



Artillery OCS News October 3, 2023

Greetings From Fort Sill, Heritage Center Update:

We have been busy working with the Field Artillery Museum Curator and his volunteers, creating displays and wall panels. We want to have them ready, so we can move them into the new building when it is ready to occupy. The construction is going well and we hope to start the move by November 11.

Determining what can go on display is difficult. Rest assured, everything inside Durham Hall when we were given the keys in 2005 and all the memorabilia and artifacts collected over the last 18 years are being carefully considered. There is only so much space, and not everything is suitable for display.

The controlling authority is Army Regulation 870-20 (Historical Activities, Army Museums, Historical Artifacts, and Art) and the Center of Military History.

Our request to name the building addition the **Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall** was presented to the Fort Sill Memorialization Board on August 10, 2023. We still await the verdict.

Contributor lists, photos and drive-by videos of the work in progress are at the following link:

<https://artilleryocshistory.org/artillery-ocs-heritage-hall.html>

Artillery OCS History Website Update:

<https://artilleryocshistory.org/index.html>

We continue to add content to the website and make improvements as time permits. The website has a navigation page like a table of contents and the footer at the bottom of each page has quick links to most of the pages. Our aim is a simple design without a lot of distractions.

For now, this is my project. Website building and maintenance are new to me, and Penny is loaded down with other obligations. Please let us know if you have comments or suggestions for improvement or content.

We will be transitioning to a new email address by the middle of January. More on that later.

History of Army OCS and “All But Forgotten OCS Branch Schools”:

The US Army OCS Alumni Association (TUSAOCSAA) at Fort Benning has not shown a lot of interest in researching and maintaining the history of the various OCS branch programs that ramped up across the nation in 1941; those that were re-activated in the 1950s; and those that finally closed for good in the 1970s.

Signal OCS graduates did a remarkable job with their WWII, Korea and Vietnam history and website. Armor OCS graduates did great with their website and book “When the Nation Called a Third Time *Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Knox, Kentucky: The Vietnam Era*. Transportation OCS alumni have an impressive 1966-68 Vietnam era display in the Transportation Museum, a website (work in progress) and an 8-minute video, “Six Months that Changed My Life.”

It is logical to expect the Army OCS Alumni Association to be the source of history for the OCS programs at Fort Benning.

Ours is the “go-to” website for Artillery OCS, and we will work toward filling a void that exists for the “All But Forgotten Army OCS Branch Schools.” We intend to provide links and accurate information from our research about the history of all the Army Officer Candidate Schools.

A few months ago, I was provided a copy of the "Overview of Army OCS History," a 12- page document produced by TUSAOCSAA. I offered two pages of corrections to one of the Directors on June 20, 2023. No response.

OCS graduates from every era would be well served to read the Overview to learn more about the remarkable history and the current OCS program, but only after the corrections are made for the sake of accuracy.

Something written in an email sent to me three years ago by the President and CEO of TUSAOCSAA (a 1978 Fort Benning OCS graduate) gave me pause: "I understand the branch pride that the Sill, Knox, and Belvoir OCS graduates have for their OCS and service. Although I was an Infantry officer, I consider myself a combined arms maneuver leader and commander... Consequently, Branch parochialism irritates me. Especially from my Infantry brothers. FT Benning OCS is the US Army OCS and has been since 1973.....So I don't play the branch game....."

A recent quote from the same individual: “Our history is written by ERA as opposed to Branch.”

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met by Zoom on September 27th, to review our financial status for the tax-year ending September 30, 2023. A copy of the revenue and expense report and the current financial position will be posted on the website in a few days. The current Officers will remain in position.

Contributions to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter

Since November 1, 2019, more than 800 alumni and friends have contributed \$717,498 toward our goal of \$785,000 in contributions for the Heritage Center. We have achieved 91.4 % of our goal. If you have already contributed, please accept my THANK YOU and try to help us again - if you can. If you have not contributed, please consider doing so. We really need you to join this effort and become part of the Team. Working together to complete this project will be a wonderful lasting tribute to our departed Brothers.

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter is an IRS 501(C)3 charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID: EIN # 74-3052514. You can send a check to: Artillery OCS Alumni PO Box 33612 Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Click on the link below to see how you can support our efforts:

<https://artilleryocshistory.org/support-us.html>

If you want to donate by credit card there is a PayPal link on the Support Us page.

Thanks for your continuing support,

Randy C. Dunham (Class 10-69)

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<https://artilleryocshistory.org/index.html>

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