. This new “Heritage Center” will celebrate and recognize the history and traditions of OCS since its inception prior to World War II. It will be constructed and sponsored by The U. S. Army Officer Candidate Schools Alumni Association (TUSAOCSAA) and be unveiled on April 30, 2019.

The OCS Heritage Center at **Fort Benning** will feature displays and information covering:

World War II • Korean War • Vietnam War • Women’s Army Corps
America’s Volunteer Army • Army of Excellence • Global War on Terrorism

There will be galleries honoring fallen OCS graduates and Medal of Honor recipients. Interactive kiosks will feature OCS Hall of Fame honorees and distinguished OCS graduates. OCS “Success Stories” will be highlighted along with biographies and personal glimpses into individuals who have excelled in both the military and civilian worlds.

The OCS Heritage Center will honor what Officer Candidate Schools have meant to the U.S. Army and America. It will preserve the legacy of the more than 250,000 OCS graduates regardless of their school or training location. Whether you were in the Infantry, Armor, Artillery, Engineering, Transportation, or one of the other 11 schools, all will be honored at the Heritage Center at **Fort Benning**.

Please Note:

****Do not confuse the Fort Benning OCS Project with the Fort Sill Artillery OCS project to build an addition to the Artillery Museum that will serve as the Artillery OCS Heritage Center and our Legacy.**

MAJ (Ret) Benjamin Franklin Wilson (Class 56-43) was awarded the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross:

We continue to research and recognize the heroism and exceptional achievements of graduates. Sometimes, it takes a long time. Since 1969, the names of only two graduates of Artillery OCS at Fort Sill have been recognized in the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame as recipients of our nation's highest award for Valor.

On April 15, 1953, the area occupied by the Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill was named Robinson Barracks in honor of 1LT James E. Robinson, Jr. (Class 64-43) who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during WWII. 1LT Robinson was the first Hall of Fame Inductee.

On May 20, 1999, Building 3025, the home of the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame since 1984 was officially memorialized as Durham Hall in honor of 2LT Harold Bascom "Pinkie" Durham (Class 1-67), who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Vietnam.

During the Korean War, two remarkable heroic actions by Benjamin Franklin Wilson (Class 56-43) occurred on June 5 and June 9, 1951. The second heroic action resulted in the Distinguished Service Cross being awarded to MSG Benjamin Franklin Wilson in Korea on September 12, 1951. The first heroic action resulted in President Dwight D. Eisenhower awarding the Medal of Honor to 1LT Benjamin Franklin Wilson on September 7, 1954.

Since World War I, only twenty-three US Army soldiers have been awarded both the Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross for separate actions.

The Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross Citations for Benjamin Franklin Wilson are available on the Artillery OCS Alumni Hall of Valor page:

<http://www.artilleryocsalumni.com/valor/wilsonbf-moh.pdf>

<http://www.artilleryocsalumni.com/valor/wilsonbf-dsc.pdf>

Many stories have been written about Benjamin Franklin Wilson and most of them have erroneous information or incorrect assumptions. The most glaring is that he went to Infantry OCS at Fort Benning. Not so.

The record shows:

Benjamin Franklin Wilson started Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill on December 24, 1942 with Class 56-43. He was married at the First Baptist Church in Lawton, Oklahoma to Cleo De Caro from Tahlequah, Oklahoma on December 26, 1942. He graduated from Officer Candidate School as a 2LT of Field Artillery on March 18, 1943 and was assigned to the Field Artillery Replacement Training Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His Serial number was O-1179250.

How he got to that point after entering the Army in 1940 is fascinating.

How he ended up fighting in the Korean War as a First Sergeant is fascinating.

How he ended up becoming a 2LT again on November 15, 1951 is fascinating.

MAJ (Ret) Benjamin Franklin Wilson (ASN: O-1179250) retired on October 31, 1960.

When the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame was established in 1968, MAJ (Ret) Benjamin Franklin Wilson was quietly serving as the Executive Secretary of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

We had our first four Artillery OCS Alumni Reunions at Fort Sill (1984-1987) and a renovated Hall of Fame in Building 3025 and did not realize we had a living Medal of Honor recipient out there who was a 1943 graduate.

****The best way to maintain contact with us is to provide us with your email address****

Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame - Nomination Deadline is March 15

The deadline for receipt of nominations and the supporting paperwork for the May 10, 2019 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is March 15th. Details on the nomination procedure and the required information can be found in the Hall of Fame section of the Chapter website at www.artilleryocsalumni.com. Please take a few minutes to review the Hall of Fame criteria. You or some other worthy OCS alumni might be eligible. If you know of an OCS graduate deserving of the honor, please take the initiative and get started with the nomination process. We will be glad to help you. If you are a retired Colonel (O-6) or above and have not been inducted into the Hall of Fame, please let us know. We hope to recognize all graduates who meet the Hall of Fame criteria. Unless you tell us, we may not be aware of the retired rank of a graduate or the remarkable achievements and outstanding contributions many have made to the nation. Contact us if you have any questions or need a hard copy of a Hall of Fame nomination packet mailed to you.

Congratulations to the 2018 Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Inductees

1LT Howard W. Cardoza: 51-43 (DSC)	MAJ (R) Benjamin F. Wilson: 56-43 (DSC & MOH)
2LT Samuel T. Castleman, Jr.: 89-43 (DSC)	COL (R) Robert C. Davenport: 114-44
Haynes B. Johnson: 41-53 (Pulitzer Prize)	CPT William D. Johnson, Jr: 53-54 (DSC)
COL (R) John L. Patten: 61-55	COL (R) JD Leverett: 8-67
COL (R) Robert L. Bode: 18-67	COL (R) Lamar Tooke: 20B-67
COL (R) David L. Ridgeway: 31A-67	John A. Synowsky: 33B-67 (Outstanding Service)
COL (R) William R. Spores: 2-69	COL (R) Gregory Pritchett: 7-69
COL (R) Everett E. Hawthorne: 10-70	CPT (R) Gary M. Rose: Fort Benning 1973 (MOH)

Three more Distinguished Service Cross Recipients are Identified

1LT Howard W. Cardoza (Class 51-43)
MAJ (Ret) Benjamin F. Wilson (Class 56-43) - also a Medal of Honor recipient
2LT Samuel T. Castleman, Jr (Class 89-43)
88 Artillery OCS graduates have been verified as recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross (58 during World War II, five during the Korean War and 25 during Vietnam). 31 of the awards were posthumous.

Artillery OCS Hall of Valor

The Hall of Valor recognizes recipients of the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star with "V", Air Medal with "V" and the Army Commendation Medal with "V". Awards for valor are an important part of the legacy of the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill. You can help us document and preserve that history. Don't let it fade away.

If you are the recipient of any valor awards, we would like a copy of the GO or citation or other documentation for inclusion in our project. We can use a good quality scan sent by email or a hard copy sent by mail. This is an ambitious project and will take some time to complete.

So far, we have been able to document 481 Silver Stars from WWII, 103 from Korea, 170 from Vietnam and 16 with the date of action unknown. We have documented 290 Bronze stars for heroism, 34 DFC's for heroism, 40 Soldier's Medals, 51 Air Medals with "V" and 37 ARCOM's with "V".

The military does not have a central location with information on medal recipients. Since there is no master list available for these awards, so we are looking for your input to help with creating our list. We have just scratched the surface. If you know of anybody who should be included, let us know.

Tax Deductible Contributions to the Alumni Chapter

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Inc. is a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c) (3) and all contributions are considered charitable donations.

Contributions to the Alumni Chapter are used for operating expenses and other purposes supporting our mission, including the planned construction of the theater/classroom/conference facility addition to the south side of the Artillery Museum.

Contributions are always welcome. If you desire that a donation be used for a specific purpose, please indicate your wishes in writing at the time of the contribution.

To make a tax-deductible contribution please send a check or money order. Clearly designate that it is a contribution on the face of the check and send to:

**Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter
PO Box 33612
Fort Sill, OK 73503**

For your convenience contributions can be made through Pay Pal on the Chapter website.

Facebook has been a great way for us to keep in touch with a lot of you on a regular basis. We now have 1,295 followers and we are getting more engagements or interactions than ever. We understand that Facebook is not for everybody, but it can be a very positive experience, if you focus on the good. We encourage you to follow our Facebook page. We post pictures from the OCS archives, historical information, videos and Fort Sill happenings on a regular basis. If you click the LIKE button below the cover page photo, our future posts should appear on your Facebook news feed.

Class Pictures are still being scanned and some of the poor quality ones are being re-scanned. The project is 90 % complete.

The expanded and revised edition of the *OCS Experience* is in the editing stage. It will be 600-650 pages. If we have enough interest, we will publish it in book form. Otherwise it will be available in digital format.

If you have any pictures from your time in OCS, please consider scanning them and sharing with us.

If you have contact with other graduates – please encourage them to contact us, so we can get them on our contact list. If you are getting members of your class together for the reunion it is always good for them and us to have them on our contact list.

The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame officially opened its doors (Building 3031) on June 29, 1968. GO #115 US Army Artillery and Missile Center and Fort Sill (6-26-68).

The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame moved to Building 3168 during April 1969 and by the end of that year more than eighty graduates had been inducted.

The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame was in Building #441 from 1975 to 1983

The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame opening ceremony (Building 3025) was held on August 13, 1984. Permanent Orders #125-1, US Army Field Artillery Center & Fort Sill (7-2-84)

Comments and Opinion from Randy Dunham (Class 10-69) Alumni Chapter Secretary

Two years ago, I used three pages of the newsletter to bring you up to date with some history of Building 3025, the current location of the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame and information about the OCS area from 1941-1973. I mentioned our mission included promoting interest and pride in the history of OCS and its graduates and to create educational programs for the public. We could have a greater impact on visitors to Fort Sill, if we were in an easier to find location with more traffic.

My opinion was that we might accomplish all of that by constructing a replica of a WW II era barracks within the boundary of the U.S. Army Artillery Museum to house our Hall of Fame and tell the OCS story. In addition, the building could be used to display some of our artifacts and space could be shared with the Artillery Museum to display items they had stored away and not available to the public. That proved to not be a workable solution.

I had hoped the current Robinson Barracks archway (set in place around 1984) could remain there as a historical marker and point of reference. Maps or diagrams of the entire OCS area could be mounted on the supporting pillars to enable visitors to visualize the area as it was in the past. The corner of Austin and Jones Road is where we seem to gravitate to when pointing out the location of the Mess Hall, MB4, Parking Lot, Stockade, Wooden Candidate Barracks, Howitzer House, PX, Laundry, new Brigade Headquarters and the concrete Candidate Barracks (still standing) that were built during the 1966-67 expansion.

A meeting with Fort Sill officials to discuss options for a way forward took place on April 4, 2017. BG (Ret) Billy Cooper reported on that meeting and explained the options and possible alternatives during the Alumni Chapter business meeting at the 2017 reunion. Those in attendance unanimously expressed confidence in the Board of Directors to make informed decisions about our future in the best interest of all concerned. The Board of Directors committed to keeping the alumni up to date as the planning continued, to address questions and concerns and to consider all suggestions as we moved toward a workable and affordable solution.

The options available were outlined in a letter from the Fort Sill Garrison Commander on May 17, 2017. By June 5, 2017, the consensus of a committee formed to explore all the options was to partner with the U.S. Field Artillery Association to finance construction of a theater/classroom addition attached to the Artillery Museum. Consideration was also given to construction of a small building in Constitution Park (south of the Artillery Museum) to display some of our artifacts and house our history. The building would be gifted to the Army. It was agreed that additional displays and dioramas in the Artillery Museum and Snow Hall would help us achieve our goals and help get our story out to a wider audience.

Alumni Chapter President Bill Ford and MG (Ret) Lee Baxter, President Emeritus of the U.S. Field Artillery Association came up with an additional option. Their plan was an OCS Memorial, located in Constitution Park adjacent to the Artillery Museum to the south. It was to be built with private monies, that had already been pledged. MG (Ret) Baxter described the memorial concept in the February 2018 Artillery OCS Alumni Annual Newsletter. He also addressed the anticipated contribution of \$125,000 from the Alumni Chapter as a partner in the \$300,000 U.S. Field Artillery Association theater/classroom building project that would be attached to the south side of the Artillery Museum.

During June 2018, MG (Ret) Baxter and Bill Ford sent out a letter to the alumni requesting contributions to the Friends of Fort Sill, an IRS 501c3 organization, to fund their OCS Memorial project. The goal was \$60,000 and more than \$95,000 was contributed to the effort. The fund-raising letter indicated that extra funds raised beyond the building costs will be used to support the maintenance in perpetuity. **The project is not an Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter project, but it will increase our exposure to the public and greatly enhance our efforts.**

Chapter President Bill Ford assured me on July 6, 2018 that building a replica of the iconic Robinson Barracks archway was definitely part of the OCS Memorial project and that the proper size of the archway would be determined by their architect. That will make a much better backdrop for photos than the old archway near Durham Hall rising nearly 25 feet in the air.

Fort Sill DPW representatives had earlier voiced concern about the size of the existing Robinson Barracks archway and the need to size it down to blend in with the surroundings, if it was moved to the memorial area.

The Alumni Chapter ran into a bump in the road on September 4, 2018. MG (Ret) Baxter, President Emeritus of the U.S. Field Artillery Association informed us that the Field Artillery Association had withdrawn its support for the Artillery Museum Theater/Classroom expansion project. The estimated total cost at that time was \$300,000. It seemed to me that it could be an Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter project, if we chose to take it on.

There is no doubt in my mind that the alumni of the Artillery Officer Candidate School will eventually come together as a group, contribute the additional funds needed to build the addition and gift it to the Army. If everybody understands where we were a year ago and where we are now and how much it will cost to complete the project, I am confident they will make it happen. Based on the estimated cost of the project and taking into consideration the funds already on hand (earmarked for the building) and a sizeable amount recently pledged, it is reasonable to expect that another \$100,000 or so will be needed.

It doesn't seem to me like a prudent use of our resources to mail out a fundraising letter in a month or two. Everybody on the mailing list is getting this newsletter and if you got this far reading it you understand the situation. We can always use the website, Facebook, email and other means to help raise the funds and keep the alumni updated on our progress. This is not a fund-raising solicitation. It is information and just my opinion.

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Long-Term Goals and Strategic Planning guidelines were set in motion in 2010. The Chapter has been slowly accumulating funds since that time to use for future growth, upgrades and/or expansion. When it became evident that long-term preservation and maintenance of Building 3025 was no longer workable or affordable, those funds were earmarked for construction of a building in the Artillery Museum footprint, to give us a permanent location to preserve our heritage.

Below (left) is a concept of the building addition provided to me by Chapter President Bill Ford. I added a possible name for eventual consideration by the Fort Sill Memorialization Board. It would be attached to the south side of the Artillery Museum and ultimately serve as a classroom/theater and conference facility as well as being an Artillery Officer Candidate School "Heritage Center." The original concept was a 40 X 60-foot building. I hope you will consider supporting this worthwhile project. It's your history and your legacy.

***Artillery
Officer Candidate School
"Heritage Center"***
(a concept drawing)

