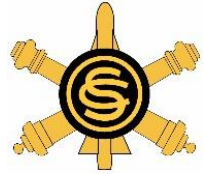




Artillery OCS Alumni  
PO Box 33612  
Fort Sill, OK 73503-0612  
580-355-JARK (5275)



## Artillery OCS Alumni News and Commentary - January 10, 2023

**Happy New Year from Fort Sill,**

We try to reach out at least once a year to every Artillery OCS graduate who is not receiving our periodic “**Artillery OCS Alumni News**” by email. We send this hard copy newsletter by U.S. Mail to maintain or re-establish contact and update you on our activities. If we have an email address on file for you, our ESP (email service provider) reports that the newsletters we have been sending are not reaching your email inbox or you may not be opening them. We sent out 15 of the “**Artillery OCS Alumni News**” by email since July 2021.

Eighteen years ago, Penny (my spouse) and I committed to keeping the **Artillery OCS Community** informed about our activities at Fort Sill. We are determined to live up to that promise and will continue to document the history and preserve the legacy of Artillery OCS at Fort Sill and try to keep you updated. We hope you read our summary of the last 18 months and consider helping us overcome a stubborn obstacle in our way - **Inflation**.

Our last four email newsletters were dated August 25, October 26, November 11, and December 20, 2022. If you have an email address and did not get our last few “**Artillery OCS Alumni News**,” please send us your email again. We want to verify that we have a good address and hope your settings are not rejecting our newsletters. I know you are tired of hearing this but once again: **This might be the last time we will be able to print and mail a hard copy newsletter. Now, more than ever your email address (if you have one) is important to us.**

We define the **Artillery OCS Community** as graduates and cadre of the Artillery OCS at Fort Sill (1941-1973), as well as families and friends with a desire to preserve the OCS legacy. The OCS experience had a significant impact on the life of most every graduate and may well have been a turning point for you. There will always be a common bond among us all. Graduates of other OCS programs can become part of our **Community** by simply supporting our efforts. As a **Community**, we are not defined exclusively by paid memberships or financial contributions; it is much more than that. I will touch on my concept of “**membership**” and “**support**” later.

### **Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Officers**

The Chapter Officers are Bill Ford (Artillery OCS TAC Officer 1966) President; COL (Ret) Harvey Glowaski (Class 1-67) Vice- President; Mike Dooley (Deputy to the Field Artillery Commandant) Treasurer; and Randy Dunham (Class 10-69) Secretary. The Directors are Rich Cobin (Class 19-67); COL (Ret) Wayne Hunt (Class 21-70); LTC (Ret) Dave Kendall (Class 8-65); and LTC (Ret) John Mennig (Class 22-66).

### **Reunion of Graduates at Fort Sill in 2023 is Not Planned at This Time**

There have been 35 reunions of graduates at Fort Sill since 1984. The last reunion was in 2019. The planning and coordination of a reunion during 2023 is not realistic and currently beyond our capabilities. Our immediate priorities are getting on track to begin construction of the Artillery OCS Heritage Center and creating the displays in the new building to highlight the Artillery OCS story. That will require our full-time attention as we oversee the construction and work to create the inside displays and layout with the Field Artillery Museum Curator.



## Artillery OCS Hall of Fame

Last year I reported that we had compiled a list of graduates from 1941 to 1973 who met the criteria for induction into the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Sill. We worked on that list and gathered information for biographical summaries and prepared the documentation required to approve the induction of 208 of those graduates into the Hall of Fame. We made significant progress, but still have a list of 140 graduates who meet the criteria.

### **Breakdown of inductions during 2021-2022 by year of graduation:**

10 from 1941	4 from 1951	1 from 1959	5 from 1969
58 from 1942	7 from 1952	4 from 1964	3 from 1970
59 from 1943	4 from 1953	2 from 1965	1 from 1972
12 from 1944	16 from 1954	2 from 1966	1 from Fort Benning 1992
3 from 1945	1 from 1955	8 from 1967	1 from Fort Benning 1999
4 from 1946	3 from 1956	2 from 1968	

You can see from the above list that many graduates from the 1940s were a forgotten group. We are pleased to finally recognize them in the Hall of Fame. Several of them were already retired when the Hall of Fame was established in 1968 and might never have known that our organization existed or that they met the criteria for induction. Shortcomings are common in most every type of Hall of Fame and the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame is no exception.

Individuals who are qualified to nominate worthy graduates may not know how the process works. As we worked over the list of eligible graduates, we were overwhelmed with the amazing accomplishments and distinguished service of so many Artillery OCS alumni who were previously overlooked. One thing is certain - there are not enough individuals willing to invest the time and effort required to prepare a nomination. Many others presume there must be a committee somewhere that takes care of those things. There is nothing easy about this.

In keeping with the true spirit and intent of Artillery OCS Hall of Fame, I would like to see every graduate who meets the criteria recognized in the Hall of Fame. There is no good reason to not honor these individuals. Are they any less deserving of recognition than individuals who are already in the Hall of Fame? Should they just be forgotten because nobody has thought to nominate them? I hope not. We do not have any good excuse.

I am pleased to say we had a part in getting some OCS Medal of Honor recipients honored in the Army OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning. Just two years ago they had only recognized 50 of 73 Army OCS graduates who had been awarded the Medal of Honor. I prepared a list of the 23 missing OCS heroes and presented the biographical information to the Army OCS Alumni Association. I wondered why only 50 had been recognized. The lame reply I received was: **“The fact is probably nobody has ever thought to nominate them for the Hall of Fame...”** All those heroes were inducted into the Army OCS Hall of Fame last year. A DSC upgrade for another Hall of Fame member (MAJ John J. Duffy) brings the OCS Medal of Honor total to 74. BG Roscoe C. Cartwright (Artillery OCS Class 37-42), who in 1971 became the third African American general officer in US Army history will be inducted into the Army OCS Hall of Fame in May. He was one of the distinguished OCS graduates that nobody had thought to nominate until last October. The Commanding General of Fort Benning administers the Army OCS Hall of Fame and the Army OCS Alumni Association at Midland, Georgia is the official Sponsor.

## Facebook

Facebook has been an excellent way for us to regularly stay connected with many of our alumni. We now have 1,595 followers and getting more engagements and interactions than ever. We made 51 posts to our page over the last year. Facebook is not for everybody, but it can be a 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. If you click the LIKE button below the cover photo on our Facebook page, future posts should appear on your news feed. Everything we put on there is OCS related and there are no political posts.

## **Artillery OCS Heritage Center Update**

The procedural delays from July 7, 2020 at Fort Sill when our proffer letter was presented to the Commanding General until Pentagon approval on August 4, 2022 has been a frustrating and expensive experience.

Construction costs for the facility have increased more than 70% since July 2020. Inflation was eating us up and we could not lock in anything until approval of our gift by the Secretary of the Army on August 4, 2022.

We had to deal with numerous changes as the plans were reworked several times and thoroughly reviewed by the various Directorate of Public Works (DPW) departments (Master Planning, Architectural, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Fire Protection Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Environmental Quality and Fire Department) each time and then re-submitted and then reviewed again. Mind boggling.

All the Pentagon had to do was to simply accept our gift offer. The down and dirty details about the construction were being dealt with simultaneously at Fort Sill between DPW and our contractor. Although there was no interaction between Fort Sill and the Pentagon their combined delays managed to keep us on edge and there was absolutely no sense of urgency apparent at any level. All we wanted was for the Army to accept a gift of construction of a building and contents estimated now to be valued at more than \$850,000. Time is money!

### **Brief Timeline of our Struggle for your Review:**

**November 1, 2019:** Fund Raising begins with estimated project cost of \$474,000.

**April 25, 2020:** Cash on hand to cover the cost estimate (**\$308,287 in new contributions and \$166,797 from CD's and funds set aside by the Board of Directors for the project**).

**July 7, 2020:** Proffer letter sent to the Commanding General of Fort Sill, with a projected timeline (as suggested) to show that we were ready to proceed without delay. We were obviously dismayed that it took 511 days for Fort Sill leadership to recommend acceptance of a gift valued at more than \$500,000 from us with no strings attached.

**December 6, 2021:** The gift package offering to build and furnish the facility left Fort Sill for the Pentagon.

**August 4, 2022:** After it floated around the Pentagon for eight months, the Secretary of the Army finally accepted our gift of the addition to the Field Artillery Museum- that we call the Artillery OCS Heritage Center.

**October 14, 2022:** CDBL our contractor estimates that the total project cost will be \$585,000.

**October 22, 2022:** Proprietary Approval of a Facilities Engineering Work Request is received from DPW.

**October 26, 2022:** A letter of acceptance arrives from the Secretary of the Army postmarked October 21, 2022.

**November 3, 2022:** Fort Sill Directorate of Public Works Design Approval and Building Permit is approved.

**December 12, 2022:** Bid Tabulation sheets were prepared and we then faced total cost of \$850,000. We are short of funding and can't start construction until we raise another \$193,000.

**You can help us by making a tax deductible donation to the Heritage Center Project. If you already contributed we hope you might be able to match your previous contribution. If you have not yet contributed to the project we would greatly appreciate any support you can provide at this time. Graduates, family and friends of the Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill are totally funding the Artillery OCS Heritage Center. We have come a long way.**

**Thank You for supporting this worthwhile project.**

## **Artillery OCS Fallen Comrades**

We have not found any additional Fallen Comrades since our last newsletter. Our current total is 1,327 for World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The Department of Defense does not have that information broken down by source of commission. We spent nearly twenty years putting ours together and it will continue as a work in progress.

When we started our research in 2003 there was no written record or notations of any type in the Fort Sill Artillery OCS archives for graduates lost in World War II or Korea. Our findings now include 936 who died in World War II and 69 in the Korean War.

We visited the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame in 2004 and found a large memorial plaque with individual nameplates for graduates killed in the Vietnam War. It needed attention. The last update was for 1LT Robert B. Eldridge (Class 511-68) who was killed on November 5, 1969. We were able to hang a new Vietnam Memorial in the Hall of Fame in 2006, that now has 322 names. It remained there for 15 years and will eventually be on display in the new Heritage Center.

I often wondered why the effort to maintain the original Vietnam memorial plaque ended 3 1/2 years before OCS at Fort Sill closed in 1973. The last Artillery OCS KIA was COL William B. Nolde (Class 8-52) on January 27, 1973 just eight days before the last Fort Sill OCS class started.

The original board had the names and class numbers of 203 individuals. But nine of them were not Artillery OCS graduates and 54 did not have the correct class numbers or date of death. Our subsequent research enabled us to identify 128 additional graduates who died in Vietnam. This is not meant to be a criticism of the efforts of those before us, but the situation helped us realize how important it is to get things right out of respect for our Fallen.

## **The OCS Experience**

Our project is complete, but it is open ended, so we can still add more content. We now have 781 pages with 356,126 words and 248 pictures. It is available online in searchable PDF format with a table of contents, list of contributors and an index. There is an addendum at the end where additional content can be added.

Penny and I spent 16 years researching and piecing the history together and we are pleased with what we have been able to compile. The good thing is that we can revise it and make updates and quickly load the new versions on the internet. OCS was an experiment from the beginning, and it proved to have worked quite well. Thank You to everybody who has contributed to our OCS Experience compilation.

We considered offering the revised edition in a bound and printed published version for sale at cost, but it has grown to a point where there are too many pages for a single volume. Using a paper weight and quality that would not have bleed through issues would result in a two-volume set too costly to print and ship at a reasonable price.

## **The Artillery OCS Endowed Scholarship in Leadership**

**The Artillery Officer Candidate School Endowed Scholarship in Leadership** was established at Cameron University in Lawton with an initial contribution of \$10,500 on November 13, 2020. Total investment in the fund so far is \$22,200.

The scholarship opportunities are for students pursuing a commission as an officer in the United States Army. **We will eventually develop a scholarship fund-raising strategy. In the meantime, graduates are encouraged to help us build the endowed scholarship fund by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter designated for the scholarship program.**

**If you have an email address, please share it with us so we can stay connected with you by email.**

## ***Closing and Leaving Durham Hall (Building 3025)***

Penny and I made one last walk-through of Building 3025 on October 14, 2021 and took a lot of pictures.

We returned on October 15th to turn the keys over to the Fort Sill Directorate of Public Works (DPW). That entire process took less than 10 minutes from the time the DPW officials arrived until they showed us out. It was the first time since February 2005, that I was not the person to set the alarm, lock the doors and the last to leave.

This time it was a representative from DPW who closed things down. She thanked us and we said goodbye to Durham Hall and the ghosts in that building who tormented us for 16 years and 8 months. The alarm system detected noise or movement inside the building more than 500 times and each time required a trip to the building to unlock the doors, then walk around inside, re-arm the system and make a verbal report. Anytime day (or night).

The MPs used to sit out front, wait for me (or us) to arrive and provide security. The last couple of years they had other things to do. We did it all on our own. More than 500 of those 13 mile round trips, and only one time did we encounter a living human being inside the building. When we arrived that time there was a graduate being detained who had pulled the door open and walked upstairs and opened that door and in about 15 minutes was greeted by MPs and a vicious dog. For every other trip there were only the ghosts of the Artillery OCS Headquarters and lights turned on in the upstairs room in the southwest corner of the building. I even taped the switch in the off position, but the lights were often turned on when we arrived in the dark. A bit unsettling for me.

The inside of the building is now empty of anything OCS, except for the logo on the downstairs floor, drawn and painted by Penny and a soldier during the holiday leave period of December 2006-January 2007. It was a spur of the moment thing during an extensive renovation accomplished by some active duty volunteers, Penny and me.

Over the last few months leading up to October 15, 2021, Penny and I moved the entire OCS Collection out of Building 3025 and into a storage facility in Lawton, Oklahoma. It was an exhausting and difficult task and an emotional trip down memory lane.

Imagine all of the class pictures that used to hang on the walls upstairs; pictures of more than 1,100 Hall of Fame members; pictures of all the Commandants; all of the uniforms hanging on the walls; the candidate cubicle; the observed fire mock-up; the Jark Room; the Four Star Room; the Hall of Heroes room; the memorial for graduates who died in Vietnam; all of the memorabilia; the binders with pictures of the everyday life of a candidate; the class rosters; the loose-leaf binders with information about 1,327 graduates known to have been killed in action; the loose-leaf binders with citations of valor for thousands of graduates: and all the other things that found a way into the Hall of Fame and managed to survive the moves in 1968, 1969, 1975 and 1984 and the final renovations in 2006-2007. All of that and more once filled the walls, display cases and tables that were in that building.

It is difficult to describe the feelings Penny and I had when we walked out the door on Friday, October 15, 2021. We left the building in immaculate condition. The DPW representatives remarked that it was left to them in a condition unlike any other building that had ever been turned in to them on Fort Sill. That's how it should be.

**Bottom Line:** The Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame still exists. Building 3025 is no longer the location of the Hall of Fame. The permanent home will eventually be in a 3,200 square foot annex built and gifted by the Alumni of the Artillery OCS to the Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill. An interactive electronic display "kiosk" will feature pictures and biographies of each inductee. The Hall of Fame will also be available on an improved and expanded Artillery OCS website.

***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***

## **Commentary- “Membership”**

Let’s look at the word Membership one more time. As far as I am concerned, everybody who graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill is a “Member” of the Artillery OCS Alumni or “The Society of Graduates of the Artillery Officer Candidate School Fort Sill, Oklahoma. We had more than 40,000 members when the last class graduated on July 7, 1973. Our group is smaller now, but before we are gone, we will leave a rich Legacy. You are not required to pay membership dues to anybody to be a “Member” of this group, but you might remember donating a dollar just prior to graduation for Hall of Fame preservation. That made you a Lifetime member of the Society of Graduates.

### **Our Group (whatever you want to call us) has managed to accomplish quite a bit:**

Administration of the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame from its inception in 1968 to this day. The Hall of Fame is no longer in Durham Hall (Building 3025), but still exists. The new home will be in the Heritage Center.

Planned, coordinated and conducted 35 reunions of graduates at Fort Sill from 1984 to 2019, with host unit support from the Field Artillery Training Center (most recently 1st Bn, 78th FA for more than 20 years).

Preserved and maintained Durham Hall (Building 3025), the last remaining World War II Barracks structure on Fort Sill from May 1984 to October 2021, with support from the Field Artillery Training Center until May 1999. We were responsible for the renovation, upkeep, insurance, utilities, grounds maintenance, and even paid for a new furnace and air conditioning system.

As part of our Long-Range Plan and donations from graduates and friends an Endowment Fund with the Lawton Community Foundation was established in December 2005. It is currently valued at \$184,215. The yearly distribution of \$9,711 for 2022 was deposited in our General Fund. Future distributions will support Heritage Center sustainment and maintenance costs for a new website.

Since 2006, more than 675 graduates and friends contributed \$248,596 to our general fund. Donations were used for operating expenses and upkeep of Durham Hall, deposits into the endowment fund, scholarships and the purchase of \$170,000 in certificates of deposit for long range goals including the Heritage Center.

After providing scholarships to deserving students totaling \$32,000 over the years the Artillery OCS Alumni Endowed Scholarship in Leadership at Cameron University was established in November 2020. The scholarship fund has grown to \$22,000 in two years. A fund-raising plan will be established by 2024.

The Long Range Plan enabled the Board of Directors to designate \$166,796 for use in funding the Heritage Center Project. Generous contributions of \$548, 573 from Alumni and Friends since November 1, 2019 gave us a total of \$715,369 for building and sustainment of the Heritage Center. The Heritage Center will be Your Legacy.

If you are reading this, you are an active member of the Artillery OCS Alumni and/or The Society of Graduates of the Artillery Officer Candidate School Fort Sill, Oklahoma. No matter how you look at it.

Volunteers accomplished everything that has been done, so it is truly a TEAM effort. Everybody who has participated in any way is a Member of this TEAM. We still have things to do. Stay with us. Thank You!

You might also be a current dues paying member of the United States Field Artillery Association (USFAA). That is good too, but it doesn’t do much for us. The USFAA officially withdrew financial support of the Artillery OCS Heritage Center project in September 2018. They have other priorities and we are at crossed purposes. However, we are thankful for the USFAA Directors who have been supportive of our efforts.

**Artillery OCS Alumni, the Army OCS Alumni Association and the Legacy of OCS**

The Army OCS Alumni Association at Fort Benning has many initiatives and purposes that go beyond ours, but we have a lot in common. It is in the best interest of the entire OCS community for the two largest alumni organizations to work together to document the history and perpetuate the legacy of all the OCS programs that ever existed from 1941 until the present. It will not always be an easy task, but it is important to give it our best. Fort Benning has been the home of the only Army OCS since December 1976, when OCS for females merged with the branch immaterial program created in April 1973. The last Fort Sill OCS class graduated July 7, 1973.

**Great News: We made an unofficial request for support on December 31, 2022 and by January 2, 2023 the US Army OCS Alumni Association Board of Directors had approved a contribution of \$5,000 in support of the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Heritage Center. Thank You to the US Army OCS Alumni Association!!!!**

**Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Charitable Endowment Fund**

The Endowment Fund was established with an initial contribution (gift) of \$10,000 from the Chapter General Fund on December 6, 2005.

An annual distribution (grant) from the Fund received each November is equal to five percent of the average market value of the Fund averaged over the previous twelve quarters. The Chapter Board of Directors determines the disposition of the annual distributions (grants) and any additional contributions (gifts) to the Fund from the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter.

Over the years we leveraged yearly matching grant opportunities offered by the Lawton Community Foundation to help grow the Fund. Direct individual contributions of \$24,635 and deposits of \$31,500 from the Chapter resulted in matching grants of \$42,025 from the Lawton Community Foundation.

The Fund balance on December 31, 2022 was \$184,215. Our last annual distribution was \$9,711 in November 2022. Future yearly distributions will help with Heritage Center sustainment costs and website maintenance costs.

**Artillery OCS Hall of Valor**

If you are the recipient of a valor award and you are not on our lists of individual recipients, please let us know about it and send us a copy of the citation or general order if possible. We have documented about 1,600 valor awards for Artillery OCS graduates, so far. We have just scratched the surface and there are a whole lot more. The Army has no magic list of the awards, but we are doing our best to create one for the Artillery OCS.  
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**A contribution (of any amount) will help us overcome the effects of inflation on our construction costs. The Artillery OCS Community will work as a Team and get it done. Our story will soon be told and the rich Legacy of Artillery OCS will live on at Fort Sill. Please join with us if you are able.**

**The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter is an IRS 501 (C) 3 charitable organization.**

**Donations are tax deductible. EIN # 74-3052514.**

**Please make your check payable to “Artillery OCS Alumni”**

**Mail to PO Box 33612, Fort Sill, OK 73503.**

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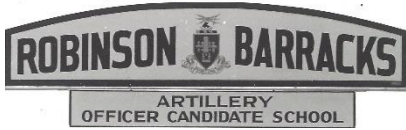
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PO Box 33612  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*Artillery OCS Heritage Center  
Preserve the Legacy.*

***Look Inside: Artillery OCS News and Comment***



***Updates on the Artillery OCS Heritage Center Project  
adjacent to the U.S Army Field Artillery Museum***

***We are still in need of your support  
You are a member of the TEAM  
Working Together We Will Achieve our Goal  
This will be the Legacy of Artillery OCS***