



Artillery OCS News December 17, 2023

Holiday Greetings, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Update: “Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall” (pending approval of the Fort Sill Garrison Commander)

The construction phase of our project was completed a month ago. Gordon Blaker, the Museum Curator and his volunteers moved our displays into the facility starting December 12th. There is still a lot to be done, but soon, the perimeter of the classroom will be filled with Artillery OCS history and tributes to our Fallen Comrades, Battlefield Heroes, and Distinguished Alumni.

The first thing a visitor will see after entering through the east side doors and turning to the right is the candidate cubicle mock-up. It is based on an SOP single bunk area in the 1967 wooden barracks.

Naming Request Update:

On July 21, 2023, we requested permission from the Fort Sill Garrison Commander to put the OCS Logo and the words “**Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall**” on the building. The package was presented to the Fort Sill Memorialization Board on August 10. We patiently waited for the expected approval. On October 9, we got word that the packet had been sitting in the Staff Judge Advocate's office for two months.

On December 7, 2023, we were informed that the SJA would try to finish the review by December 15 and get it to the Garrison Commander for his signature. The Garrison Commander is expected to sign it immediately once it comes to him. We are dealing with many “what ifs” and are back to working on details with DPW, if the SJA approves our request. I am perplexed and frustrated.

This is the second time dealing with the naming of the building. The first attempt was on July 29, 2021. We did not get anything in writing from Fort Sill until about the memorialization until July 18, 2023. It was just the official notice (dated July 18, 2023) that the Garrison Commander had approved our request to construct and donate the building along with this confusing statement:

“Any and all pictures, plaques, inscriptions, signs or other items to be affixed on, placed by, or to reside in the facility pertaining to this

memorialization must be approved by the Fort Sill Memorialization Board in advance.” We already knew that way back on July 29, 2021.....

We will stand by and keep working on the displays. Updated contributor lists, photos and drive-by videos of the work in progress are available here:

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

Artillery OCS History Website Update:

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

Website building and maintenance are new to me, and Penny is loaded with other obligations. Please let us know if you have comments or suggestions for improvement or content. Some of the earlier built pages are being reworked as time permits, and I find ways to improve the visitor experience.

I built a page to help visitors unravel the layout. It might be excessive for some:
<https://artilleryocshistory.org/find-your-way.html>

With the Navigation page, the Find Your Way page and the footer, you should be able to find what you are looking for and more.

Hard Copy Newsletter coming soon:

I want to send out a hard copy of a newsletter to all the alumni who do not get our periodic email news. I want to be able to break the news (good or bad) about the naming of the building to that group. Most of them have been waiting to hear from us since January. I am getting disturbing calls from alumni wondering if we closed and no longer exist or just gave up. NO WAY!

Bragg Road at Fort Sill is now Liberty Road:

The road formerly known as Bragg Road, located south and east of the old OCS area at Fort Sill, is now Liberty Road. I wonder why the road from Mow-Way Road north to Ringgold Road couldn't have been named after a war hero instead of a re-named Army post.

It would have been interesting if a request had been made to memorialize the road in honor of 1LT Fred Garland Bragg (Artillery OCS Class 10-65), who was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Contributions to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter

Since November 1, 2019, more than 800 alumni and friends have contributed \$729,889 toward our goal of \$785,000 in contributions for the Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall project. We have achieved 93 % of our goal. If you have already contributed, please accept my THANK YOU.

If you have not contributed to the Heritage Hall project, please consider joining this effort and becoming part of the Team. Working together to complete and sustain this project will be a wonderful 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,

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

<https://www.facebook.com/artilleryocsalumni/>

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