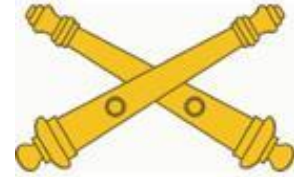


Artillery Officer Candidate School 1941-1973



Army Officer Corps

Roots of Army OCS

Army and Artillery OCS History

The Artillery OCS Hall of Fame

Roots of the Artillery Branches



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Revised 7-13-2025.

Artillery Officer Candidate School Alumni Chapter, Incorporated

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter is a 501c3 non-profit organization incorporated in 2002.

The purposes and aims of the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter are to:

1. Preserve and maintain the archives, historical records, memorabilia and artifacts of the Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School.
2. Conduct research and document the history and development of officers commissioned through the OCS program.
3. Conduct research and document the heroism and military service of graduates of the OCS program during all military conflicts from 1941 to the present.
4. Collect, preserve, interpret, and display OCS related items of historic significance for use in education programs for active duty, retired military, veterans and the public.
5. Plan and coordinate educational programs designed specifically for the public.
6. Promote interest and pride in the history of the OCS program and the graduates and staff who participated in events of historical significance.
7. Maintain a permanent location dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of the OCS program at Fort Sill, one of the most significant military programs in the history of the U.S

Volunteers conduct all Chapter operations. There are no paid staff.

The Alumni Chapter assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of Building 3025 in February 2005 and occupied the building under a lease (later a license) from the Secretary of the Army to conduct organization business and maintain the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame. The arrangement ended by mutual agreement on October 15, 2021 and the keys were turned over to the Fort Sill Directorate of Public Works. Building 3025 is the only WWII era wooden barracks structure on Fort Sill.

Building 3025 was the home of the Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame from August 13, 1984 to October 15, 2021. The building was named "Durham Hall" on May 20, 1999 in memory of 2LT Harold B. "Pinky" Durham, Jr., OCS Class 1-67, a Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient (posthumous).

The area occupied by the Officer Candidate School was named "Robinson Barracks" on 15 April 1953 in memory of 1LT James E. Robinson, OCS Class 61-43, a World War II Medal of Honor recipient (posthumous). The Robinson Barracks Archway stands at the north entrance of the area, near the corner of Austin and Jones Road west of Building 3025.

The Artillery OCS Heritage Hall is a joint project of the Artillery OCS Alumni, the Artillery Museum, and Fort Sill. The 40' x 80' addition to the South Gallery of the Museum serves as a theater/classroom with wall space dedicated to the OCS story: the history, culture, and traditions of Artillery OCS; our heroes; our fallen comrades; and distinguished graduates. There are display cases, uniform displays, OCS history panels, and photos. Kiosks with Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Inductee photos and bios, Fallen Comrade biographical information, Class Photos and loads of OCS history will soon augment the displays. A 40' x 50' multi-purpose courtyard graces the east entrance. The Heritage Hall will help the U.S. Field Artillery Museum fulfill its mission and significantly increase our exposure to the public. It is secure and open during regular Museum hours. The Field Artillery Museum was granted beneficial occupancy of the building on December 12, 2023. The project was booked as an \$832,798 WIP (Work in Progress) asset

until May 9, 2024, when it was gifted to Fort Sill. We had a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony followed by a light lunch inside the Hall on November 2, 2024. Thank You to contributions from more than 800 OCS Alumni and Friends who made this our permanent home and the Legacy of Artillery OCS at Fort Sill.

Chapter Officers and Directors (2025-2026)

President: Bill Ford
Fort Sill OCS TAC Officer 1966
Field Artillery Hall of Fame

Vice President: COL (Ret) Harvey Glowaski
Fort Sill OCS Class 1-67
Artillery OCS Hall of Fame
Army OCS Hall of Fame (Fort Benning) Inductee

Secretary: Randy Dunham
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LTC (Ret) John Mennig
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Artillery OCS Hall of Valor

COL Wayne Hunt
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Artillery OCS Hall of Fame

Rich Cobin
Fort Sill OCS Class 19-67

Mendell Schelin
Fort Sill OCS Class 15-69
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The U. S. Army Officer Corps and the Roots of the Army Officer Candidate Schools

The modern U.S. Army has its roots in the Continental Army, which was formed on June 14, 1775, to fight the American Revolutionary War (1775–83), before the United States was established as a country.

After the Revolutionary War, the Congress of the Confederation created the United States Army June 3, 1784 to replace the disbanded Continental Army. The United States Army considers itself descended from the Continental Army and dates its inception from the origin of that armed force in 1775.

From 1775 to 1815 the United States was continuously involved in military conflicts with American Indians and various European countries. The United States was forced to rely on militia and volunteers, with no federal standards of training and competence. Officers below the rank of colonel were appointed by the states.

It was believed from the beginning that members of the officer corps must come from society, not a segment of it. Officers must be available and able to train and lead citizen soldiers in time of war and must not use their monopoly of knowledge to their own means.

The new country needed a school which would teach the mathematical and physical sciences and their applications to military problems, as well as to the problems of agriculture, industry and the means of internal communications. The result would be a national military academy.

United States Military Academy (USMA) was established at West Point in 1802.

The Continental Army first occupied West Point, New York, on 27 January 1778, and it is the oldest continuously operating Army post in the United States. "Cadets" had been trained at West Point since 1794 and the USMA was established there by an act of Congress on March 16, 1802.

The college from which ROTC originated is Norwich University, founded in 1819

as the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy. The university was founded by former West Point instructor, Captain Alden Partridge, who promoted the idea of a "citizen soldier"- a man trained to act in a military capacity when his nation required, but capable of fulfilling standard civilian functions in peacetime. This idea eventually led to the formation of Reservist and National Guard units with regimented training in place of local militia forces.

The Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) was eventually established in 1916.

The concept of ROTC in the United States began with the Morrill Act of 1862 which established the land-grant colleges. Part of the federal government's requirement for these schools was that they include military tactics as part of their curriculum, forming what became known as ROTC.

Officer Training Before and During World War I (1914-1918)

Military Training Camps for college students during 1913-1915 formed a connecting link between the antiquated system of military training at land grant colleges and the new **Citizen's Military Training Camps (CMTC)** and **Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)** program established by the National Defense Act of 1916. World War I delayed implementation of the CMTC program until 1921 and ROTC was only able to commission 133 officers by 1920.

Plattsburgh Camps (1915-1917) were part of a volunteer pre-enlistment training program organized by private citizens before the U.S. entry into World War I. The camps were set up and funded by the Preparedness Movement, a group of influential pro-Allied Americans. They recognized that the standing U.S. Army was far too small to affect the war and would have to expand immensely if the U.S. went to war. The Preparedness Movement established the camps to train additional potential Army officers during the summers of 1915 and 1916. The largest and best-known camp was near Plattsburgh, New York. The participants were required to pay their own expenses. They provided the cadre of a wartime officer corps.

Graduates of the 1915-1916 camps gave the spark for the formation of the **Military Training Camps Association (MTCA)**, with the core of its membership principally alumni of the Plattsburg training. MTCA turned the Plattsburg training camps planned for the summer of 1917 into what would be called **Officer's Training Schools (OTS)**.

Officer Training Schools (OTS) - (1917-1918)

Sixteen Officer Training Schools (OTS) were opened on May 15 and closed on August 15, 1917. A second series of camps opened on August 27 and ended on November 17, 1917. A third series of camps opened on January 5, 1918 and ended on April 19, 1918. The fourth series opened on May 18, 1918 with most of them in Army and National Guard Division camps. Most of those candidates were absorbed into the newly created **Central Officer Training Schools (COTS)**, while the rest completed their training and were commissioned overseas. Other small camps were established in Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Hawaii and Panama.

Officer Training Camps for African Americans: Provisional Officer Training Camp (OTC) and the Medical Officers Training Camp (MOTC) Colored - (1917-1918)

Almost 1,400 volunteers arrived at Fort Des Moines, Iowa to be trained at the Army's first training camps for African American officers. Two groups trained there. The first trained line officers. It was called the 17th Provisional Officer Training Camp (OTC) and ran from June 18 to October 18, 1917. The candidates included 1,000 college graduates and 250 NCOs from the 9th and 10th Cavalry (Buffalo Soldiers) and the 24th and 25th Infantry. The course graduated 639 Captains and Lieutenants. The second was called the Medical Officers Training Camp (MOTC) - Colored and trained medical and dental officers, most of whom were physicians and dentists who had left their practices to join the war effort. 104 Medical Officers and twelve dental officers qualified and graduated from the MOTC.

Central Officer Training Schools (COTS) - (1918)

Eight Central Officer Training Schools (COTS) were established - five for Infantry, one for Machine Gunners, one for Field Artillery and one for Cavalry.

Major General William J. Snow was harshly critical of the shortcomings of earlier versions of the officer training camps. He was named Chief of the Field Artillery in February 1918 and recommended the establishment of a Field Artillery Central Officer Training School at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky. He helped make it one of the best.

Drills began at the Field Artillery Central Officer Training School (COTS) at Camp Zachary Taylor on June 24, 1918 and by November 20th it was the largest school of any kind in the world, with 14,469 candidates.

On November 11, 1918, the Secretary of War directed that no more candidates be admitted to any of the COTS. The candidates in attendance at the time had the option of taking an immediate discharge or finishing the course.

A total of 80,416 line officers were commissioned during and shortly after World War I. They constituted more than 60% of the total officer strength in the combat arms:

Infantry: 48,968

Field Artillery: 20,291

Quartermaster Corps: 3,067

Coast Artillery: 2,063

Cavalry: 2,032

Engineer Corps: 1,966

Signal Corps: 1,262

Ordnance Corps: 767

After the war, the U.S. Army shrank from its wartime high of almost 2.5 million men to about 140,000 while its officer strength declined from 130,000 to 12,000. The closure of the Officer Training Schools left the Army with no source of rapidly trained officers until World War II threatened to engulf the United States.

Citizens' Military Training Camps (CMTC) - (1921-1940)

CMTC were military training programs of the United States, held annually each summer during the years 1921 to 1940, the CMTC camps differed from National Guard and Reserves training in that the program allowed male citizens to obtain basic military training without an obligation to call-up for active duty. The CMTC were authorized by the National Defense Act of 1916 and were a continuation of the Plattsburg camps of 1915-16.

CMTC camps were formalized under the Military Training Camps Association (MTCA). The CMTC camps were a month in length and held at about 50 Army posts nationally. At their peak in 1928 and 1929, about 40,000 men received training, but the camps were a disappointment at their multiplicity of stated goals, but particularly in the commissioning of Reserve officers. The program established that participants could receive a reserve commission as a second lieutenant by completing four successive summer courses (titled Basic, White, Red, and Blue), but only 5,000 commissions were awarded over the 20-year history of the CMTC. It is estimated that 400,000 men had at least one summer of training.

The Formation of OCS: 1938-1941

The Military Training Camps Association (MTCA) proposed and helped secure passage of the first peacetime draft in September 1940. The Selective Service and Training Act of 16 September 1940 required all men 21-35 to register for one year of service by October 16, 1940. Within one year the Army grew from 265,000 to 1,400,00.

The MTCA wanted to use the same process to obtain additional officers as it had done during 1917-18. They wanted to establish a large program of Plattsburgh type camps. Secretary of War Henry Stimson and the Assistant Secretary of War agreed. MTCA felt that three months would be ample to turn the best brains in the country into second lieutenants, that an adequate officers' school could be set up within ten days and five or six qualified persons could handle the instruction very effectively. The Army and Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall disagreed. The MTCA believed that the "best brains" would be lost to the Army if men had to enlist before taking officer training and then serve on active duty for a year or more. The Army believed the draft would bring in more than enough "best brains."

The initial OCS plan was submitted to the Chief of the Infantry in June 1938, and it was rejected. In June 1940, the War Department directed the Infantry Board to revise the plan. General Marshall knew that if the draft was renewed in the fall of 1941 there would be serious morale problems. He believed that war with Japan was inevitable and that additional junior officers would be required. Securing them from the ranks would improve morale. He was determined to condition junior officers physically and psychologically by service on the enlisted level. He was determined to create a competitive and democratic system for the procurement of officers. The initial planning for OCS in late 1940 was vigorously promoted by General Marshall.

General Marshall promoted Colonel Omar Bradley to Brigadier General in February 1941, appointed him Commandant of the Infantry School and instructed him to get the OCS plan going. On March 6, 1941 Bradley forwarded his recommendations to the War department, they were approved on March 25, 1941 and OCS was established.

From a Generals Life

by Omar Bradley, copyright 1983:

By the time I assumed my duties at the Fort Benning Infantry School in early March 1941, the U.S. Army, augmented by draftees, the National Guard and the Reserves, had grown to well over a half-million men. The existing mobilization plan called for an Army force level of 1.4 million men by June 30, a figure that was in fact, met. The total number would include about 100,000 officers of all ranks.

It had long been assumed by the Army planners that there were sufficient numbers of well-trained junior officers in the National Guard and Reserves (mostly ROTC graduates) to meet the requirements of large-scale mobilization. It was further assumed that after these officers had received concentrated training in small-and large-unit maneuvers and a refresher course at the Fort Benning Infantry School, they would be "seasoned" and ready. But Marshall had never really believed any of this. He correctly foresaw that too many National Guard junior officers would be inadequately trained or otherwise unfit, too many Reserve officers would be siphoned off for the Air Corps or other non-infantry

duties, and the infantry (and other branches as well) would find itself with a severe shortage of junior officers.

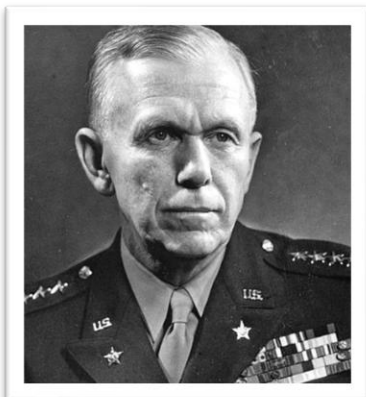
Early in the mobilization planning, Marshall had proposed that the Army establish special schools for the rapid training of junior commissioned officers recruited from the existing enlisted ranks or from the ranks of draftees with six months of basic training. They were to be called Officer Candidate Schools – or OCS. Marshall believed, correctly, that the draft would net many men qualified in leadership and other abilities to warrant commissioning. Moreover, he argued, it would be salutary for the morale of the draftees to know that officers were being chosen from the ranks. But his G-1 (personnel section) on the General Staff and the chief of Infantry, George Lynch, had adamantly opposed OCS for a variety of reasons and disbelieved Marshall’s contention that a critical shortage of junior officers would occur in the infantry.

By the time I reached Benning, a sort of gold-plated prototype OCS had been established by Courtney Hodges, mainly to pay lip service to Marshall. There were only two classes, and these were poorly organized and instructed. The men taking the course were elitist draftees or volunteers, graduates of Ivy League colleges, many of the students scions of distinguished or wealthy American families. Courtney Hodges, who was cool to the OCS concept, had told me that it was pointless to think in terms of expanding OCS, that not another man could be shoehorned into Fort Benning’s badly overcrowded facilities.

I shared Marshall’s view that an OCS, or some form of it, would be essential to fill the junior officer ranks in the expanding Army. For several weeks I studied the problem, then drew up a sort of assembly-line plan that would enable us to expand the Benning OCS program twenty-four fold without exorbitant expense or the need for large numbers of skilled instructors, who were everywhere in critically short supply. I took the plan to Washington and presented it to Hodges-now chief of infantry-and to G-1. Because of the widespread underlying prejudice against OCS in general (the graduates had already been derisively tagged “ninety-day wonders”), I got nowhere until I decided to go over everybody’s head and take the plan directly to Marshall. He was impressed – and pleased- and promptly gave the plan a green light.

The Fort Benning OCS became the model, or prototype, for all future OCS’s, carefully studied and copied by representatives from the other branches. The school turned out countless thousands of junior officers who went on to fill the infantry ranks in Europe and the Pacific. I consider the founding of the Fort Benning OCS my greatest contribution to the mobilization effort. I’m happy it still exists.

General George C. Marshall



General Omar Bradley



Infantry OCS at Fort Benning opened on July 9, 1941. Class #1 started with 204 candidates and graduated 171 on September 27, 1941. The attrition rate was 16%.

Field Artillery OCS at Fort Sill opened on July 10, 1941. Class #1 started with 126 candidates and graduated 79 on October 1, 1941. The attrition rate was 37%.

The Infantry OCS commissioned 61,202 officers during World War II.

The three Artillery OCS programs (Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Anti-Aircraft Artillery at Camp Davis, North Carolina and Seacoast Artillery at Fort Monroe, Virginia) commissioned 53,166.



Candidate heading for in-processing and a rude awakening.

The OCS method of instruction was the proven Fort Benning technique of demonstration - explanation - performance.

Yearly U.S. Army Strength reports listing number of personnel on active duty:

1939 (Jun):	187,893	1946 (May):	2,008,494
1940 (Jun):	264,118	1950 (Jan):	638,842
1941 (Aug):	1,588,032	1952 (Jan):	1,617,245
1942 (Jul):	3,203,819	1960 (Jan):	880,341
1943 (Jun):	5,355,683	1969 (Jan):	1,475,599
1944 (May):	7,910,496	1974 (Jan):	784,999
1945 (May):	8,291,336	2001 (Sep):	480,201

Army OCS Timeline and Highlights from 1941 to date

Ten Officer Candidate School were activated in July 1941: Infantry, Signal, Armor, Field Artillery, Coastal Artillery, Quartermaster, Medical Service, Engineer, Cavalry, and Ordnance. Four more OCS programs were activated in November 1941.

OCS was the Army's first formal experiment with integration. At Fort Sill candidates shared quarters, with bunkmates assigned alphabetically without regard to race and all candidates trained together.

The Army Air Force (AAF) established its OCS in Miami Beach in February 1942.

Congress created the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on May 14, 1942. The WAAC needed officers and created its own OCS. The first WAAC OCS class at Fort Des Moines, Iowa consisted of 440 candidates, including 40 African Americans. The class started on July 20, finished on August 29, 1942 and commissioned 436 third officers (equivalent to a second lieutenant).

15,000 Soldiers returned to the States from overseas between June 1942 and November 1943 to enter OCS programs while 2,500 lieutenants graduated from OCS programs operating overseas.

OCS programs operated in a hotel in Chicago, on several college campuses, in New Caledonia, and in Natambua, Fiji Islands during 1942 and 1943.

When Class 52-43 graduated on February 18, 1943, the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill had commissioned 13,690 second lieutenants since opening. That number surpassed the total officers commissioned from the United States Military Academy at West Point since it had opened in 1802 (141 years).

The Course at Fort Sill was 12 weeks long until July 2, 1943, when it was expanded to 17 weeks. During the period 1941-1946 the 12-week course at Fort Sill commissioned 22,338 officers and the 17-week course commissioned 3,673. The program at Fort Sill peaked in late 1942, with twelve classes of 550 in session. Candidates at Fort Sill from 1941-1946 were housed in 1,138 six-man hutments. On July 9, 1942, the course capacity was authorized at 6,600.

Due to the rapid creation of OCS programs in response to wartime necessity, and then the rapid closures, or restructuring, soon after the end of the war, historical records were not always created or maintained. Little is known about many of the branch specific commissioning courses. The following timeline was created from a variety of sources and may contain some inconsistent, un-verified or inaccurate information in reference to OCS programs other than Artillery OCS at Fort Sill.

September 1942: an OCS opened in Shrivenham, Berkshire, England with 50 students.

December 1942: OCS programs commissioned more officers during that month than had graduated from the United States Military Academy the previous 140 years.

January 1943: In Brisbane, Australia, 135 lieutenants graduated from an OCS at Camp Columbia. Most of the cadre staffing this school came from Fort Benning.

May 1943: The junior and senior years of the college Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs were suspended. Those students who had completed the first two years of ROTC were sent to OCS. From June 1943 to September 1944, former ROTC cadets accounted for 77% of the Field Artillery OCS graduates and the graduation rate was 92%. Field Artillery OCS commissioned 3,591 former ROTC cadets during World War II.

July 1943: all OCS programs were expanded to 17 weeks.

July 31, 1943: The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was established. The new WAC training center established at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia included an Officer Candidate School which moved from Fort Des Moines in September 1943. The school relocated to Fort Des Moines in March 1945 and operated there until closing in November 1945.

A list of 31 known stateside OCS programs that operated during World War II:

Adjutant General (Fort Washington, Maryland)
Anti-Aircraft Artillery (Camp Davis, North Carolina)
Armor (Fort Knox, Kentucky)
Army Administration #1 (Fargo, North Dakota)
Army Administration #3 (Gainesville, Florida)
Army Administration #2 (Grinnell College, Iowa)
Army Administration #4 ((Mississippi State College)
Army Administration (Fort Washington, Maryland)
Army Air Forces Administration (Statistical) (Harvard University)
Army Air Forces Administration (Miami Beach, Florida)
Cavalry (Fort Riley, Kansas)
Chemical Warfare (Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland)
Engineer (Fort Belvoir, Virginia)
Field Artillery (Fort Sill, Oklahoma)
Finance (Duke University, North Carolina)
Infantry (Fort Benning, Georgia)
Judge Advocate General (Ann Arbor, Michigan)
Medical Administration (Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania)
Medical Administration (Camp Barkeley, Texas)
Military Police (Fort Custer, Michigan)
Ordnance (Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland)
Quartermaster (Camp Lee, Virginia)
Quartermaster (Fort Warren, Wyoming)
Seacoast Artillery (Fort Monroe, Virginia)
Signal (Fort Monmouth, New Jersey)
Tank Destroyer (Camp Hood, Texas)
Transportation (Fort Slocum, New York)
Transportation (Camp Stoneman, California)
Transportation (New Orleans, Louisiana)
Woman's Army Corps (WAC) (Fort Des Moines, Iowa)
Woman's Army Corps (WAC) (Camp Oglethorpe, Georgia)

During World War II Army OCS programs worldwide produced 280,000 lieutenants.

Largest schools:

Infantry	61,202 graduates
Field Artillery	26,011 graduates
Anti-Aircraft Artillery	25,191 graduates
Quartermaster	24,561 graduates
Engineer	23,000 graduates
Signal	21,033 graduates

February 1945: Casualties from the Battle of the Bulge prompted the opening of an OCS in Fontainebleau, France. OCS instructors from Fort Benning augmented by combat-experienced officers taught thirty classes with 6,588 candidates and 4,167 graduates from February to July 1945.

OCS programs were crucial in winning World War II and the majority of all Army officers serving in World War II were commissioned through OCS.

By the end of the war, three-fourths of all company grade officers were OCS graduates.

An American Ground Forces Staff Memo During World War II:

“The three months of intensive training undergone in an officer candidate school under war conditions, is far superior to the full ROTC course.”

Officers Commissioned by the Infantry and Artillery OCS programs during WW II:

Infantry OCS	61,202	
Field Artillery OCS	26,011	(commissioned Field Artillery)
AAA OCS (Camp Davis) 1941-1944	25,191	(commissioned Coast Artillery)
Seacoast Artillery OCS (Fort Monroe) 1942-44	1,964	(commissioned Coast Artillery)

Thousands of Coast Artillery officers ended up as Infantry Officers during 1944. There was a surplus of Coast Artillery Officers and a shortage of Infantry officers. Those in Theater were branch transferred and received their training on the job while many in stateside assignments were able to receive Infantry branch training prior to going overseas.

August 26, 1946: Infantry OCS at Fort Benning became the only Army OCS and the course of study was expanded to 24 weeks.

December 12, 1946: Field Artillery OCS at Fort Sill closed.

September 1, 1947: OCS and the Infantry Basic Officer’s Course moved from Fort Benning to Fort Riley, Kansas.

During November 1947: the OCS class that was still in progress at Fort Benning graduated and the Fort Benning OCS closed.

April 1949: The WAC OCS opened at Fort Lee, Virginia in the new WAC training center.

During 1950: Only 542 lieutenants graduated from the two active Army OCS programs (Fort Riley Ground General School OCS and WAC OCS at Fort Lee).

June 25, 1950: With the start of the Korean War, the Army needed more junior officers and once again turned to OCS to produce them. Seven OCS programs were activated in 1951: Infantry, Field Artillery, Armor, Signal, Engineer, Ordnance, and Anti-Aircraft Artillery (Fort Bliss), in addition to the OCS at Fort Riley and the WAC OCS at Fort Lee that were already active. All the courses had an extremely high attrition rate, with Fort Sill Artillery OCS at 57.5% during 1951-1953.

Artillery OCS at Fort Sill reopened on February 21, 1951: The course was lengthened to 23 weeks and the candidates were housed in wooden barracks. A temporary shortage of barracks resulted in some classes being placed in tents. The Headquarters was in Building 3025, and remained there until August 1968, when it moved to Building 3166.

1951-1953: Infantry OCS commissioned approximately 7,000 officers during the period and Artillery commissioned nearly 3,100.

1952: The WAC OCS moved from Fort Lee, Virginia to Fort McClellan, Alabama.

1953: The Fort Sill OCS area was named Robinson Barracks in honor of LT James E. Robinson Jr., a 1943 graduate who was the posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor.

August 1953: The Department of the Army reduced OCS from nine to four programs: Infantry, Artillery, and Engineer and WAC.

1954: Engineer OCS closed, and WAC OCS closed because of the dwindling number of applicants and high attrition rates. The WACs began relying on direct commissions for their junior officers. Only two OCS programs remained: Infantry and Field Artillery

1954-1958: The Field Artillery OCS put several National Guard classes through a rigorous 11-week summer course.

June 1958: The Infantry OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning was dedicated in memory of LT Thomas W. Wigle an Infantry OCS graduate who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on September 14, 1944.

1955-1965: The Infantry OCS graduated an average of 339 lieutenants annually and the Artillery OCS graduated an average of 355 annually during this period. Only about seven percent of new Army officers on active duty came from OCS during those years.

1957-1968: Army Reserve had special 11-week Reserve Classes at Fort Sill.

Officers commissioned at Artillery OCS and the USMA during the Vietnam era:

Year	Artillery OCS	USMA
1963	401	504
1964	683	565
1965	1,146	596
1966	2,177	579
1967	6,414	581
1968	1,654	706
1969	1,966	800
1970	1,268	749
1971	143	728
1972	313	
1973	163	

The Artillery OCS graduate totals are based on the class numbering system, not the calendar year or fiscal year totals. Some official documents cite graduations that take place during a calendar year while others cite the totals for a fiscal year. There is no consistency, so our calculated figures are based on the class numbers. Some classes graduated in December of the previous year. For example, Class 1-60 graduated on December 18, 1959. The following classes graduated in December of the previous year: Classes 1-60, 1-61, 1-64, 1-66, 1-67, 1A-68, 1B-68, 2-68, 1-69 and 1-70.

1963: American advisors helped to establish a South Vietnamese OCS. This 36-week course produced about 4,000 graduates annually.

1965-66: During the Vietnam Conflict, six more branch OCSs reopened with a 23-week course. At the peak of the war, the Infantry OCS graduated 7,000 officers annually.

September 1965: The Engineer OCS was activated at Fort Belvoir. It graduated 10,380 officers, mostly to serve in Vietnam, before it closed in 1971.

1965-66: The WAC OCS reopened at Fort McClellan.

Nine OCS programs operated during the Vietnam War:

Infantry at Fort Benning

Artillery at Fort Sill

Signal at Fort Gordon was activated in 1965.

Engineer at Fort Belvoir was activated in 1965.

Armor at Fort Knox was activated in 1965.

Ordnance at Aberdeen Proving Ground was activated in 1966.

Transportation at Fort Eustis was activated in 1966.

Quartermaster at Fort Lee was activated in 1966.

WAC at Fort McClellan was activated in 1965.

1966: During Fiscal Year 1966 OCS at Fort Knox was branch immaterial. The first class (9-66) commissioned 41 in Armor, 9 in Ordnance, 7 in Quartermaster and 20 in Transportation Corps. Four other classes completed the entire OCS program at Fort Knox and were commissioned Armor (337 graduates). Four classes completed 13 weeks

of Phase I OCS at Fort Knox and went to Fort Eustis, for Phase II of Transportation OCS (339 graduates). Four classes completed Phase I at Fort Knox and went to Aberdeen proving Grounds for Phase II of Ordnance OCS (316 graduates). Three classes completed Phase 1 at Fort Knox and went to Fort Lee for Phase II of Quartermaster OCS (274 graduates).

August 1967: While filming his movie, The Green Berets, at Fort Benning, John Wayne included footage of an OCS class training for helicopter assaults.

1967: The Fort Sill OCS received new barracks and administrative facilities to support a programmed input of 9,600 candidates. Artillery OCS also commissioned Air Defense Artillery and Signal after June 1968.

1968: Armor, Ordnance, Quartermaster, Signal and Transportation OCS all closed by the end of 1968, leaving only the Infantry, Artillery, Engineer, and WAC OCS programs.

March 8, 1969: Fort Benning OCS graduated its 100,000th lieutenant.

September 9, 1969: Fort Sill OCS graduated its 45,000th lieutenant.

During the 1970's with the elimination of the draft, some of the OCS harassment disappeared, such as low crawling to the mess hall, shaving heads, or upper classmen dropping lower classmen for pushups.

1971: Engineer OCS at Fort Belvoir closed during February.

April 1973: Fort Benning became the Branch Immaterial OCS and the length of the course was reduced from 23 to 14 weeks. All graduates then attended the Officer Basic Course of the branch they were commissioned in.

July 7, 1973: Field Artillery OCS closed after graduating more than 49,000 second lieutenants.

It was not until 1992 (19 years after the last OCS class graduated from Fort Sill) that the number of graduates from West Point surpassed the totals from Artillery OCS.

December 1976: The WAC OCS at Fort McClellan closed, the Fort Benning Branch Immaterial OCS integrated female candidates and became the only Officer Candidate School in the active Army.

February 1978: Fort Benning OCS graduates Brenda Barton and Donna Shuffstall became the first women commissioned in a combat arms branch, Air Defense Artillery.

OCS has returned to a 90-day schedule, but its mission remains the same "...to train selected personnel in the fundamentals of leadership and basic military skills; instill professional ethics; evaluate leadership potential; and commission those who qualify as second lieutenants in all sixteen basic branches of the United States Army.

Fort Sill OCS Name Changes Through the Years:

United States Army Field Artillery Officer Candidate School

United States Army Artillery Officer Candidate School

United States Army Artillery and Guided Missile Officer Candidate School

United States Army Artillery and Missile Officer Candidate School

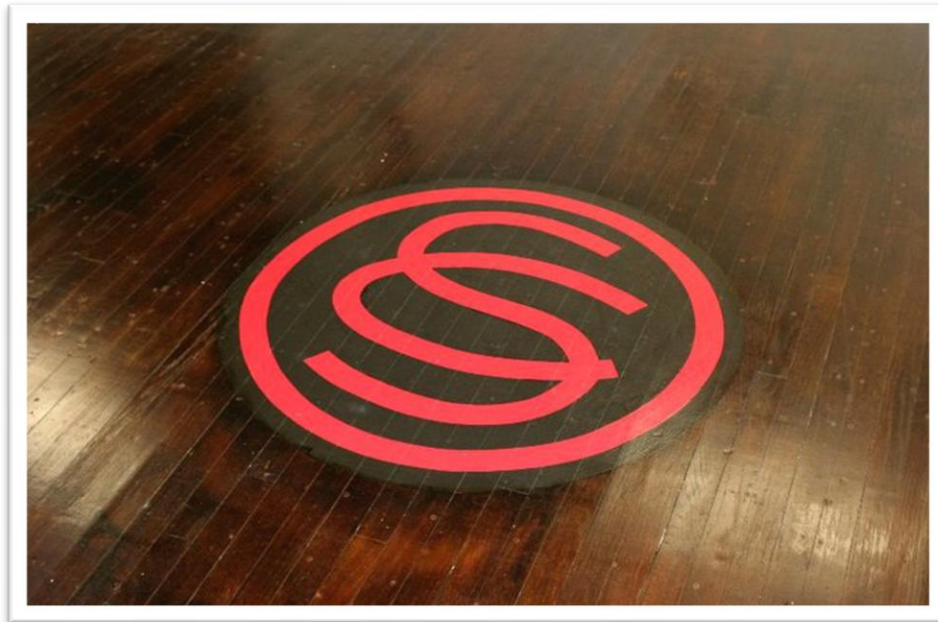
United States Army Field Artillery Officer Candidate School

United States Army Field Artillery Officer Candidate Brigade

United States Army Field Artillery Leadership Brigade

United States Army Field Artillery Command and Leadership Brigade

United States Army Field Artillery Officer Candidate Battalion



"Leadership"
Address of General George C. Marshall, Chief Of Staff
To The First Officer Candidates Schools – July 1941

You are about to assume the most important duty that our officers are called upon to perform--the direct command of combat units of American soldiers. To succeed requires two fundamental qualifications--thorough professional knowledge and a capacity for leadership. The schools have done all that can be done in the limited time available to equip you professionally, and your technique of weapons and tactics should rapidly improve with further study and actual practice. However, they cannot provide you with qualities of leadership--that courage and evident high purpose which command the respect and loyalty of American soldiers.

You were selected as officer candidates because you gave evidence of possessing these qualifications. Whether or not you develop into truly capable leaders depends almost entirely upon you personally.

Your school work has been under ideal conditions from an instructional standpoint; but when you join your organizations, you will find many difficulties and deficiencies complicating your task. There will be shortages in equipment, for example. These are being made good as rapidly as possible, but so long as they exist they are a challenge to your ingenuity and not an invitation to fall back on an overdose of close order drill and the other necessary but stultifying minutia which so irked the army of 1917 that we still suffer from the repercussions.

Warfare today is a thing of swift movement;-of rapid concentrations. It requires the building up of enormous fire power against successive objectives with breathtaking speed. It is not a game for the unimaginative plodder. Modern battles are fought by platoon leaders. The carefully prepared plans of higher commanders can do no more than project you to the line of departure at the proper time and place, in proper formation, and start you off in the right direction. Thereafter the responsibility for results is almost entirely yours. If you know your business of weapons and tactics, if you have insured the complete confidence and loyalty of your men, things will go well on that section of the front.

There is a gulf between the drill ground or cantonment type of leadership and that necessary for the successful command of men when it may involve the question of sacrificing one's life. Our army differs from all other armies. The very characteristic which make our men potentially the best soldiers in the world can be in some respects a possible source of weakness. Racially we are not, a homogeneous people, like the British for example, who can glorify a defeat by their stubborn tenacity and clogged discipline. We have no common racial group and we have deliberately cultivated individual interest and

independence of thought and action. Our men are intelligent and resourceful to an unusual degree. These characteristics, these qualities may be, in effect, explosive or positively destructive in a military organization, especially under adverse conditions, unless the leadership is wise and determined, and unless the leader commands the complete respect of his men.

Never for an instant can you divest yourselves of the fact that you are officers. On the athletic field, at the club, in civilian clothes, or even at home on leave, the fact that you are a commissioned officer in the army imposes a constant obligation to higher standards than might ordinarily seem normal or necessary for your personal guidance. A small dereliction becomes conspicuous, at times notorious, purely by reason of the fact that the individual concerned is a commissioned officer.

But the evil result goes much further than a mere matter of unfortunate publicity. When you are commanding, leading men under conditions where physical exhaustion and privations must be ignored; where the lives of men may be sacrificed, then, the efficiency of your leadership will depend only to a minor degree on your tactical or technical ability. It will primarily be determined by your character, your reputation, not so much for courage, which will be accepted as a matter of course, but by the previous reputation you have established for fairness, for that high minded patriotic purpose, that quality of unswerving determination to carry through any military task assigned you.

The feeling which the men must hold for you is not to be compared to the popularity of a football coach or a leader of civic activities. Professional competence is essential to leadership and your knowledge of arms, equipment, and tactics operations must be clearly superior to that possessed by your subordinates; at the same time, you must command their respect above and beyond those qualities.

It is difficult to make a clear picture of the obligations and requirements for an officer. Conduction of campaigns and the demands of the battle field are seldom appreciated except by veterans of such experience. The necessity for discipline is never fully comprehended by the soldier until he has undergone the order of battle, and even then he lacks a basis of comparison, the contrast between the action of a disciplined regiment and the failure and probable disintegration of one which lacks that intangible quality. The quality of officers is tested to the limit during the long and trying periods of waiting, of marching here and there without evident purpose and during those weeks or months of service under conditions of extreme discomfort or of possible privations or isolation. The true leader surmounts all of these difficulties, maintaining the discipline of his unit and further developing its training. Where there is a deficiency of such leadership, serious results invariably follow, and too often the circumstances are directed to the conditions under which the unit labored

rather than towards the individual who failed in his duty because he was found wanting in inherent ability to accept his responsibilities.

Remember that we are a people prone to be critical of everything except that for which we are personally responsible. Remember also that to a soldier a certain amount of grouching appears to be necessary. However, there is a vast difference between these usually amusing reactions and the destructive and disloyal criticism of the undisciplined soldier.

Mental alertness, initiative and vision are qualities which you must cultivate. Passive inactivity because you have not been given specific instruction to do this or to do that is a serious deficiency. Always encourage initiative on the part of your men, but initiative must of course, be accomplished by intelligence.

Much of what I have said has been by way of repetition of one thought which I wish you gentlemen to carry with you to your new duties. You will be responsible for a unit in the Army of the United States in this great emergency. Its quality, its discipline, its training will depend upon your leadership. Whatever deficiencies there are must be charged to your failure or incapacity. Remember that: The truly great leader overcomes all difficulties, and campaigns and battles are nothing but a long series of difficulties to be overcome. The lack of equipment, the lack of food, the lack of this or that are only excuses; the real leader displays his quality in his triumphs over adversity, however great it may be.

Good luck to you. We expect great things of you. Your class is the first of which I believe will be the finest group of troop leaders in the world.

History of Fort Sill Artillery OCS: 1941-1973

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 126 candidates starting 10 July 1941. That same year, a second class of 126 reported on 19 August. The 12-week course was for warrant officers and enlisted men who had served at least six months on the date of enrollment in the course. The course covered gunnery, communications, tactics and other subjects. In mid-1943, it was expanded to 17 weeks to include more instruction on tactics, Army administration, military law, mess management and 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. The candidates were organized by classes, four to a battalion. Each class was broken into sections of approximately 30 candidates. 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 Field Artillery OCS was closed. By this date, 26,060 second lieutenants had graduated and were commissioned from the program.

The outbreak of hostilities in Korea demanded an immediate response, so Artillery OCS was re-activated 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, the first of several National Guard classes were established for a rigorous 11-week 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."

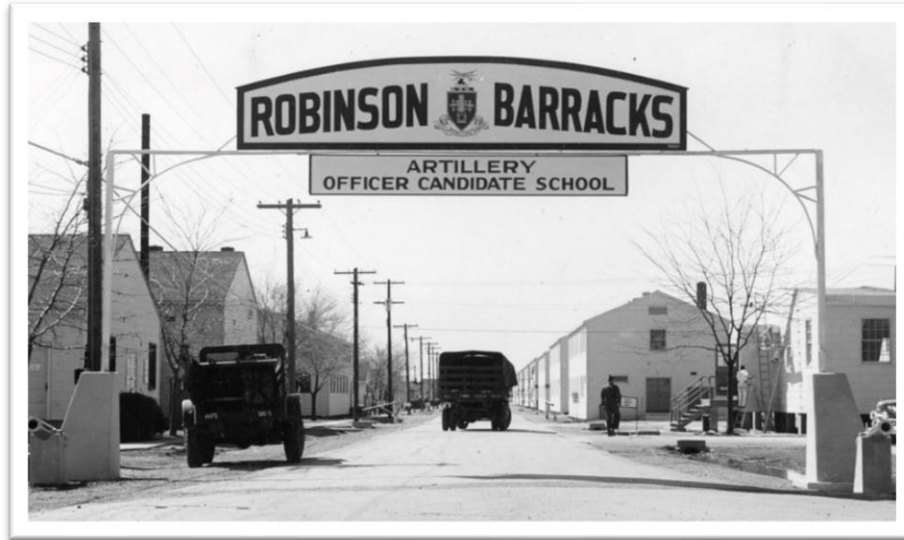
For the next few years, the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill consolidated its program to parallel the decreasing need for lieutenants. On 7 July 1973, after the American withdrawal from Vietnam, the Field Artillery OCS officially closed with the graduation of class 4-73, a graduating class of only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

The "Jark"

The term "Jark," was coined by the OCS Cadre to describe a fast-paced disciplinary tour from Robinson Barracks to the top of Medicine Bluff 4 (MB4) and back at port arms, a physically onerous task. The "Jarks" were held every Saturday and Sunday afternoon for those candidates who had accumulated an excessive number of demerits or other violations. The "Jark" was named in honor of the school's first commandant. 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. The total distance was 4.2 miles.

Fort Sill Artillery OCS and Robinson Barracks

In 1953, the area housing the Artillery Officer Candidate School was named Robinson Barracks in honor of 1LT James E. Robinson Jr., who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in WW II. The area was located along both sides of Jones Road between Austin Road and Ringgold Road. By late 1966, the area stretched to the west as far as the access road just east of Craig Road. During its peak in 1968, the OCS area covered more than four square blocks and consisted of some 74 structures.



Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame - Durham Hall

The Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill gave us many distinguished military leaders, battlefield heroes and individuals who made outstanding contributions to the Nation or their profession after serving in uniform. In November 1967, Colonel Marlin W. Camp, Commander 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. As a result, the US Army Artillery and Missile Center at Fort Sill established the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame by General Order 115 on 29 June 1968, to honor the significant contributions of these graduates to the Army and the nation.

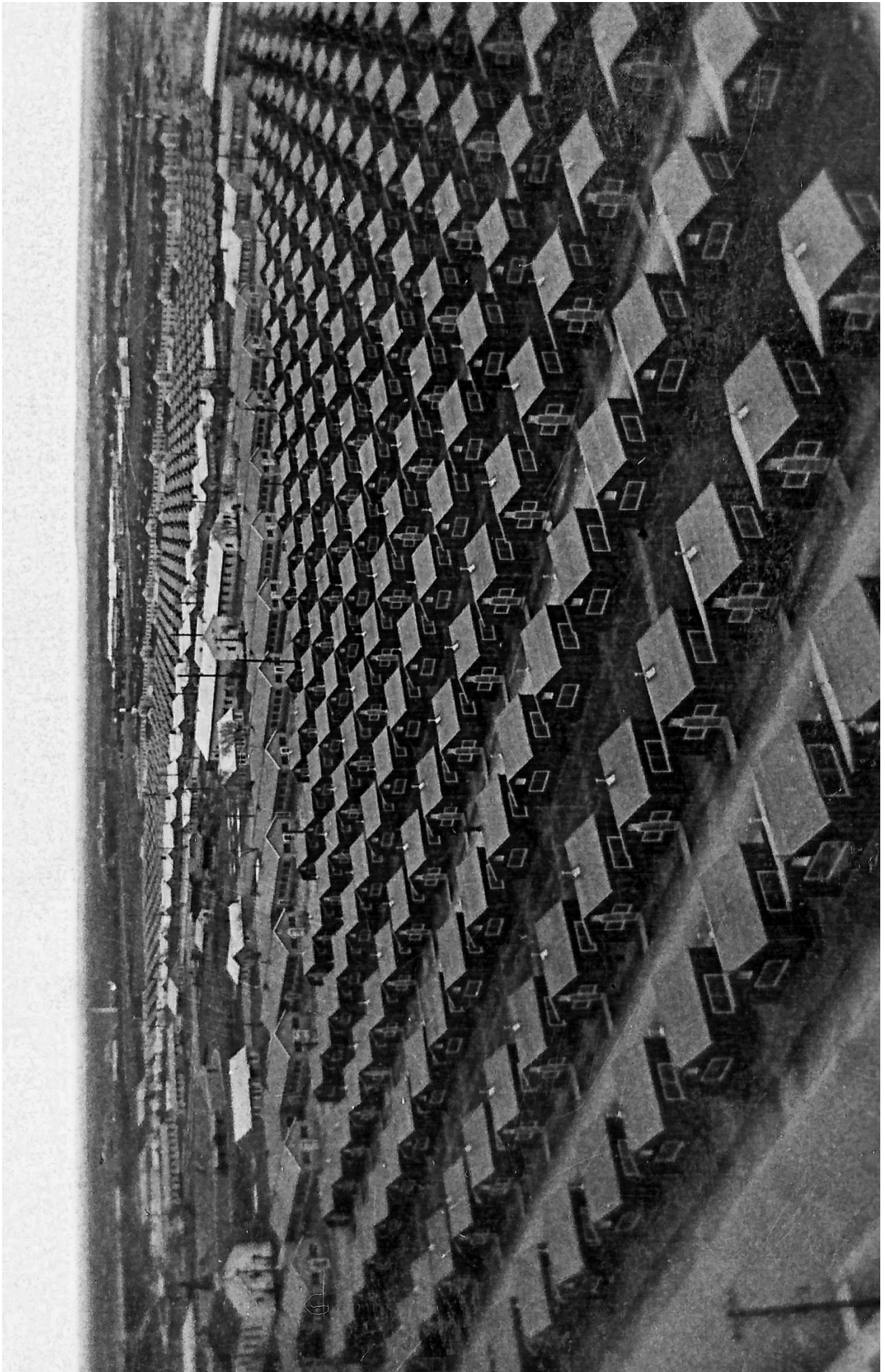
The Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame was located in Durham Hall, Building 3025 from August 13, 1984 to October 15, 2021. The building was named Durham Hall in 1999 in honor of 2LT Harold Bascom "Pinky" Durham, Jr., who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. Building 3025 originally served as an administration and reception building during the World War II expansion and was the OCS Brigade Headquarters from 1952 until 1968.

Officer Candidate School graduates are inducted into the Hall of Fame for having been awarded the Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross, having attained the rank of Colonel (O-6), the GS-15 level or the Senior Executive Service (SES), appointment or election to an office of prominence in national or state government, or outstanding service to the nation, community or profession.

***1,335 Graduates of the Artillery Officer Candidate School gave their lives
in service to the Nation during World War II, Korea and Vietnam***

***943 died during World War II
70 died during the Korean War
322 died during the Vietnam War***

OCS HUTMENT AREA 1942 - LOOKING NORTHEAST FROM RINGGOLD AND CURRIE ROAD
ARTILLERY BOWL AND CHAPEL ARE LOCATED IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER



OCS AREA DURING THE 1967 EXPANSION - LOOKING TO THE SOUTHWEST
DURHAM HALL (BUILDING 3025) IS LOCATED IN THE LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER



OCS AREA DURING THE 1967 EXPANSION - LOOKING NORTH



Lieutenant General Carl H. Jark



LTG Jark is an important figure in the history of Fort Sill, the Field Artillery School and the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School (FAOCS) that was established at Fort Sill in 1941. LTG (then CPT) Jark was the first Commandant of the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill and served in that position until July 1942. After fighting in World War II, he returned to Fort Sill as a Colonel and served as the Executive Officer of the Field Artillery School.

He was born on June 13, 1905 in Leigh, Nebraska and graduated from Beatrice High School in 1924. Standing at 6' 5", LTG Jark was a tremendous athlete and acquired the nickname "Tiny" which stayed with him for the rest of his life.

While a cadet at West Point, Jark participated in the 1929 Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa and broke a (then) world record by throwing a discus 158 feet and 3 inches. He graduated from West Point on June 13, 1929.

From September 1929 to January 1930, General Jark attended primary flying school. He was then assigned to the 18th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and entered the Field Artillery School in September 1932. He completed the battery officer's course in June 1933, and was appointed assistant property officer for the Oklahoma Civilian Conservation Corps District. He reentered the Field Artillery School in September 1933, and completed the advanced motors course in June 1934.

General Jark's next assignment was with the 13th Field Artillery at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. In September 1936 he joined the 17th Field Artillery at Fort Bragg, N.C., and in May 1939 became an instructor at the Field Artillery School.

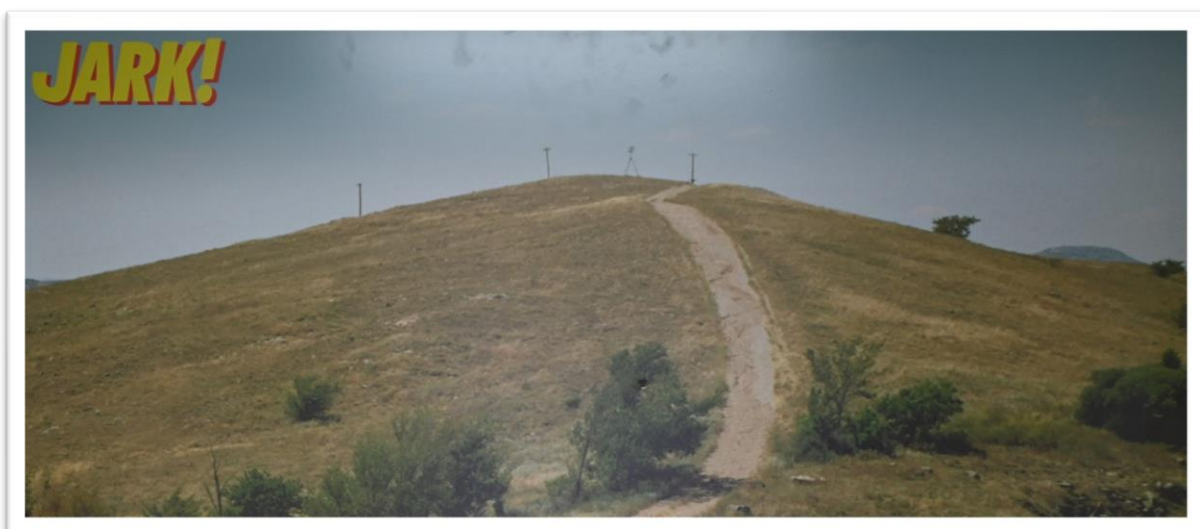
In June 1941, CPT Jark was dispatched from the Department of Motors, Field Artillery School by the commandant of the Field Artillery School, BG George R. Allin, given a staff of instructors and assigned an area in the nearby National Guard Cantonment. CPT Jark was in command of the new school, its organization, discipline and academic instruction. As originally planned in 1941, the OCS organizational scheme called for a commandant of candidates, an executive officer, an adjutant, and a supply officer. Each class was commanded by a class tactical officer with one assistant class tactical officer per hundred students.

CPT Jark's FAOCS headquarters was in Building 2600 (then known as CC 1). The first OCS class was billeted in pyramidal tents (w/ wooden supporting frames on concrete slabs) just east across the street (Currie Road). Their tents paralleled Currie from Ringgold to Miner Road. The next several classes extended the tented battery areas eastward. For a while as each class graduated, an incoming class took its place. This was the original home of OCS and before it closed 12 December 1946, it had expanded into some 1500 hutments in this Concurrent Camp area. The original Classes started with 126 candidates. By the time Jark left, classes of 550 were starting each week and the staff had expanded to strength of 66 officers and an authorized course capacity of 6,600 candidates, 12 classes of 550 candidates each.

During his long and distinguished career, he commanded the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery in Japan and the 2nd Armored Division Artillery in German. He was Commanding General of the 7th Infantry Division in Korea and the Commanding General of the Fourth U.S. Army from January 1962 until his retirement on July 31, 1964.

LTG Jark returned to Fort Sill several times during the 1960's and 1970's and visited the Officer Candidate School each time. He served as the Graduation Speaker for Class 4-73, the last class to graduate on July 6, 1973. During his address to the last graduating class, he offered these words of advice to the newly commissioned second lieutenants: "Those of you who will soar with eagles in the morning should not hoot with owls at night."

General Jark's decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. He passed away March 22, 1984 at the age of 78.



Fort Sill Officer Candidate School Commandants

CPT Carl H. Jark	July 1941 – July 1942
MAJ Cragie Krayenbuhl	August 1942 – June 1943
COL John H. Turner	July 1943 – April 1944
COL Hugh P. Adams	May 1944 – February 1945
COL Benjamin B. Lattimore	March 1945 – December 1945
COL John A. MacFarland	January 1946 – December 1946
COL Franklin G. Smith	January 1951 – July 1952
COL Joseph. R. Burrill	July 1952 – May 1953
COL Harold E. Liebe	May 1953 – July 1954
COL William A. Enemark	July 1954 – August 1956
COL Charles A. Symroski	August 1956 – September 1957
COL William J. Gallagher	September 1957 – June 1958
LTC William H. Crosson, Jr.	June 1958 – May 1959
COL Benjamin B. Kercheval	May 1959 – June 1960
LTC Cecil K. Charbonneau	June 1960 – June 1961
COL Charles A. Christin, Jr.	June 1961 – March 1963
LTC Alexander A. Terris	April 1963 – August 1963
COL Floyd D. Gattis	August 1963 – August 1965
COL Charles E. Howard	August 1965 – February 1967

Fort Sill Officer Candidate Brigade Commanders

COL Charles E. Howard	February 1967 – May 1967
COL Marlin W. Camp	May 1967 – July 1968
COL Thomas E. Watson, Jr.	July 1968 – May 1970
COL Bernard B. Quedens	May 1970 – August 1970
COL Belvin S. Freeman	August 1970 – September 1970
COL William J. LeClair	September 1970 – July 1971
COL Charles H. Bell	July 1971 – January 1973
LTC Beverley L. Barge	January 1973 – July 1973

Fort Sill Artillery OCS Graduates by Year

Year	US Army OCS	National Guard	US Army Reserve	Total Graduates	Total Graduates by Decade
1941	239			239	
1942	10,793			10,793	
1943	12,162			12,162	
1944	1,756			1,756	
1945	861			861	
1946	200			200	
					26,011 (1941-1946)
1951	317			317	
1952	1,942			1,942	
1953	838			838	
1954	761	62		823	
1955	586	82		668	
1956	269	86		355	
1957	167	61	8	236	
1958	185	64	13	262	
1959	206		126	332	
					5,773 (1951-1959)
1960	208		63	271	
1961	183		108	291	
1962	198		170	368	
1963	321		80	401	
1964	591		92	683	
1965	988		158	1,146	
1966	2,089		88	2,177	
1967	6,206		208	6,414	
1968	1,608		46	1,654	
1969	1,966			1,966	
					15,371 (1960-1969)
1970	1,268			1,268	
1971	143			143	
1972	313			313	
1973	163			163	
					1,887 (1970-1973)
Totals	47,527	355	1,160	49,042	
AAA OCS Camp Davis (1941-1944)				25,191	100 Classes
Seacoast Arty OCS Fort Monroe (1942-44)				1,934	31 Classes
AAA OCS Fort Bliss (1951-1953)				1,175	14 Classes

(Updated on 3-7-2025)

Fort Sill is the Fires Center of Excellence

Two Artillery Schools

- **The Air Defense Artillery School**
- **The Field Artillery School**

Two Artillery Associations:

- **The US Field Artillery Association and the Air Defense Artillery Association.**

One Artillery OCS Hall of Fame (established 29 June 1968):

- **Honors the heroism and exceptional achievements of graduates of the Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School (regardless of branch) as well as artillerymen commissioned through other OCS programs.**
- **Financed entirely by individual contributions from graduates, family members and others wishing to help us accomplish the purpose and goals set forth in 1968 by The Society of Graduates of the Artillery Officer Candidate School: “To foster the esprit of the candidates (*graduates*) and perpetuate and maintain the Hall of Fame.”**
- **Maintained and administered entirely by volunteers.**

Located in Building 3025 from August 13, 1984 to October 15, 2021.

Building 3025 was memorialized as Durham Hall on May 20, 1999.

Honors Four Medal of Honor recipients and 95 Distinguished Service Cross Recipients.

943 Fort Sill OCS graduates died in World War II.

70 Died in the Korean War.

322 Died in the Vietnam War.

Durham Hall (Building 3025) was constructed in 1942 and is the last remaining World War II era wooden barracks structure at Fort Sill.

Robinson Barracks Archway was constructed in 1953 at the north entrance to the OCS area.

The first 399 six-man hutments for the Officer Candidate School were located east of Currie Road and north of Miner Road where Patterson Hall and Hopkins Hall are now located. Building 2600 (Jark Hall) was the original Headquarters of the OCS in 1941.

Annual OCS alumni reunions were held at Fort Sill from 1985 through 2019. The reunion for 2020 was cancelled. The focal point of each previous gathering was the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame and the Robinson Barracks area. Both are symbolic of the school which served as the primary source of Artillery Officers to meet the needs of an expanding army during periods of conflict. On November 1, 2019, the Artillery OCS Alumni started raising funds to build an Artillery OCS Heritage Hall as an addition to the Artillery Museum at Fort Sill. When construction was complete, the building and contents were gifted to Fort Sill on May 9, 2024. The Artillery OCS Heritage Hall is the new focal point of our efforts to preserve the legacy of OCS at Fort Sill. A previously funded Artillery OCS Memorial was constructed in Constitution Park, south of the Artillery Museum and gifted to Fort Sill on August 11, 2021. The Hall of Fame will continue virtually on the Artillery OCS History website. Biographical information and photos of Hall of Fame members as well as individual class photos and rosters will be available on two kiosks in the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall.

The Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame

The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame was established on 26 June 1968 by General Order Number 115, Headquarters, United States Army Artillery and Missile Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During the 32-year history of the Artillery OCS at Fort Sill, more than 49,000 second lieutenants were graduated.

The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame honors the heroism and exceptional achievement of its graduates and recognizes the outstanding contributions of these officers to their nation and the Artillery.

During its history, the Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School has produced a remarkable number of battlefield heroes.

First Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr., a 1943 graduate, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II, for his actions in an attack near Untergresheim, Germany, in 1945. The area occupied by the Artillery Officer Candidate School was formally named "Robinson Barracks" in his honor on 15 April 1953.

Major (Ret) Benjamin F. Wilson, a 1943 graduate, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions leading a bayonet attack near Hwach'on-Myon, Korea on June 5, 1951. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary heroic action against enemy forces near Nodong-ni, Korea, just four days later. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2018.

Second Lieutenant Harold B. "Pinky" Durham, Jr., a 1967 graduate, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions while serving as a forward observer during the Battle of Ong Thanh, Vietnam in 1967. Building number 3025, home of the Hall of Fame from August 1984 to October 2021 was named "Durham Hall" in his honor on 20 May 1999.

World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War claimed the lives of 1,327 graduates of the school. The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to 89 graduates (31 posthumous) for extraordinary heroism during those three conflicts.

Brigadier General (Retired) Roscoe Cartwright, the first Black Artilleryman to achieve general officer rank, a 1942 graduate, H. Malcolm Baldrige, Jr., former Secretary of Commerce, a 1943 graduate and Martin R. Hoffmann, former Secretary of the Army, a 1955 graduate, are among the prominent artillerymen inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame has also inducted five graduates who attained the rank of Four Star General: Jack N. Merritt, the former United States Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee, a 1953 graduate; John M. Shalikashvili, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a 1959 graduate; Tommy R. Franks, the former Commander in Chief, United States Central Command, a 1967 graduate; Kevin P. Byrnes, the former TRADOC Commander, a 1969 graduate; and Bryan D. Brown, the former Commander, United States Special Operations Command, a 1970 graduate.

The Hall of Fame continues to honor and preserve the accomplishments of graduates of the OCS program at Fort Sill as well as Artillerymen commissioned through other OCS programs. Captain (Ret) Gary M. Rose a 1973 Fort Benning Branch Immaterial graduate commissioned Field Artillery was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during combat operations in 1970 in Laos. He is one of 52 distinguished OCS graduates from other programs in the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame.

The Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame was in Building 3025, on the corner of Austin and Jones Roads from August 13, 1984 until October 15, 2021. The structure was built in 1942 as a temporary barracks during the World War II mobilization. It was used as an administration and reception building and later served as the OCS Brigade Headquarters from 1952 until 1968.

**There are 1,358 members of the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame
Four have been awarded the Medal of Honor
95 have been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross
1163 have attained the rank of Colonel (O-6) or Captain (O-6) for Navy/Coast Guard
85 have been appointed or elected to an Office of Prominence in the National or State
government or rendered Outstanding Service to their Nation, Community or Profession
There are seven Honorary Members (not OCS graduates) inducted for their outstanding
contributions to preserving the legacy of the Artillery Officer Candidate School.**

Graduates of the following OCS programs are eligible for the Hall of Fame:

1. The Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma (1941-1973).
2. The Antiaircraft Artillery Officer Candidate School, Camp Davis, North Carolina (1941- 1944).
3. The Seacoast Artillery Officer Candidate School, Fort Monroe, Virginia (1942-1944).
4. The Army Officer Candidate School (AOCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia (1946-1947). The individual must have been commissioned in an Artillery branch, completed an Artillery branch officer basic course (or Artillery branch qualification training) and served in an Artillery assignment after graduation.
5. The Ground General School Army Officer Candidate (AOC) Course, Fort Riley, Kansas (1947-1953). The individual must have been commissioned in an Artillery branch, completed an Artillery branch officer basic course (or Artillery branch qualification training) and served in an Artillery assignment after graduation.
6. The Antiaircraft Artillery Officer Candidate School, Fort Bliss, Texas (1951-1953).
7. The Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Georgia (1973 - present). The individual must have been commissioned in an Artillery branch, completed an Artillery branch officer basic course (or Artillery branch qualification training) and served in an Artillery assignment after graduation.
8. Graduates of other officer candidate schools may also be considered. The individual must have been commissioned in an Artillery branch, completed an Artillery branch officer basic course, (or Artillery branch qualification training) and served in an Artillery assignment after graduation.

The nominee must meet one of these requirements for consideration:

1. Recipient of the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.
2. Attain the rank of Colonel (O-6) or Captain (O-6 for Navy/Coast Guard) or above on active duty or with a Reserve Component of the Armed Forces.
3. Federal Service at the GS-15 level or the Senior Executive Service (SES).
4. Appointment or election to an office of prominence in the National or State Government.
5. Rendered outstanding service to the nation, community, or profession, beginning with heroic or meritorious military service, followed by advancement to the highest levels of their chosen profession and/or a notable record of philanthropy or community-minded volunteerism.

Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame - History (1968 to Date)

26 June 1968: General Orders # 115
(Establishment of the Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame)

The Hall of Fame was originally located in Building 3031

28 June 1968: The first meeting of the Board of Governors, Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. Eighteen graduates were recommended for induction based on the established criteria.

26 November 1968: Constitution and Bylaws for the Society of Graduates approved by the Board of Governors.

20 December 1968: The Society of Graduates of the Artillery Officer Candidate School was established as a private organization under the authority of the Commanding General.

The Society of Graduates operated as a private organization from June 1968 to May 1973 with the purpose being to publicize the Officer Candidate School and to honor the heroism and/or exceptional achievement of its graduates; to foster the esprit of the Candidates; to recognize the outstanding performance of past graduates; and to perpetuate and maintain the Hall of Fame at Fort Sill.

The Board of Governors (referred to as the Board of Governors Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame or the Board of Governors Artillery Officer Candidate School Society of Graduates) was responsible for supervising the operation of the Hall of Fame and approving the nomination of individuals for induction in the Hall of Fame from 1968 to 1973.

The Board of Governors was incorrectly referred to as the Board of Governors Artillery Officer Candidate Brigade Hall of Fame and the Board of Governors Artillery Officer Candidate Brigade Society of Graduates at times during 1970.

April 1969: Hall of Fame moved to the downstairs floor of Building 3168.

22 September 1970: An amendment to the bylaws allowing Fort Riley Artillery OCS graduates to be inducted into the Hal of Fame was discussed and denied. A revision to the Constitution and bylaws had been incorrectly published sometime in 1970 with Officer Candidate Brigade as part of the name. The Board of Governors directed the custodian to prepare a corrected Constitution to reflect the correct name by striking Officer Candidate Brigade and inserting Officer Candidate School.

9 October 1970: An amendment to the bylaws allowing Fort Riley OCS graduates to be inducted into the Hall of Fame was discussed and unanimously passed provided they graduated between 12 December 1946 and 21 February 1951 and were commissioned Field Artillery.

13 October 1971: A special meeting called to approve a new constitution for the Society of Graduates to bring it into accord with its standing as a private organization.

6 December 1971: Constitution and bylaws of the Society of Graduates of the Artillery Officer Candidate School approved by the Installation Commander.

31 May 1973: Minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Governors indicated that the balance of cash on hand was \$837.96. \$146.65 in checking and \$691.31 in savings. No record of actual disposition of the funds is available.

7 July 1973: The Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill closed with the graduation of Class 4-73.

1975: OCS collection was transferred to the Museum System for storage and disposition and housed in Building 441, one of the cavalry barracks of the Old Post.

14 June 1975: The Hall of Fame exhibit was opened by the Museum on the Army's 200th birthday and remained in that location until 1983.

An Army Museum memo stated that "Hall of Fames disrupt the continuity of a museums story line and exhibits. They never become integrated parts of the chronological or thematic setting that other exhibits embrace. Their presence becomes obtrusive and in spite of their best of intentions, they distract from a museum's a primary mission of supporting training and education."

1983: The Center for Military History determined that the Hall of Fame was not a museum function and should be transferred out of the museum.

1984: A request for Funds in the amount of \$5,991.84 to upgrade the new OCS Hall of Fame (Building 3025) was submitted to the US Field Artillery Association on 17 April 1984, by then LTC Martin H. Beach. A request for Memorialization of Building 3025 to be named Durham Hall (In honor of 2LT Harold Bascom "Pinkie" Durham Jr., who was posthumously, awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War) was submitted on 23 April 1984 to the Commander United States Field Artillery Center and Fort Sill.

2 July 1984: Permanent Orders 125-1

The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame is established effective 2 July 1984 and assigned to Office of the Commanding Officer, Officer Candidate Brigade, US Army Artillery and Missile School. An Advisory Board was established to provide guidance to the Board of Governors of the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. The Advisory Board consisted of the Commandant and Assistant Commandant of the Field Artillery School and general officer graduates of the Fort Sill Officer Candidate School invited by the Commandant to serve on the board. A Board of governors was established composed of the Fort Sill Chief of Staff and the Custodian and Executor of the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. Note: **The Office of the Commanding Officer, Officer Candidate Brigade, US Army Artillery and Missile School did not exist at the time the orders were published.**

16 July 1984: Permanent Orders 133-21

Permanent Orders 125-1 amended to read assigned to United States Army Field Artillery Training Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

13 August 1984: Hall of Fame moved to Building 3025.

The US Army Field Artillery Training Center assumed responsibility for the Hall of Fame. Property (furniture and equipment) and historical property were transferred to the USAFATC Commander as Custodian and the 6th Training Battalion took on the responsibility to operate.

1985: The Hall of Fame was officially separated from the Army Museum System.

1986: A petition to form a chapter (To be called the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School Chapter, United States Field Artillery Association) was submitted on 14 August 1986.

A sign was erected in front of Building 3025 identifying the building as Durham Hall (the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame). The words "Durham Hall" were at the top. The OCS logo was in the center with crossed cannons (representing the Field Artillery) on the left and crossed cannons with surmounted missile (representing the Air Defense Artillery) on the right side. The words "Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame" were at the bottom.

Between 1984 and 1994 eligibility prerequisites for the Hall of Fame were expanded to include graduates of Fort Bliss Antiaircraft Artillery Officer Candidate School attending between 1 August 1951 and 30 June 1953 and commissioned Artillery as well as Fort Benning Branch Immaterial Officer Candidate School graduates commissioned Field Artillery after 1 January 1973. Graduates of other candidate schools also became eligible for consideration provided they were commissioned in and served in the Artillery.

16 February 1994: BG Benton (Assistant Commandant Field Artillery School) approved the inclusion of graduates attending Antiaircraft Artillery Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis, North Carolina between 1 April 1941 and 31 October 1944 and commissioned Coast Artillery. Factors that influenced the decision included: Seacoast and Anti-aircraft Artillery are an important part of the history of America's artillery force and that legacy should be preserved. There is no Air Defense OCS Hall of Fame. Graduates of the Camp Davis OCS made valuable contributions to our nation's defense and they deserve appropriate recognition. Inclusion may increase membership in the OCS Chapter of the Field Artillery Association.

5 January 1999: Request for Orders: The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame is established effective 2 July 1984, and assigned to United States Field Artillery Association, Fort Sill Oklahoma. Authority: Verbal orders of Commanding General, 5 January 1999.

20 May 1999: Dedication of Building 3025 as Durham Hall. Narrative in the program reads: "The Field Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame was established on 26 June 1968 by General Order Number 115, Headquarters, United States Army Artillery and Missile Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma" The General Orders actually read: "**The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame is established 29 June 1968.....**" **Subsequent Permanent Orders 125-1 and 133-21 in 1984 read: "The Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame is established 29 June 1968....."**

1 June 1999: Hall of Fame SOP designates the FAOCS Alumni Chapter Committee as the approving authority for Hall of Fame nominations. The committee consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

1 December 2000: The 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery was appointed custodians of the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

10 June 2002: The Field Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter was incorporated in the State of Oklahoma.

16 April 2003: The Field Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Incorporated was recognized as a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization by the IRS.

February 2005: The OCS Alumni Chapter assumes responsibility for the operation of Durham Hall (Building 3025) and the administration of the Hall of Fame. Commander of 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery offers to serve indefinitely as Host Unit for alumni reunions if Fort Sill Leadership permits.

10 May 2007 and 6 May 2010: Chapter Bylaws Amended.

13 March 2013: Board of Directors approved a revision of Hall of Fame Criteria to include OCS graduates of other programs inadvertently omitted previously and adjusted eligibility dates based on historical records. The added or modified criteria were consistent with the intent and purpose of changes made during the period 1970 to 1994. The revisions included changing the Fort Benning OCS commissioning criteria from "Field Artillery" to "an Artillery branch," making both FA and ADA officers commissioned there eligible for the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame.

1 May 2014 and 30 April 2015: Chapter Bylaws Amended.

14 December 2015: Articles of Incorporation Amended to change name to **Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Inc.**

10 May 2018: Chapter Bylaws Amended.

11 August 2021: Artillery OCS Memorial in Constitution Park was gifted to Fort Sill.

15 October 2021: Building 3025 was turned over to the Fort Sill Directorate of Public Works.

9 May 2024: Artillery OCS Heritage Hall (addition to the Artillery Museum) gifted to Fort Sill.

18 June 2024: Chapter Bylaws Amended.

The Artillery OCS Alumni continues to administer a virtual Hall of Fame on the Internet until the kiosks are activated in the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall. Information is available at:

<http://artilleryocshistory.org/hall-of-fame.html>

Some Distinguished Graduates of Artillery OCS at Fort Sill

1942

- Major General (Ret) William J. Lange, former Commanding General 49th Division.
- Major General (Ret) George W. Putnam, Jr., last Commander of the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam
- Major (Ret) Charles M. Brown, Jr, the Army's first Black Aviator
- Brigadier General (Ret) Roscoe C. Cartwright, first Black OCS graduate to achieve General Officer rank and the third Black General Officer in U.S. Army history (after Benjamin Davis Sr. and Frederic Davison).
- Lieutenant General James G. Kalergis, directed the 1973 reorganization of CONARC

1943

- Robert M. Gardiner, former Chairman and CEO of the Dean Witter Financial Services Group
- Major General (Ret) George M. Gelston, former Adjutant General of Maryland
- 1st Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr, awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II
- Major (Ret) Benjamin F. Wilson, awarded the Medal of Honor for action in the Korean War

1944 H. Malcolm Baldrige, former Secretary of Commerce

1945 Dale E. Wolf, 70th Governor of the State of Delaware

1952 Colonel William B. Nolde, the last American killed in Vietnam before the 1973 cease-fire.

1953 General (Ret) Jack N. Merritt, former US representative on the NATO Military Committee

1955 Martin R. Hoffmann, former Secretary of the Army

1959

- Major General (Ret) George M. Krausz, former Commanding General Fort Jackson, SC.
- General (Ret) John M. Shalikashvili, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

1965

- Ambassador Charles Ray, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA Affairs.
- Major General (Ret) Walt Huffman, 35th Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the US Army
- Major General (Ret) Gary D. Maynard, former Adjutant General of the Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard

1966

- Major General (Ret) Willie A. Alexander, Former Adjutant General of Alabama
- Major General (Ret) Kenneth W. Simpson, former Commanding General of the U. S. Army Recruiting Command
- George L. Skypeck, military-historical commemorative artist, author of the poem "Soldier"

1967

- 2nd Lieutenant Harold Bascom "Pinky" Durham, awarded the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War
- Hyrum W. Smith, Co-founder and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Franklin-Covey
- Lieutenant General (Ret) Daniel J. Petrosky, Army Aviation Hall of Fame Inductee
- General (Ret) Tommy R. Franks, former Commander, United States Central Command
- Major General (Ret) Craig Bambrough - Former Deputy Commanding General US Army Reserve Command
- Robert G. Davis, former USAA Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
- Major General (Ret) Josue Robles, former USAA Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

1969 Lieutenant General (Ret) Kevin P. Byrnes, former TRADOC Commander

1970

- Lieutenant General (Ret) Steven W. Boutelle, former U.S. Army Chief Information Officer
- Major General (Ret) Alan D. Johnson, former Commanding General, Japan
- Major General (Ret) Leo J. Baxter, former Commanding General Fort Sill
- Major General (Ret) Toney Stricklin, former Commanding General Fort Sill
- General (Ret) Bryan D. Brown, former Commander United States Special Operations Command

1973

- Ross W. Branstetter III, former General Counsel for the Missile Defense Agency
- Captain (Ret) Gary M. Rose (Fort Benning OCS) awarded the Medal of Honor for action in Laos during 1970
-

1LT James E. Robinson, Jr. - KIA April 6, 1945



The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) James E. Robinson, Jr., United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty. First Lieutenant Robinson was a field artillery forward observer attached to Company A, 253d Infantry Division, near Untergriesheim, Germany, on 6 April 1945. Eight hours of desperate fighting over open terrain swept by German machinegun, mortar, and small-arms fire had decimated Company A, robbing it of its commanding officer and most of its key enlisted personnel when First Lieutenant Robinson rallied the 23 remaining uninjured riflemen and a few walking wounded, and, while carrying his heavy radio for communication with American batteries, led them through intense fire in a charge against the objective. Ten German infantrymen in foxholes threatened to stop the assault, but the gallant leader killed them all at point-blank range with rifle and pistol fire and then pressed on with his men to sweep the area of all resistance. Soon afterward he was ordered to seize the defended town of Kressbach. He went to each of the 19 exhausted survivors with cheering words, instilling in them courage and fortitude, before leading the little band forward once more. In the advance he was seriously wounded in the throat by a shell fragment, but, despite great pain and loss of blood, he refused medical attention and continued the attack, directing supporting artillery fire even though he was mortally wounded. Only after the town had been taken and he could no longer speak did he leave the command he had inspired in victory and walk nearly two miles to an aid station where he died from his wound. By his intrepid leadership First Lieutenant Robinson was directly responsible for Company A's accomplishing its mission against tremendous odds.

General Orders: War Department, General Orders No. 117 (December 11, 1945)

1LT Benjamin F. Wilson



The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Benjamin F. Wilson, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company I, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, in action against enemy aggressor forces at Hwach'on-Myon, Korea, on 5 June 1951. Company I was committed to attack and secure commanding terrain stubbornly defended by a numerically superior hostile force emplaced in well-fortified positions. When the spearheading element was pinned down by withering hostile fire, First Lieutenant Wilson dashed forward and, firing his rifle and throwing grenades, neutralized the position denying the advance and killed four enemy soldiers manning submachine guns. After the assault platoon moved up, occupied the position, and a base of fire was established, he led a bayonet attack which reduced the objective and killed approximately 27 hostile soldiers. While friendly forces were consolidating the newly won gain, the enemy launched a counterattack and First Lieutenant Wilson, realizing the imminent threat of being overrun, made a determined lone-man charge, killing seven and wounding two of the enemy, and routing the remainder in disorder. After the position was organized, he led an assault carrying to approximately 15 yards of the final objective, when enemy fire halted the advance. He ordered the platoon to withdraw and, although painfully wounded in this action, remained to provide covering fire. During an ensuing counterattack, the commanding officer and 1st Platoon leader became casualties. Unhesitatingly, First Lieutenant Wilson charged the enemy ranks and fought valiantly, killing three enemy soldiers with his rifle before it was wrested from his hands, and annihilating four others with his entrenching tool. His courageous delaying action enabled his comrades to reorganize and effect an orderly withdrawal. While directing evacuation of the wounded, he suffered a second wound, but elected to remain on the position until assured that all of the men had reached safety. First Lieutenant Wilson's sustained valor and intrepid actions reflect utmost credit upon himself and uphold the honored traditions of the military service.

**General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 69
(September 23, 1954)**

2LT Harold Bascom Durham, Jr.- KIA October 17, 1967



The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) to Second Lieutenant Harold Bascom Durham, Jr. (ASN: 0-5424449), United States Army (Reserve), for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a forward observer with Battery C, 6th Battalion, 15th Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, in action against enemy aggressor forces in the Republic of Vietnam, on 17 October 1967 during a battalion reconnaissance-in-force mission. At approximately 1015 hours contact was made with an enemy force concealed in well-camouflaged positions and fortified bunkers. Second Lieutenant Durham immediately moved into an exposed position to adjust the supporting artillery fire onto the insurgents. During a brief lull in the battle he administered emergency first aid to the wounded in spite of heavy enemy sniper fire directed toward him. Moments later, as enemy units assaulted friendly positions, he learned that Company A, bearing the brunt of the attack, had lost its forward observer. While he was moving to replace the wounded observer, the enemy detonated a Claymore mine, severely wounding him in the head and impairing his vision. In spite of the intense pain, he continued to direct the supporting artillery fire and to employ his individual weapon in support of the hard pressed infantrymen. As the enemy pressed their attack, Second Lieutenant Durham called for supporting fire to be placed almost directly on his position. Twice the insurgents were driven back, leaving many dead and wounded behind. Second Lieutenant Durham was then taken to a secondary defensive position. Even in his extremely weakened condition, he continued to call artillery fire onto the enemy. He refused to seek cover and instead positioned himself in a small clearing which offered a better vantage point from which to adjust the fire. Suddenly, he was severely wounded a second time by enemy machinegun fire. As he lay on the ground near death, he saw two Viet Cong approaching, shooting the defenseless wounded men. With his last effort, Second Lieutenant Durham shouted a warning to a nearby soldier who immediately killed the insurgents. Second Lieutenant Durham died moments later, still grasping the radio handset. Second Lieutenant Durham's gallant actions in close combat with an enemy force are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

**General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 74
(November 20, 1969)**

CPT (Ret) Gary Michael Rose



The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Gary Michael Rose, United States Army, for acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty. Sergeant Rose distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Special Forces Medic with a company-sized exploitation force, Special Operations Augmentation, Command and Control Central, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. Between 11 and 14 September 1970, Sergeant Rose's company was continuously engaged by a well-armed and numerically superior hostile force deep in enemy-controlled territory. Enemy B-40 rockets and mortar rounds rained down while the adversary sprayed the area with small arms and machine gun fire, wounding many and forcing everyone to seek cover. Sergeant Rose, braving the hail of bullets, sprinted fifty meters to a wounded soldier's side. He then used his own body to protect the casualty from further injury while treating his wounds. After stabilizing the casualty, Sergeant Rose carried him through the bullet-ridden combat zone to protective cover. As the enemy accelerated the attack, Sergeant Rose continuously exposed himself to intense fire as he fearlessly moved from casualty to casualty, administering life-saving aid. A B-40 rocket impacted just meters from Sergeant Rose, knocking him from his feet and injuring his head, hand, and foot. Ignoring his wounds, Sergeant Rose struggled to his feet and continued to render aid to the other injured soldiers. During an attempted medevac, Sergeant Rose again exposed himself to enemy fire as he attempted to hoist wounded personnel up to the hovering helicopter, which was unable to land due to unsuitable terrain. The medevac mission was aborted due to intense enemy fire and the helicopter crashed a few miles away due to the enemy fire sustained during the attempted extraction. Over the next two days, Sergeant Rose continued to expose himself to enemy fire in order to treat the wounded, estimated to be half of the company's personnel. On September 14, during the company's eventual helicopter extraction, the enemy launched a full-scale offensive. Sergeant Rose, after loading wounded personnel on the first set of extraction helicopters, returned to the outer perimeter under enemy fire, carrying friendly casualties and moving wounded personnel to more secure positions until they could be evacuated. He then returned to the perimeter to help repel the enemy until the final extraction helicopter arrived. As the final helicopter was loaded, the enemy began to overrun the company's position, and the helicopter's Marine door gunner was shot in the neck. Sergeant Rose instantly administered critical medical treatment onboard the helicopter, saving the Marine's life. The helicopter carrying Sergeant Rose crashed several hundred meters from the extraction point, further injuring Sergeant Rose and the personnel on board. Despite his numerous wounds from the past three days, Sergeant Rose continued to pull and carry unconscious and wounded personnel out of the burning wreckage and continued to administer aid to the wounded until another extraction helicopter arrived. Sergeant Rose's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty were critical to saving numerous lives over that four-day time period. His actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Special Forces, and the United States Army.



Artillery OCS Hall of Valor

Distinguished Service Cross - (Alphabetical)

	Last Name	First	MI	Class	Yr		
2LT	Alop	Albert	A	Camp Davis 1943		WW II	
1LT	Beach	Martin	H	6 - 67		Vietnam	
1LT	Bedsole	John	W	34 - 42		WW II	
MAJ	Bell	Lewis	D	50 - 54		Vietnam	KIA
2LT	Berteu	Thomas	F	31 - 42		WW II	
CPT	Bouchlas	Michael	S	31 - 42		WW II	
2LT	Boyle	Clair	J	91 - 43		WW II	
1LT	Bragg, Jr	Fred	G	10 - 65		Vietnam	KIA
1LT	Breed	Rolla	M	7 - 63		Vietnam	
1LT	Burke	Robert	C	62 - 43		WW II	
1LT	Cardoza, Jr	Howard	W	51 - 43		Korea	
1LT	Carnes	Edward	L	15 - 67		Vietnam	
2LT	Castleman, Jr	Samuel	T	89 - 43		WW II	
2LT	Chapin	Neil	M	65 - 43		WW II	
CPT	Chatelain	Ronald	M	17 - 67		Vietnam	
1LT	Clarkson	David	B	62 - 43		WW II	KIA
1LT	Cobb, Jr	Henry	H	64 - 43		WW II	
1LT	Combs	Pat	G	54 - 43		WW II	
MAJ	Conner	Eugene	J	44 - 53		Vietnam	KIA
1LT	D'Orlando	Michael		508 - 68		Vietnam	
1LT	Dorschel	Carl	H	Camp Davis 1942		WW II	KIA
1LT	Doughty	Edward	D	26 - 42		WW II	
2LT	Eller	Cecil	H	82 - 43		WW II	KIA
CPT	Faldermeyer	Harold	J	30 - 67	A	Vietnam	KIA
CPT	Felkins, Jr	William	C	25 - 42		WW II	KIA
2LT	Ferris	Geoffrey	C	23 - 42		WW II	KIA
1LT	Fierman	Robert	L	54 - 43		WW II	
1LT	Fowler	James	G	Camp Davis 1942		WW II	KIA
CPT	Fraker	William	W	71 - 55		Vietnam	
2LT	Gehrke	Roy	E	51 - 43		WW II	KIA
1LT	German	Bromley	H	25 - 66		Vietnam	KIA
CPT	Glover	Hamilton	F	58 - 43		WW II	KIA
2LT	Gould	Edwin	F	24 - 42		WW II	
1LT	Gowdy	George	H	34 - 42		WW II	
CPT	Harris	Elva		33 - 42		WW II	
2LT	Haywood	Snowden		89 - 43		WW II	KIA



Artillery OCS Hall of Valor

Distinguished Service Cross - (Alphabetical)

	Last Name	First	MI	Class	Yr		
1LT	Horman	Glen	W	28 - 42		WW II	
1LT	Jackman	Gordon	W	33 - 42		WW II	KIA
2LT	Jamison	Lee	R	82 - 43		WW II	
CPT	Johnson	Neil	O	11 - 42		WW II	POW
CPT	Johnson, Jr	William	D	53 - 54		Vietnam	
2LT	Kasper	Carl	J	33 - 42		WW II	POW
1LT	Kelly, III	George	T	512 - 68		Vietnam	KIA
1LT	Kessler	Albert	L	39 - 42		WW II	
1LT	Klinefelter	Joe	T	Fort Bliss 6-52		Korea	KIA
1LT	Knowlton	Donald	E	8 - 42		WW II	
1LT	Koski	Richard	A	25 - 66		Vietnam	KIA
1LT	Leahy	Arthur	L	32 - 42		WW II	
1LT	Lessman	Gerhard		31 - 42		WW II	
2LT	Ligus, Jr	Michael		36 - 42		WW II	KIA
1LT	Lines	Ted	E	26 - 42		WW II	
2LT	Llewellyn	Stanley	D	29 - 42		WW II	
1LT	Mann	Thomas	J	29 - 42		WW II	
2LT	Markin	William	D	82 - 43		WW II	KIA
1LT	Maskell	John	W	70 - 43		WW II	
1LT	Mayer	Frank	H	6 - 63		Vietnam	
1LT	McDonald	William	E	8 - 52		Korea	KIA
2LT	McKenna	Vincent	E	27 - 42		WW II	
2LT	Mills	Donald	C	55 - 43		WW II	
CPT	Moore	Howard	M	66 - 43		Korea	
1LT	Mott	Hugh	B	Camp Davis 1943		WW II	
1LT	Mushik	Donald	L	30 - 42		WW II	
2LT	O'Brien	Leo	W	31 - 42		WW II	
1LT	Odegard	Henry	O	51 - 43		WW II	
1LT	O'Donnell	Joseph	T	Camp Davis 1943		Korea	KIA
1LT	Parris	Harold	G	73 - 43		Korea	KIA
1LT	Peagler	Robert	J	Camp Davis 1942		WW II	KIA
1LT	Piper	John	D	2 - 65		Vietnam	
2LT	Pollarine	John	J	49 - 43		WW II	KIA
1LT	Preneta	John	J	23 - 42		WW II	
2LT	Rau	Frederick		49 - 43		WW II	KIA
2LT	Read	William	S	69 - 43		WW II	



Artillery OCS Hall of Valor

Distinguished Service Cross - (Alphabetical)

	Last Name	First	MI	Class	Yr			
2LT	Regan	Dennis	J	40 - 42		WW II	POW	
1LT	Reynolds	Richard	A	31 - 42		WW II	KIA	
2LT	Robinson	George	T	55 - 43		WW II	KIA	
1LT	Rodgers	William	J	Camp Davis 1942		WW II		
CPT	Rubin	Kenneth	E	6 - 63		Vietnam		
2LT	Sadaj	Stanley	S	44 - 42		WW II	KIA	
CPT	Sanders, III	Horace	G	34 - 67	A	Vietnam		
1LT	Scanlon	Jerome	E	54 - 43		WW II	KIA	
1LT	Schlottman	James	C	8 - 65		Vietnam		
1LT	Sherrick	James	N	7 - 42		WW II	POW	
1LT	Snyder	John	C	51 - 43		WW II		
2LT	Steiner	Mark	S	1 - 68	B	Vietnam	KIA	
1LT	Taylor	James	E	29 - 67	A	Vietnam	KIA	
1LT	Terrell, Jr	Ernest	P	Fort Riley 12-49		Korea		
1LT	Thurman	Jerry	W	16 - 67		Vietnam		
1LT	Tiedemann	John	R	21 - 42		WW II	KIA	
1LT	Tissler	John	G	42 - 67	A	Vietnam		
1LT	Von Behren	Charley	H	30 - 42		WW II	KIA	
1LT	Wessel, Jr	Leon	M	9 - 66		Vietnam		
1LT	Wilson	Benjamin	F	56 - 43		Korea		
2LT	Wogan	Hilton	H	49 - 43		WW II		
1LT	Wolf	William	J	69 - 43		WW II	KIA	
2LT	Wright	Robert	C	9 - 69		Vietnam	KIA	

Rank shown is at the time of the award if known.

Only awards that have been verified to date are listed.

Last updated July 11, 2025

95 Distinguished Service Cross Recipients recognized in the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame

62 - World War II (22 Posthumous)

8 - Korea (4 Posthumous)

25 - Vietnam (10 Posthumous)

Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill (86 recipients)

Army Officer Candidate Course at Fort Riley commissioned Artillery (1 recipient)

Anti-Aircraft Artillery OCS at Camp Davis commissioned Coast Artillery (7 recipients)

Anti-Aircraft Artillery OCS at Fort Bliss commissioned Artillery (1 recipient)



Artillery OCS Hall of Valor

Distinguished Service Cross - (Class Order)

	Last Name	First	MI	Class	Yr			
1LT	Sherrick	James	N	7	-	42	WW II	POW
1LT	Knowlton	Donald	E	8	-	42	WW II	
CPT	Johnson	Neil	O	11	-	42	WW II	POW
1LT	Tiedemann	John	R	21	-	42	WW II	KIA
2LT	Ferris	Geoffrey	C	23	-	42	WW II	KIA
1LT	Preneta	John	J	23	-	42	WW II	
2LT	Gould	Edwin	F	24	-	42	WW II	
CPT	Felkins, Jr	William	C	25	-	42	WW II	KIA
1LT	Doughty	Edward	D	26	-	42	WW II	
1LT	Lines	Ted	E	26	-	42	WW II	
2LT	McKenna	Vincent	E	27	-	42	WW II	
1LT	Horman	Glen	W	28	-	42	WW II	
2LT	Llewellyn	Stanley	D	29	-	42	WW II	
1LT	Mann	Thomas	J	29	-	42	WW II	
1LT	Mushik	Donald	L	30	-	42	WW II	
1LT	Von Behren	Charley	H	30	-	42	WW II	KIA
2LT	Berteu	Thomas	F	31	-	42	WW II	
CPT	Bouchlas	Michael	S	31	-	42	WW II	
1LT	Lessman	Gerhard		31	-	42	WW II	
2LT	O'Brien	Leo	W	31	-	42	WW II	
1LT	Reynolds	Richard	A	31	-	42	WW II	KIA
1LT	Leahy	Arthur	L	32	-	42	WW II	
CPT	Harris	Elva		33	-	42	WW II	
1LT	Jackman	Gordon	W	33	-	42	WW II	KIA
2LT	Kasper	Carl	J	33	-	42	WW II	POW
1LT	Bedsole	John	W	34	-	42	WW II	
1LT	Gowdy	George	H	34	-	42	WW II	
2LT	Ligus, Jr	Michael		36	-	42	WW II	KIA
1LT	Kessler	Albert	L	39	-	42	WW II	
2LT	Regan	Dennis	J	40	-	42	WW II	POW
2LT	Sadaj	Stanley	S	44	-	42	WW II	KIA
1LT	Dorschel	Carl	T	Camp Davis 1942		WW II	KIA	
1LT	Fowler	James	G	Camp Davis 1942		WW II	KIA	
1LT	Peagler	Robert	J	Camp Davis 1942		WW II	KIA	
1LT	Rodgers	William	J	Camp Davis 1942		WW II		
2LT	Pollarine	John	J	49	-	43	WW II	KIA



Artillery OCS Hall of Valor

Distinguished Service Cross - (Class Order)

	Last Name	First	MI	Class	Yr		
2LT	Rau	Frederick		49	-	43	WW II KIA
2LT	Wogan	Hilton	H	49	-	43	WW II
1LT	Cardoza, Jr	Howard	W	51	-	43	Korea
2LT	Gehrke	Roy	E	51	-	43	WW II KIA
1LT	Odegard	Henry	O	51	-	43	WW II
1LT	Snyder	John	C	51	-	43	WW II
1LT	Combs	Pat	G	54	-	43	WW II
1LT	Fierman	Robert	L	54	-	43	WW II
1LT	Scanlon	Jerome	E	54	-	43	WW II KIA
2LT	Mills	Donald	C	55	-	43	WW II
2LT	Robinson	George	T	55	-	43	WW II KIA
1LT	Wilson	Benjamin	F	56	-	43	Korea
CPT	Glover	Hamilton	F	58	-	43	WW II KIA
1LT	Burke	Robert	C	62	-	43	WW II
1LT	Clarkson	David	B	62	-	43	WW II KIA
1LT	Cobb, Jr	Henry	H	64	-	43	WW II
2LT	Chapin	Neil	M	65	-	43	WW II
CPT	Moore	Howard	M	66	-	43	Korea
2LT	Read	William	S	69	-	43	WW II
1LT	Wolf	William	J	69	-	43	WW II KIA
1LT	Maskell	John	W	70	-	43	WW II
1LT	Parris	Harold	G	73	-	43	Korea KIA
2LT	Eller	Cecil	H	82	-	43	WW II KIA
2LT	Jamison	Lee	R	82	-	43	WW II
2LT	Markin	William	D	82	-	43	WW II KIA
2LT	Castleman, Jr	Samuel	T	89	-	43	WW II
2LT	Haywood	Snowden		89	-	43	WW II KIA
2LT	Boyle	Clair	J	91	-	43	WW II
2LT	Alop	Albert	A	Camp Davis 1943		WW II	
1LT	Mott	Hugh	B	Camp Davis 1943		WW II	
1LT	O'Donnell	Joseph	T	Camp Davis 1943		Korea	KIA
1LT	Terrell, Jr	Ernest	P	Fort Riley 12-49		Korea	
1LT	Klinefelter	Joe	T	Fort Bliss 6-52		Korea	KIA
1LT	McDonald	William	E	8	-	52	Korea KIA
MAJ	Conner	Eugene	J	44	-	53	Vietnam KIA
MAJ	Bell	Lewis	D	50	-	54	Vietnam KIA



Artillery OCS Hall of Valor

Distinguished Service Cross - (Class Order)

	Last Name	First	MI	Class	Yr				
CPT	Johnson, Jr	William	D	53	-	54		Vietnam	
CPT	Fraker	William	W	71	-	55		Vietnam	
1LT	Mayer	Frank	H	6	-	63		Vietnam	
CPT	Rubin	Kenneth	E	6	-	63		Vietnam	
1LT	Breed	Rolla	M	7	-	63		Vietnam	
1LT	Piper	John	D	2	-	65		Vietnam	
1LT	Schlottman	James	C	8	-	65		Vietnam	
1LT	Bragg, Jr	Fred	G	10	-	65		Vietnam	KIA
1LT	Wessel, Jr	Leon	M	9	-	66		Vietnam	
1LT	German	Bromley	H	25	-	66		Vietnam	KIA
1LT	Koski	Richard	A	25	-	66		Vietnam	KIA
1LT	Beach	Martin	H	6	-	67		Vietnam	
1LT	Carnes	Edward	L	15	-	67		Vietnam	
1LT	Thurman	Jerry	W	16	-	67		Vietnam	
CPT	Chatelain	Ronald	M	17	-	67		Vietnam	
1LT	Taylor	James	E	29	-	67	A	Vietnam	KIA
CPT	Faldermeyer	Harold	J	30	-	67	A	Vietnam	KIA
CPT	Sanders, III	Horace	G	34	-	67	A	Vietnam	
1LT	Tissler	John	G	42	-	67	A	Vietnam	
2LT	Steiner	Mark	S	1	-	68	B	Vietnam	KIA
1LT	D'Orlando	Michael		508	-	68		Vietnam	
1LT	Kelly, III	George	T	512	-	68		Vietnam	KIA
2LT	Wright	Robert	C	9	-	69		Vietnam	KIA

Rank shown is at the time of the award if known.

Only awards that have been verified to date are listed.

Last updated July 11, 2025

95 Distinguished Service Cross Recipients recognized in the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame

62 - World War II (22 Posthumous)

8 - Korea (4 Posthumous)

25 - Vietnam (10 Posthumous)

Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill (86 recipients)

Army Officer Candidate Course at Fort Riley commissioned Artillery (1 recipient)

Anti-Aircraft Artillery OCS at Camp Davis commissioned Coast Artillery (7 recipients)

Anti-Aircraft Artillery OCS at Fort Bliss commissioned Artillery (1 recipient)

Soviets Say Course at Fort Sill Makes 'Beasts' of Young Officers

A Soviet newspaper published an article on a special school at Fort Sill, describing it as a "Camp of Murders."

The article, which appeared in Trud, a publication of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions in Moscow says the class transforms young artillery officers into "beasts—cruel unfeeling animals."

The training described in the article is thought to be the 5½-day "escape and evasion" phase of Sill's 23-week officer candidate school.

The special training is aimed at showing officers the treatment they might expect as prisoners of war.

The Trud article showed a soldier, suspended from a rope, dangled head down inside an empty barrel. It says, "If the year 1943 were substituted for the year 1967 in the captions beneath the photograph, one might think that the picture was made by German SS troops in concentration camps."

The article said the man was twisted around on the rope, knocking his head against the side of the barrel.

The article said a gallows dominates the camp and future officers must dangle in the noose. It said, "He will have a rattle in his throat and twitch. True, he won't be allowed to die. He is only permitted to look death in the face."

Other alleged brutalities such as beatings are described in the article.

Lt. Col. Richard G. Wheeler, Fort Sill information officer, said the officer candidates are "exposed to a POW exercise that closely approximates treatment they might receive as prisoners of war in actual conflict."

The young officer candidates are, he said, forced to crawl through mud, are taunted, interrogated and finally allowed to escape.

"There's no cruelty," he said.

Wheeler said the training is designed to prepare the men to withstand possible indignities from enemy "beasts."

CAMP OF MURDERERS - OCS FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

From the Russian Newspaper-TPYA

If the year 1943 were substituted for the year 1967 in the captions beneath this photo, one might think that the picture was made by (German) SS Troops, in concentration camps. Here you see somebody's legs sticking out of an empty gasoline barrel. A rope stretches from the man's waist to the ceiling. They twist the man around on this rope. He knocks his head against the side of the barrel.

Just where is all this taking place? It turns out that it's only a 1½ hr. ride from the American town of Oklahoma City. Here in the military camp they train American officers for the war in Viet Nam. After 6 months in this terrible camp, says the English magazine "Weekend", they go overseas.

The first thing the novice officer sees in the camp is, yes, a gallows. It dominates the camp and sets its tone. The future officer must dangle in the noose. He will have a rattle in his throat and a twitch. True, He won't be allowed to die. He is only permitted to look death in the face.

Every trainee, for example, is ordered to hide in an underground shelter....and falls right into the hands of 'professional sadists', attacking their students from ambush and beating them unmercifully, the sadists "teach them lessons you will never forget". The trainees are interrogated every day and their interrogation is never boring. Sometimes the trainees answer questions while suspended by their feet. They are also squeezed into medieval punishment stocks or are rolled over a barrel.

As we see, they try to transform the American, who faces a trip to the jungle into a beast-into a cruel, unfeeling animal. And they do this while he is still on home soil, when he has scarcely been put into uniform.

E. Cheporov
August 1967

TIME Magazine: The Nation

Friday, Sep. 01, 1967

Preparing for the Worst

Feet tied and hands clutched painfully behind their backs, the U.S. Army officers snaked and wiggled on their stomachs over the dusty, rock-strewn ground. "This way, sickie, crawl to me!" cried one captor. "You're ugly, you know that, sickie? Crawl—remember, we've got a lot worse waiting for you."

The men were not Viet Cong captives but trainees in a gruelingly realistic prisoner-of-war course at Fort Sill, Okla. Roughest of its kind in the Army, the course is designed to toughen artillery-officer candidates for the kind of torture and humiliation under which many prisoners cracked in Korea. In the year since the course began, about 6,000 officers have completed it.

Ready for the Worst. "Before Viet Nam," explained a training officer, "the artillery always had the infantry out in front. Now sometimes we have to do all our own patrolling and perimeter defenses. We want to be prepared for the worst." With as many as 200 American servicemen presently held by the Communists in Viet Nam—though no Army Artillery Officers have as yet been captured by the enemy—the instructors have devised a fiendishly ingenious array of tortures and tests to ensure that their men know what to expect.

The course begins at dawn. After calisthenics and classroom work, the artillerymen are trucked out to the fort's forested hills, turned loose, and told to evade mock aggressor forces patrolling the 7 1/2-square mile area. Of 133 artillerymen who took the course one day recently, fewer than 30 got away. The rest were marched, often barefoot, to a simulated P.O.W. compound.

Under constant taunts from their captors, the Artillerymen were forced to crawl, wallow in mud, hang by their legs from a horizontal bar, sit for seemingly endless minutes with their legs wrapped painfully around a pole. The guards badgered them for information beyond the maximum—name, rank and serial number—sanctioned by the Geneva Treaty. A sympathetic "Red Cross" representative tried to wheedle additional intelligence out of them, but most immediately spotted him as a phony.

"Kiss the Mud." When persuasion failed, pressure replaced it. "Get up, hit it, up, down, roll over, crawl in circles, up, down, faster, talk, talk, talk." The captives were lined up in front of a row of odoriferous barrels partly filled with slime and crawling with spiders. "Get in headfirst, you dumb sickies," they were told. "Kiss the mud. Now do push-ups."

Thrust into a tiny, darkened hut, the captives found that a barrel placed in the middle of the floor had no bottom and led into a black hole. Climbing through, they descended into a sewer pipe barely wide enough for their shoulders. Slowly, the artillerymen clawed their way through the 75-ft. pipe to freedom. But their ordeal was not yet over. Though they had started the day at 5 am., they still had to run a mountainous ten-mile course, evading aggressors armed with blank bullets and dummy grenades. Most of them made it back to their mess hall just in time for the next day's class work.

The Activities of OCS Class 501-68

On the Thursday of their week in the field, the Candidates, while moving from the East to West Range, were attacked and captured by the aggressors. After being captured, the Candidates were bound around the elbows and herded into a small group and told to sit.

While the aggressors were giving their indoctrinations, the Candidates were busy untying each other. When the aggressors told the Candidates to get up and move into the trucks, to be transported to the POW compound, the Candidates rose and immediately dispersed in every direction.

A few of the candidates were captured immediately, but it was a futile attempt on the part of the aggressors to capture all of them because they were outnumbered 8 to 1. It took approximately 9 hours to locate the remainder of the class and both ranges were closed for the entire day, which didn't tend to humor anyone, except perhaps the Candidates.

During the next 9 hours after the great escape of the candidates: 2 candidates were found at Moway House trying to get to their final objective (Ketch Lake), 6 were captured by the Military Police who believed them to be escaped prisoners from the stockade, and one Candidate went to a Colonels' house and explained the situation to his wife--she in turn gave him some coffee and soup and sent him on his way. Several were found in the PX, and the last candidate was found in the ATC area where he had gone, met a friend, ate in the mess hall, showered, and slept for about 3 hours.

Final OCS Class Graduates A Chapter of Sill's History Closes

The Lawton Constitution, Friday July 6, 1973

By Dave Brittain

A Chapter of Fort Sill History closed today as the Officer Candidate School graduated its final class, officially inactivating the post's OCS program after a 32- year career.

Twenty-six graduates received second lieutenant bars in the 9:30 a.m. ceremony at Snow Hall auditorium attended by some 350 persons from the Lawton-Fort Sill community.

Special guest and speaker for the last graduation ceremony was Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Carl H. Jark, the first commandant of the Fort Sill Officer Candidate School. Gen. Jark served, as OCS commandant from July 10, 1941, when the program was activated at Fort Sill, until July, 1942. He was a captain at that time.

"The Jark", a 4.2-mile mandatory jog for OCS students every Saturday morning, is named after the general.

Gen. Jark told the graduates: "You are entering a different Army from the one I went into in 1930." He said, among other things, that today's soldiers are better educated and better paid.

He also said the Army has undergone many changes' since he first entered, adding, however, that he did not believe that "change for the sake of change" was good and that in many cases he felt that "change is being overdone,"

Gen. Jark advised the new second lieutenants to "Be in the right place, at the right time," and said' that sometimes "Lady Luck" needs "a little nudge," He advised graduates to continue their formal education and to be "flexible, 'but not limp."

The general cautioned the graduates against letting other activities interfere with their duties as Army officers. "Those of you who will soar with eagles in the morning should not hoot with owls at night," he advised.

Also on hand for the ceremony were Maj. Gen. David E. Ott, Fort Sill commander; Brig. Gen. Robert J. Koch, assistant commandant of the Field Artillery School, who issued the oath of office; Lt. Col. Beverly Barge, officer candidate battalion commander, and other post and city dignitaries.

EDIFICE



* HANK KJAER
7/6



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3D BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
THE FEDERAL OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL
6510 MCVEIGH DRIVE, BLDG 76
FORT MOORE, GA 31905-6214

ATSH-TPC

3 June 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR Federal Officer Candidate Training at Fort Moore, Georgia

SUBJECT: Welcome Letter for 3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, The Federal Officer Candidate School

1. References:

a. Officer Candidate School (OCS) Packing List dated 24 APR 2024. Located at the following link: <https://www.moore.army.mil/infantry/199th/ocs/>.

b. Officer Candidate School (OCS) Facebook page. Located at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/oQDp4toiy4yBEhRS/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>.

2. Congratulations on your assignment to the Federal Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Moore, GA. Your training at OCS is your first step to earning the privilege to lead Soldiers as an officer in the United States Army. Upon successful completion, you will earn your commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in one of the 17 basic Army branches.

3. The OCS 12-week officer commissioning program consist of three phases:

a. **Basic (Black) Phase:** You will learn about the profession of arms through classroom instruction, execute a series of physical events (class-up event, obstacle course, leader's reaction course), and demonstrate mental agility in a history class and battle analysis essay. Your technical skills will be tested through land navigation, both day and night. Candidates are then trained and evaluated on Warrior Skills, Small Unit Tactics, the eight Troop Leading Procedures, and the Principles of Patrolling. This culminates with presenting an Operations Order (OPORD), which is a baseline skill for any Army Officer.

b. **Intermediate (Blue) Phase:** You will conduct a Field Leadership Exercise (FLX) where you will be assessed on your ability to plan, rehearse, and execute tactical operations in an austere environment. Active-duty College Option (09S) Candidates will be assigned one of 17 basic branches prior to commissioning. Branch selection is based on a combination of your demonstrated performance and potential, specifically your leadership assessments, physical fitness, academics, and technical/tactical competencies. All In-service Officer Candidates complete Talent Based Branching via Human Resources Command.

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c. **Senior (White) Phase:** You will receive advanced leadership studies through seminar, case study, and mentorship, as well as participate in professional social events. At the culmination of this phase, you will graduate from OCS and commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army.

4. Arriving at OCS:

a. Funding. Units are responsible for funding their Soldier's travel to Fort Moore for OCS. All lodging and meals are provided once Soldiers arrive here.

b. Transportation. The Federal Officer School is not responsible for transporting Officer Candidates (OCs) to and from the airport. Home station units are responsible for attendees' transportation to the 3-11 IN footprint. OCs are authorized to travel to Fort Moore using POVs. POV use during the course is limited and can only be granted by cadre. Motorcycles are not permitted for OCs.

c. Reporting. Candidates will in-process on the first floor of Building 83. After hours arrivals will report to the 3-11 IN Staff Duty desk on the first floor of Building 76. Both buildings are located at **6510 McVeigh Drive, Fort Moore, GA 31905**. Candidates have until midnight of their report date to arrive for class. However, Candidates are encouraged to arrive sooner that day to prepare for Day 1 requirements, which includes an ACFT.

d. Guard & Reserve Soldiers, ensure your status is not "In Transit" in ISM and that you are attached to your unit UIC in order for you to draw TA-50/Equipment at the Fort Moore CIF. The S1 shop will depart and arrive Soldiers to the student UIC at in-processing.

5. In-processing. All Officer Candidates must bring six (6) hard copies of the following documents:

a. Regular Army Soldiers:

- (1) Orders (include amendments is applicable) or 1610
- (2) Copy of Marriage Certificate
- (3) Copy of Birth Certificate for all dependents listed in DEERs
- (4) Enlistment Contract (page 1 & page 4)
- (5) Organizational Clothing & Individual Equipment (OCIE) Record

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- (6) Service Member Group Life Insurance (SGLI)
- (7) DA5339 filled out by their commander
- (8) OCIE record, section H
- (9) Current DA705
- (10) Current DA5500 or 5501

b. Army Reserves/National Guard Soldiers:

- (1) Orders (include amendments is applicable) or 1610
- (2) Copy of Marriage Certificate
- (3) Copy of Birth Certificate for all dependents listed in DEERs
- (4) Lease or Mortgage Agreement
- (5) DD2807-1 Report of Medical History
- (6) DD2808 – Report of Medical Examination
- (7) Proof of payment for Lease or Mortgage (3 months of payments)
- (8) Organizational Clothing & Individual Equipment (OCIE) Record
- (9) Service Member Group Life Insurance (SGLI)
- (10) DD93 – Record of Emergency Data
- (11) DD214 – Certificate of Uniformed Service or DD220 – Active-Duty Report
- (12) DA5339 filled out by their commander
- (13) OCIE record, section H
- (14) Current DA705

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(15) Current DA5500 or 5501

c. In-service Soldiers: All paperwork listed above, based on your component, your Soldier Talent Profile (STP) and a signed copy of the OCS Commander's Predeparture Interview (**AR 350-51, para 4-4, figure 4-2**).

6. Candidates are highly encouraged to arrive at OCS with the complete packing list. The packing list should be provided to you when you arrive at the Basic Training Reception Battalion or your BCT company, though 3-11 IN cannot ensure this. CIF will permit a partial draw of items not listed in the clothing record. Some classes may require a full draw of packing list items based on CIF's discretion. Candidates may have the opportunity to purchase packing list items and other necessities at a local post-exchange on a limited basis.

- a. The most current OCS Packing List is provided on the official Army OCS Website: <https://www.moore.army.mil/infantry/199th/ocs/>
- b. Avoid accessing other websites, as they may be unreliable or inaccurate.

. Life At OCS:

a. Basic Officer Leader Course-Accessions (BOLC-A) provide OCs and cadets a common formative experience focused on basic martial discipline, common core skills, and foundational leadership knowledge. BOLC-As are not "gentlemen's courses" and do not provide strategic level education. Cadre coach, train, and educate OCs under the authority of the 3-11 IN Battalion Commander in his role as the OCS Commandant per AR 350-51. An OC is in student status as with an ROTC or West Point cadet and subordinate to all cadre regardless of pay grade. In service and prior service OCs receive no special privileges. As aspiring officers, OCs will be held to high standards of conduct in all aspects of military life including holistic fitness, military bearing, leadership attributes, and personal conduct on and off duty. Development of unprofessional relationships, including romantic relationships, with other OCs is strictly prohibited. Upon arrival, OCs receive, read, and are lawfully ordered to comply with OCS governing documents such as the ISAP, SOP, and TACSOP. OCS is designed to create professional discomfort and stress and provide a common formative experience aligned with other BOLC-As. At conclusion of OCS, OCs are prepared to succeed at BOLC-B with their ROTC and USMA peers.

b. You will be assigned to a training Company that has a maximum capacity of 160x Officer Candidates. You will be organized into a Platoon of approximately 40x OCs, led by trainers (SSG or above) and generally 1x officer (1LT or CPT). OCs with reserved seats for the class are required to start by regulation. If more than 160x OCs arrive for

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day one, the ACFT will create an Order of Merit List (OML). The OML will be used to select students without a reserved seat for class up to the maximum class size. Remaining OCs will be assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) until the next available class or inserted based on attrition.

c. While assigned to OCS, all Students reside in the barracks centrally located in the 3-11 IN footprint. There are no exceptions to this policy. Travel outside of the 3-11 IN footprint and the use of privately owned vehicles will be limited during the first nine weeks of the course. Wearing civilian clothing after duty hours is limited, and only authorized by the Company Commander. Alcohol use is not authorized, but the OCS Commandant may grant exceptions for specific OCS social events.

d. Ensure that you arrive physically prepared for and execute three timed foot marches, similar to Army corps Fit to Fight standards, rigors of OCS. All Candidates must pass the ACFT, run 4-miles in 36-minutes. Most of your time will be spent training in the classroom or the field. You will conduct organized Physical Readiness Training (PRT) Monday through Friday. Generally, you are afforded an hour of personal time per night, and occasionally one day per week of limited-to-no scheduled training (typically Sunday).

e. Ensure your personal finances and family matters are as stable as possible.

f. Cadre will make every attempt to allow OCs to attend desired religious or spiritual services as the training schedule permits. The Battalion Chaplain will assist OCs in locating specific services.

g. Cell phones and similar electronic devices, to include laptop computers, are authorized. However, Cell phones are only permitted for personal use during certain phases or with permission from the Company Commanders. Expect to have minimal access to your cell phone for the first four weeks of the course. Laptop usage is restricted for use during the duty day unless authorized by the Company Commander.

h. Nicotine products of any kind are not permitted for candidates assigned to OCS at any time.

i. Privately owned weapons are not permitted at OCS.

j. You are accountable to make every attempt to arrive to OCS with all packing list items, as some need to be personally purchased, while others are supplied by CIF or were issued to you previously. Candidates may have the opportunity to purchase packing list items and other necessities at a local post-exchange on a limited basis.

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k. In-service Candidates must arrive with all Organizational Clothing Issued Equipment (OCIE) on the packing list. The Fort Moore Central Issue Facility (CIF) may not issue service members any OCIE items already on their clothing record.

l. Students will receive mail while at OCS, but all mail is subject to inspection by OCS cadre to prevent contraband of any kind. Note that students only have a personal drawer for miscellaneous items. The barracks will be displayed and stored IAW with SOP.

m. You are permitted to bring a privately owned vehicle to OCS. However, your privilege to operate it once you are enrolled in the course can only be granted by your cadre. Motorcycles are not permitted for OCs.

n. The student parking lot for OCS is situated adjacent to Wigle Hall. Parking within the OCS footprint is prohibited, as these spaces are reserved for cadre.

6. The Honor Code: Honor and Integrity are essential to anyone aspiring to serve and lead in the United States Army. To that point, OCS operates under a strict, yet simple, honor code:

“An Officer Candidate will not lie, cheat, steal nor tolerate those who do.”

Any violation of this code is grounds for dismissal from OCS and may subject you to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

- a. If removed from OCS, college option students (09S) will be assigned an enlisted MOS based on the needs of the Army and sent to a corresponding Advanced Individual Training (AIT).
- b. In-service candidates will be returned to their unit of assignment. The OCS Commandant may provide copies of commander's inquiries or AR 15-6 investigations to chains of command of OCs dismissed for misconduct.
- c. All OCs dismissed from OCS receive a DD 785 explaining reason for dismissal and providing recommendation to the joint force of a former OC's potential to return after reapplying in one year or otherwise serve in any branch of service as a commissioned officer.

8. Once again, congratulations on your selection to attend the United States Army Federal Officer Candidate School. This course is your first step in becoming a Commissioned Officer and a Leader in the most capable fighting force the world has ever seen. You will be challenged in different ways each day as our committed and

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professional cadre assess your merit, performance, and potential to become an officer in the U.S. Army. You must arrive mentally, physically, and psychologically prepared to earn the right to lead our Nation's Soldiers every day. Standards, no compromise!

9. The point of contact for this memorandum is the Battalion Operations Officer at 706-575-8203.



WILFORD L. GARVIN III
LTC, AR
Commanding

Officer Candidate School offers Candidates the following 16 Branch Options ONLY. Medical Service is not available to OCS Candidates and Aviation and Cyber branch have special conditions that must be completed PRIOR to attending OCS.

1 AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY OFFICER

The role of an Air Defense Artillery Officer is to be a leader in operations specific to the Air Defense Artillery Branch and to be an expert in the tactics, techniques and procedures for **the employment of air defense systems.**

2 ARMOR OFFICER

Armor Officers are responsible for tank and cavalry/forward reconnaissance operations on the battlefield. The role of an Armor Officer is to be a leader in operations specific to the Armor Branch and to lead others in many areas of combat operations.

3 AVIATION OFFICER

An Officer within the Aviation Branch is first an expert aviator but is also responsible for the coordination of Aviation operations from maintenance to control tower operations to tactical field missions. From providing quick-strike and long-range target engagement during combat operations to hauling troops and supplies, Army helicopter units play a critical role in getting the job done in many situations.

4 ENGINEER OFFICER

An Officer in the Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for providing support in a full spectrum of engineering duties. Engineer Officers help the Army and the Nation in building structures, developing civil works programs, working with natural resources as well as providing combat support on the battlefield.

5 FIELD ARTILLERY OFFICER

The Army's Field Artillery Branch is responsible for neutralizing or suppressing the enemy by cannon, rocket and missile fire and to help integrate all fire support assets into combined arms operations. The role of a Field Artillery Officer is to be a leader in operations specific to the Field Artillery Branch and to be an expert in the tactics, techniques and procedures for the employment of fire support systems.

6 INFANTRY OFFICER

An Infantry Officer is responsible for leading and controlling the Infantry and combined armed forces during land combat. They are also involved in coordinating employment of Infantry Soldiers at all levels of command, from platoon to battalion and higher, in U.S. and

multi-national operations. Officers are leaders, and being a leader in the Army requires certain qualities such as self-discipline, initiative, confidence and intelligence.

7 CHEMICAL OFFICER

The Chemical Officer advises the commander on issues regarding nuclear, biological and radiological warfare, defense and homeland protection. Chemical Officers also employ Chemical units in combat support with chemical, smoke and flame weapons, technology and management. Officers are leaders, and being a leader in the Army requires certain qualities such as self-discipline, initiative, confidence and intelligence.

8 MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Military Intelligence (MI) Officers are always out front, providing essential intelligence and in many cases saving Soldiers who are fighting on the front lines. MI Officers assess risks associated with friendly and enemy courses of action and act to counter or neutralize identified intelligence threats. The MI Officer also uses intelligence systems and data to reduce uncertainty of enemy, terrain and weather conditions for a commander.

9 MILITARY POLICE OFFICER

Military Police Officers are utilized in direct combat and during peacetime to lead other Military Police Soldiers while they serve five main functions: 1) Maneuver and mobility support operations, 2) Area security operations, 3) Law and order operations, 4) Internment and resettlement operations, and 5) Police intelligence operations.

10 SIGNAL OFFICER A Signal Corps Officer must be an expert in planning, installing, integrating, operating and maintaining the Army's voice, data and information systems, services and resources. Signal Officers must be highly intelligent, forward-thinking and have a complete knowledge of communications and data management technologies.

11 FINANCE OFFICER The Army's Finance Corps is responsible for sustaining operations through purchasing and acquiring supplies and services. Officers in the Finance Corps make sure commercial vendors are paid, contractual payments are met, balancing and projecting budgets, paying Soldiers for their service and other financial matters associated with keeping the Army running.

12 ORDNANCE OFFICER

Ordnance Officers are responsible for ensuring that weapons systems, vehicles, and equipment are ready and available - and in perfect working order - at all times. Thus, Ordnance Officers and the Soldiers they lead are a critical component in the Army's success. Ordnance Officers also oversee the developing, testing, fielding, handling, storage and disposal of munitions.

13 PERSONNEL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT OFFICER (Adjutant General)

An Adjutant General Officer is responsible for helping Soldiers with the tasks that affect their overall welfare and wellbeing, while assisting commanders by keeping Soldiers combat-ready. In many cases, the duties of an Adjutant General Officer are very similar to the function of a high-level human resources executive in the civilian world. Officers are leaders, and being a leader in the Army requires certain qualities such as self-discipline, initiative, confidence and intelligence.

14 QUARTERMASTER OFFICER

Quartermaster Officers are responsible for making sure equipment, materials and systems are available and functioning for missions. More specifically, the Quartermaster Officer provides supply support for Soldiers and units in field services, aerial delivery and material and distribution management. Officers are leaders, and being a leader in the Army requires certain qualities such as self-discipline, initiative, confidence and intelligence.

15 TRANSPORTATION OFFICER

Transportation Officers are experts in the systems, vehicles and procedures in moving troops and supplies in the Army. Transportation Officers are responsible for commanding and controlling Transportation operations and combined armed forces during land combat. Officers are leaders, and being a leader in the Army requires certain qualities such as self-discipline, initiative, confidence and intelligence.

16 CYBER OPERATIONS OFFICER

Cyber Officers direct teams of professionals and technicians that defend Army cyberspace and take actions against adversaries to ensure commanders' freedom of maneuver in the cyber domain.

Updated on 7-13-2025.

**Artillery - Field Artillery - Coast Artillery - Antiaircraft Artillery
Air Defense Artillery**

**The present day Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery Branches
trace their roots back to the Revolutionary War.**

Regular Army artillery can trace its history back to the Revolutionary War. Known as the Artillery Corps, it was authorized in 1834 to display crossed cannons as its branch insignia. By 1898 there were seven regiments of artillery. Except in mission there was no distinction by designation between artillery which supported ground troops and that which defended America's ports and coastlines.

On 13 February 1901 the Artillery Corps was split into two components, the Coast Artillery and the Field Artillery, in recognition of the divergence in the two missions. Fourteen separate batteries of Field Artillery and eighty-two companies of Coast Artillery were organized and activated.



**Field Artillery Component
Artillery Corps
1901-1907**



**Coast Artillery Component
Artillery Corps
1901-1907**

On 25 January 1907 the Artillery Corps designation was dropped and Coast Artillery and the Field Artillery became separate branches of the U.S. Army.



**Field Artillery Branch
1907-1950**



**Coast Artillery Branch
1907-1950**

By September 1939 the larger proportion of Coast Artillery available was antiaircraft in nature, and as the threat of enemy invasion faded, coast artillery personnel and assets were increasingly transformed into Antiaircraft Artillery units. By the end of the war the seacoast defense role and, consequently, Coast Artillery had practically disappeared, and Antiaircraft Artillery prevailed. The World War II mission of Antiaircraft Artillery was the air defense of field forces and ground installations against all forms of enemy air attack by day or night.

Fort Monroe was the home of the Coast Artillery Corps when World War II began.

The Coast Artillery Board had existed since 1907 at Fort Monroe and was charged with review and development of harbor defense weapons, which included mine planters, underwater detection devices, submarine mines and mine-control devices, and , prior to March 1942, antiaircraft weapons.

Antiaircraft artillery equipment was initially tested and developed at the Coast Artillery Board at Fort Monroe. On 9 March 1942, a separate Antiaircraft Artillery Board was established at Fort Monroe and moved to Camp Davis on 24 May 1942. Finally, on 28 August 1944, the board moved to Fort Bliss to join what became the center of army antiaircraft activities.

When the rapid expansion of the Coast Artillery OCS program was ordered, it was obvious that the facilities at Fort Monroe would fall hopelessly short of meeting the needs and the entire program moved to the newly constructed Camp Davis, North Carolina in 1941. From spring of 1941 until the fall of 1944 Camp Davis was the focal point of AAA training and weapons and material development within the US Army.

The Antiaircraft Artillery was under the umbrella of the Coast Artillery Corps when World War II began. In March 1942 the Antiaircraft Artillery formally separated from the Seacoast Artillery and the Antiaircraft Artillery (AAA) Command was established. Thereafter, all seacoast instruction was assigned to Fort Monroe and all antiaircraft artillery instruction was at Camp Davis.

At that point in time, the Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis became part of the newly established Antiaircraft Artillery School and would be known as the AAA (Antiaircraft Artillery) OCS.

AAA OCS - Camp Davis, North Carolina (1941-1944)

AAA OCS graduated a total of 25,191 (25,109 by some accounts) out of 33,195 candidates. There were 100 classes. The first two AAA OCS classes started at Fort Monroe and finished at Camp Davis. The next 98 classes were at Camp Davis. Class # 1 started on July 7, 1941 and graduated on October 3, 1941. Class #100 started on February 22, 1944 and graduated on June 15, 1944.

The course was originally 12 weeks, was later lengthened to 13 weeks and was the first OCS in the Army to be extended to 17 weeks in March 1943. The candidates were trained specifically in Guns, Searchlights or Automatic weapons.

AAA OCS graduated as many as 1,800 per month at its peak and by the spring of 1944 a huge surplus of AAA officers existed. The weekly graduation numbers dropped to between 30 and 40 and AAA officers voluntarily transferred to other branches. By March 1944 5,668 AAA officers had transferred to other branches.

SEACOAST ARTLLERY OCS - Fort Monroe, Virginia (1942-1944)

The Seacoast Artillery OCS had a brief trial run at Camp Davis due to the overtaxed facilities at Fort Monroe. That was scrapped when the Seacoast and Antiaircraft reorganization took place in 1942 and it was moved back to Fort Monroe. The Seacoast Artillery Department of the Officer Candidate School was then established at Fort Monroe and would be known as the Seacoast Artillery OCS. The Seacoast Artillery OCS at Fort Monroe commissioned 1,964 lieutenants in 31 classes. Class # 1 started on April 20, 1942 and Class #31 graduated on March 17, 1944.

During World War II, Two Coast Artillery Officer Candidate Schools were established on foreign soil. The first was in England and the second was in Australia. Little information is available concerning the number of graduates from either of these schools.

All graduates of the Seacoast Artillery OCS at Fort Monroe and the AAA OCS at Camp Davis were commissioned in the Coast Artillery Branch.



Coast Artillery

In October 1944 the AAA School moved to Fort Bliss, where the headquarters of the Antiaircraft school was already located.

The Army Reorganization Act of 1950 consolidated the Coast Artillery and Field Artillery branches into the Artillery Arm with plain crossed cannons as the Arm's insignia.



**Artillery Arm
1950-1957**

AAA OCS - Fort Bliss, Texas (1951-1953)

The Anti-Aircraft Artillery Officer Candidate School opened at Fort Bliss, Texas on October 14, 1951 as part of the Anti-Aircraft and Guided Missile Branch of the Artillery School. The first class of candidates graduated on May 2, 1952. There were a total of 14 classes to graduate. Before closing on July 17, 1953, the AAA Officers Candidate School program at Fort Bliss graduated approximately 1,175 candidates. Most Graduates were commissioned in the Artillery Arm. After the school closed the plans were to earmark 40% of all candidates entering Artillery OCS at Fort Sill for Anti-aircraft Artillery Assignments prior to beginning Artillery OCS. After graduation, they would be sent to Fort Bliss for an eight week course indoctrinating them into Anti-Aircraft techniques.

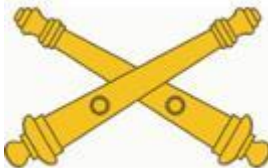
As part of the 1957 reorganization, the Artillery Arm was re-designated as the Artillery Branch. The new branch insignia was crossed cannons surmounted with a missile.



**Artillery Branch
1957-1968**

By 1968 the Army recognized that with evolving technologies the divergence of missions was too great to maintain one branch and the Air Defense Artillery Branch was established.

Once again the plain crossed cannons became the Field Artillery branch insignia while the crossed cannons with the surmounted missile was adopted as the branch insignia of the Air Defense Artillery.



**Field Artillery Branch
1968 to Present**



**Air Defense Artillery Branch
1968 to Present**

OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL PROGRAMS COMMISSIONING ARTILLERY OFFICERS 1941 - PRESENT

1941-1946: Fort Sill - Field Artillery OCS

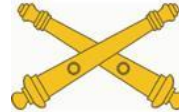


1941-1944: Camp Davis, NC - Anti-Aircraft Artillery OCS

1942-1944: Fort Monroe, VA - Seacoast Artillery OCS



1946-1947: Fort Benning - Army OCS



and other
branches

1947-1951: Fort Riley - Ground General School
Army Officer Candidate (AOC) Course



and other
branches

1951- 1953: Fort Bliss - Anti-Aircraft Artillery OCS

Feb 1951- May 1955: Fort Sill - Artillery OCS

May 1955- Jan 1957: Fort Sill - Artillery and Guided Missile OCS

Jan 1957- July 1957: Fort Sill - US Army Artillery and Guided Missile OCS



Jul 1957- Dec 1968: Fort Sill - US Army Artillery and Missile OCS



1969-1973: Fort Sill - Field Artillery OCS



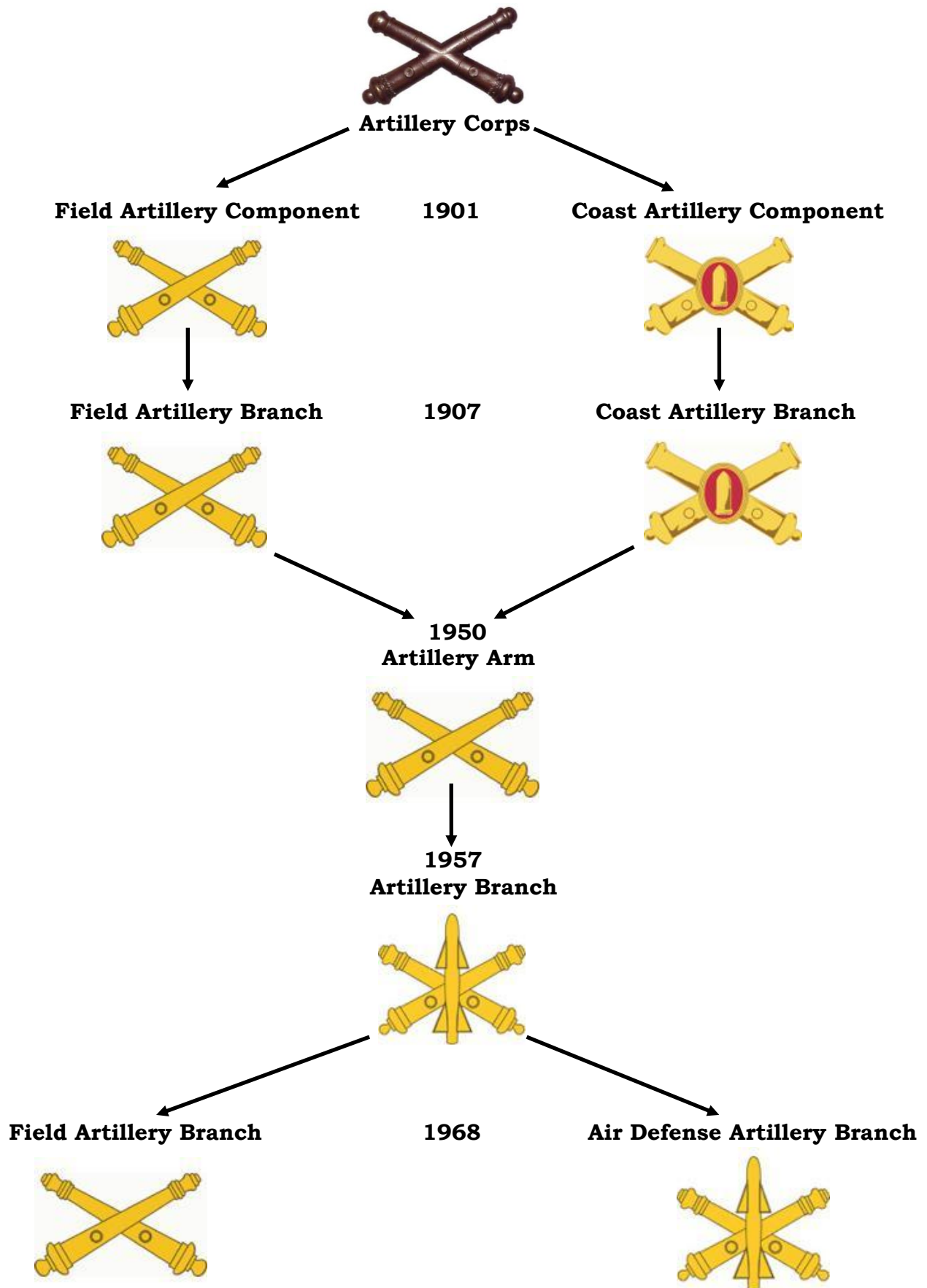
1973-Present: Fort Benning OCS



14 other
branches

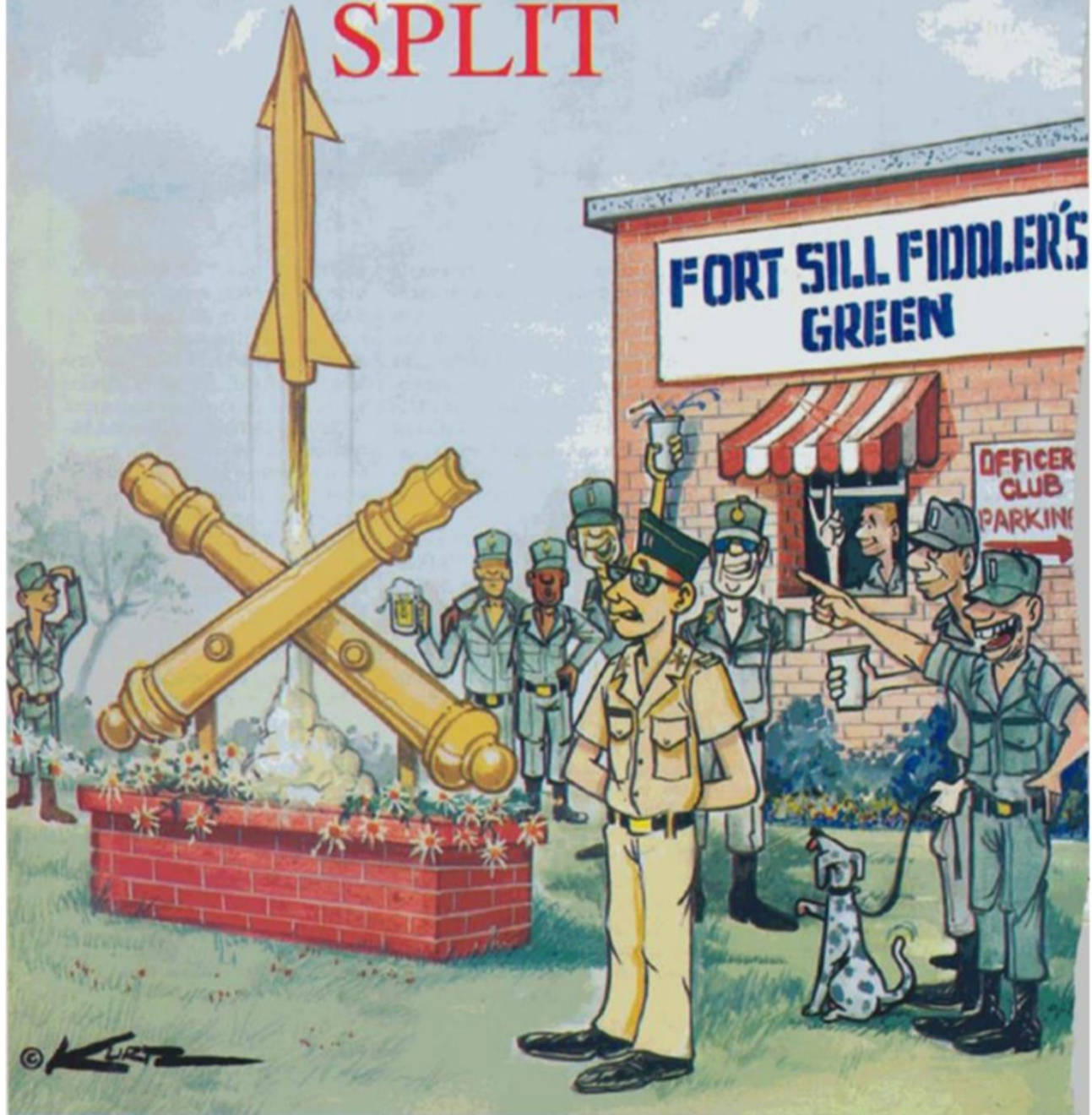
Since 1941, the OCS program has been able to transform and execute its mission to meet the needs of a fast paced and changing Army. The mission of OCS will always remain constant: train selected personnel in the fundamentals of leadership, basic military skills; instill professional ethics, evaluate leadership potential, and commission those who qualify as second lieutenants in all sixteen basic branches of the Army.

Roots of the Artillery Branches



JUNE 20, 1968 - FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

THE DAY THE BRANCHES SPLIT



A HISTORY OF FORT SILL

Fort Sill was officially established by General Philip H. Sheridan on January 8, 1869 in the Indian Territory or present day Oklahoma. Its purpose was to control the Comanche, Cheyenne, Kiowa and other tribes that had roamed the Southern Plains hunting buffalo or making frequent raids on settlements in Texas and Mexico in search of captives and horses.

Some of the most famous military leaders and units in American history have served at Fort Sill over the decades. The first military occupation of the site was in 1834 when the 1st US Dragoons arrived to establish "Camp Comanche" and begin negotiations with the local tribes. Several individuals important in American history such as General Henry Leavenworth, Jefferson Davis, George Catlin, Nathan Boone were included in this expedition.

In 1852, Captain Randolph Marcy arrived to explore the Red River and made the first recommendation that a permanent fort be established at this place. This was followed by a company of Chickasaw Indians scouting the Medicine Bluffs in 1858 under the command of Colonel Douglas Cooper. He also made a recommendation that a fort be established in this area.

In late December 1868, General Phil Sheridan arrived with the 7th US Cavalry under Colonel George A. Custer; the 10th US Cavalry commanded by Colonel Benjamin Grierson; the 19th Kansas Volunteers and the 6th US Infantry. The new post was soon staked out according to Sheridan's plans and construction began on the permanent stone buildings in 1869-70. The fledgling post was soon named Fort Sill after General Joshua Sill who was killed during the Civil War in 1862. All four of the Black regiments that were later referred to as the "Buffalo Soldiers" (9th & 10th US Cavalry, 24th & 25th US Infantry) served at Fort Sill during the late 19th century.

Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie and the 4th Cavalry occupied the fort during the Red River War of 1874-75. With the final surrenders of the Plains tribes in 1875, the mission of the army shifted toward maintaining law and order in the Territory. The protection of Indian lands from the illegal Kansas and Texas "Intruders"; patrolling the Chisholm Trail in pursuit of rustlers, murders, whiskey peddlers; and generally maintaining the peace, became the priority of the day.

In 1894 the Chiricahua Apache Prisoners of War came to Fort Sill from their prisons in Alabama and Florida. For the first time since their surrender in 1886 they were able to regain their respect and warrior status by enlisting in the all Indian unit, Troop L, 7th US Cavalry at Fort Sill. One of the more famous warriors of this group was Geronimo.

Fort Sill was a pivotal installation during the Indian Wars of the late 19th century, yet it was almost abandoned around 1900. Faced with a changing mission from the Cavalry and Infantry to Artillery, Secretary of War William H. Taft visited Fort Sill in 1907 to determine the fate of the frontier army post. Even then, the history of the old fort was considered so significant that the future President decided to preserve it forever instead of rebuilding or tearing it down to render it more suitable for the new mission.

Thus, a "New Post" was constructed further west in 1909-11 to accommodate the Field Artillery. The last Cavalry unit departed in 1907 and in 1911, the new Field Artillery School of

Fire Headquarters was established in the historic old teamster's quarters on the Quadrangle.

In 1915 Fort Sill would come into the air age with the arrival of the 1st Aero Squadron, the first aviation unit in the American military. This unit trained at Fort Sill until receiving orders for Texas and the Mexican border. The move to Texas became the first squadron flight in aviation history. Fort Sill soon became the home of Army aviation and continued until 1954 when that mission shifted to Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Since then, Fort Sill has continued to provide training for soldiers and testing of equipment to support the defense of our country. The success in meeting this mission throughout the 20th and into the 21st centuries is based largely upon the solid foundations laid over 140 years ago.

THE FORT SILL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK AND MUSEUM

The mission of the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum is the collection and preservation of objects, the research and installation of quality exhibits and the presentation of interactive interpretation of the military, social, political, cultural and economic history of Fort Sill and its vicinity from the Dragoon Expedition in 1834 to 1920. Several Native American tribes are an integral part of the history of Fort Sill and will be considered irrespective of the chronology.

The purpose of the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum shall be the education of Soldiers and Leaders and the edification of Military families and the general public."

The US Army Field Artillery & Fort Sill Museum was established by direction of the Chief of Field Artillery on December 10, 1934 and formally opened in January 1935. The dual mission of preserving the history of both the Field Artillery and of Fort Sill was identified from the beginning. Captain Harry C. Larter, a Field Artilleryman, military artist, and historian was the first curator. Larter made use of an old artillery teaching collection of military items which had been brought together at Fort Sill in 1919 and stored in a warehouse for a number of years. Captain Wilbur S. Nye was given the task of compiling and writing the history of Fort Sill as a joint action. The old guardhouse was selected as the building to house this material for interpreting the history to the public and it served as the main museum building for many years.

The acquisition of additional space was required to accommodate the museum's increase in visitors, exhibits and donations and on 4 October 1958, the Quartermaster Corral was added to the complex. Exhibits within this area included a replica Trader's Store, a Wichita grass house, and a Conestoga wagon. The Comanche County Historical Society also set up frontier displays in this facility until 1961 when they were relocated to Lawton and became the Museum of the Great Plains.

During the 1960s the Quartermaster Storehouse was opened featuring artillery exhibits from the Revolutionary War period to 1900. The adjacent Commissary Storehouse building exhibited the history of the US Artillery from 1900 through the Korean Conflict. In addition, the "Cannon Walk" was created as an outdoor display of U.S. and foreign artillery pieces. By the 1970s, the museum had grown to include several additional buildings such as the first headquarters for the School of Fire for Field Artillery.

One of the two original Infantry Barracks was decorated as the “Hall of Flags”. The original Post Headquarters building, constructed in 1870, housed the museum collection offices and archival records during the 1970s. Finally, the first Post Chapel was assigned to the museum during this time to protect it from over-development. Several additional facilities of the original historic post were added to the museum during the 1990s, including a second Infantry Barracks on the southwest corner of the Quadrangle; three cavalry barracks and associated outbuildings on the west side of the Quadrangle; and the only surviving balloon hangar on Fort Sill at the Henry Post Army Airfield.

The museum continued to shift its vast holdings and functions to more appropriate facilities in order to continue meeting the required standards of the museum profession. It became evident that the historic buildings would not allow for displaying artillery as most of the artillery collection was either displayed outside or was in deep storage where the public could not see it.

By 1998 a new initiative known as Project Millennium established new objectives for the museum and included the construction of a separate US Army Field Artillery Museum, which was completed in the spring of 2008. As the new Field Artillery Museum neared completion, plans were developed to separate the mission of the museum into two distinct missions (Field Artillery and Fort Sill). With this separation of museums, the staff of the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum were able to turn their attention back to the historic post area. Today, the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum occupies 38 buildings, with a total of 144,514 square feet of exhibit and storage space, a total collection of over 235,000 objects, and covering 142 acres in the Historic Landmark area.

Field Artillery School History

At the turn of the last century, field artillery officers and soldiers rarely got to train (and never got to train in massing fires and other advanced skills). To remedy this trend, President Theodore Roosevelt sent Army Captain Dan T. Moore to observe training at European field artillery schools. Based on Moore's favorable report on the German Artillery School, the War Department decided to open a field artillery school.

Moore was dispatched to Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1910 to organize the School of Fire for Field Artillery that would train officers and noncommissioned officers. The school opened in September 1911 with Moore as commandant. Its mission was to provide theoretical and practical instruction on the latest weapons and fire direction procedures.

The Mexican Revolution forced the school to close in the spring of 1916 as students were sent to guard the Mexican border.

After the United States entered World War I, the school reopened in 1917 with Colonel William J. Snow as commandant.

The Field Artillery School, as it was now known, added more courses. After the war, school commandants began a long-range program to improve field artillery mobility, gunnery and equipment. Budget cuts during the 1920s hampered their efforts, but innovative directors of the Gunnery Department, with support from school commandants, helped modernize the field artillery in the 1930s.

Major Carlos Brewer, director of the Gunnery Department in the late 1920s and early 1930s, introduced new fire direction techniques so fire support would be more responsive. Major Orlando Ward, the next department director, developed the fire direction center to centralize command and control and to facilitate massing fire. Brewer, Ward, and Lieutenant Colonel H.L.C. Jones encouraged replacing horses with motor vehicles for moving field artillery guns.

World War II

To best use new long-range guns and better response times, the Field Artillery School championed the use of air observation to control artillery fires. The War Department approved organic field artillery air observation in 1942. The artillery air observers adjusted massed fire and performed liaison, reconnaissance, and other missions during the war.

Cold War (and after)

Following the war, the school adapted to the atomic age and the Cold War. The War Department consolidated all artillery training and developments under the U.S. Army Artillery Center at Fort Sill in 1946. At that time, the center included the Artillery School, the Antiaircraft and Guided Missile School at Fort Bliss, Texas, and the Coast Artillery School at Fort Scott, California. The air defense artillery became its own branch in 1968.

In 1953, school personnel fired the first nuclear-capable field artillery gun (the 280mm gun known as **Atomic Annie**) at Frenchman's Flat, Nevada. During the 1950s, school personnel also helped develop rocket and missile warfare (The U.S. arsenal included the **Honest John rocket**, **Corporal missile** and **Redstone missile**) that could carry a nuclear warhead.

In 1963, the school tested aerial rocket artillery, which equipped helicopters with rockets. The school cooperated in the development of the Field Artillery Digital Automated Computer, commonly called FADAC, to compute fire direction data. Introduced in 1966-67, FADAC made the field artillery a leader in computer developments for the Army.

After the Vietnam War, the school participated in the introduction of the **Multiple-Launch Rocket System** the **Army Tactical Missile System**, the **Paladin 155-mm** self-propelled howitzer, and other field artillery systems. The field artillery's performance in military operations in Operation Desert Storm in 1990-91 and Iraq and Afghanistan from 2001 to today validated the school's modernization efforts. Field artillery Officers and Soldiers can do complicated logarithmic calculations to fire a mission in one moment or they can escort a supply convoy, secure prisoners, and patrol a village or any other mission the next.

Over the years, the School of Fire for Field Artillery and its successors trained field artillery officers and soldiers in the latest field artillery tactics, techniques, and procedures and played a key role in developing new field artillery systems and equipment. In 2010 the U.S. Army Field Artillery School continued the tradition established by the School of Fire for Field Artillery. As part of the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE), it trained the field artillery forces of the United States Army and United States Marine Corps, provided joint training, developed Field Artillery leaders, helped design and develop fire support tactics and doctrine, and supported unit training and readiness.

Evolution of the School of Fire for Field Artillery

Field Artillery School (1919-46)

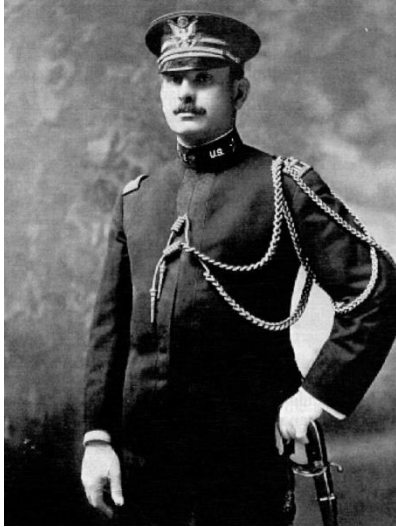
The Artillery School (1946-55)

The Artillery and Guided Missile School (1955-57)

U.S. Army Artillery and Guided Missile School (1957)

U.S. Army Artillery and Missile School (1957-69)

U.S. Army Field Artillery School (1969-present)



Captain Dan T. Moore First Commandant US Army Field Artillery School

"Father" of the Field Artillery School, Captain Dan T. Moore was born in Alabama, February 9th, 1877. He entered the Army in 1899 as a second lieutenant of infantry, and served in the Spanish-American War as a second lieutenant of the Connecticut Infantry.

In 1901 Captain Moore transferred to the Field Artillery, in which he acquired an excellent reputation. During the years 1900 to 1908, a group of United States Army field artillery officers recognized that several foreign countries were far in advance in artillery tactics and techniques. With this in mind the War Department decided to send an able and energetic officer abroad to study in foreign artillery schools, preparatory to his taking prominent part in the establishment of a school in this country.

The officer selected for this important duty was Captain Dan T Moore, Sixth Field Artillery. He spent the year 1908-1909 visiting the artillery schools in England, Holland, and Austria, and was a student at the German artillery school at Juterborg.

In November 1910 Captain Moore was sent to Fort Sill by the War Department to make preliminary arrangements for the establishment of the School of Fire. Fort Sill was selected as the site of the school since the size (51,000 acres) and the varied terrain of the Fort Sill reservation offered admirable opportunity for training both firing and in tactical handling of Field Artillery.

Captain Moore was personally responsible for drawing up regulations and laying out the training program of the school.

General Order No 73 War Department, June 51 1911 directed the establishment at Fort Sill of "The School of Fire for Field Artillery." Another order dated July 19th designated Captain Moore as commandant of the School. Captain Moore personally trained the two instruction batteries selected from the Fifth Field Artillery.

As a Field Artilleryman, Captain Moore was outstanding in his technical knowledge, progressive ideas, and driving energy in modernizing his arms. As a result of his work, the Field Artillery was up to date and ready for the First World War when it came. He was a former military aide to President Theodore Roosevelt as well as close adviser and friend.

After World War I, Colonel Moore resigned. He held a commission of brigadier general in the Officers' Reserve Corps.

THE FIELD ARTILLERY SCHOOL CREST



Cedat Fortuna Peritis – “Skill is Better Than Luck”

THE SHIELD IS RED FOR ARTILLERY; the field piece depicted, having been used in the 16th century, is the forerunner of the modern artillery.

THE CREST IS THE ARM OF SAINT BARBARA, the patron saint of artillery, issuing from the upper portion of an embattled tower argent and holding flashes of lightning alluding to the pagan idea of Jove's ability to destroy with his bolts that which offended him.

This distinctive insignia was approved on 29 March 1930. Its design reflects a six-year struggle by our staff to have a symbol of our history, pride and training.

1924, 9 JULY: FAS requested authority from the Adjutant General to design a distinctive school insignia.

1924, 16 JULY: Above request refused by Chief of Field Artillery.

1924, 1 DECEMBER: the Adjutant General requested FAS to design a crest.

1925, 2 MARCH: FAS forwarded a suggested crest to the Adjutant General.

1925, 9 MARCH: Chief of Field Artillery recommended approval of suggested crest.

1925, 17 MARCH: Quartermaster Corps disapproved suggested design.

1925, 17 APRIL: FAS submitted a new design.

1926, 8 APRIL: Proposed crest approved by the Adjutant General.

1926, 27 APRIL: Commanding General of FAS requested approval for adoption and wear of this crest by personnel of FAS.

1926, 12 AUGUST: Request disapproved because "the School is not a color-bearing organization".

1930, 29 MARCH: Distinctive insignia for FAS approved by the Adjutant General.

The Air Defense Artillery School



Mission

Meet the needs of Army, Joint and Coalition Commanders. Lead an innovative and forward-thinking Fires Enterprise that: Provides the nation with the world's best trained, organized and equipped Soldiers and units led by adaptive and resilient leaders. Develop and deploy Field Artillery (FA) and Air Defense Artillery (ADA) capabilities required for full spectrum operations to support current operational needs. Develop and integrate capabilities for future force warfighting concepts. Through engagement, provide world class joint and coalition exportable training

Vision

The world's most versatile Fires Force, with agile and adaptive Soldiers and leaders; fielded with integrated and interoperable systems; capable of delivering accurate and responsive fires in any environment, from "mud to space," at any time.

A History of the Air Defense Artillery

1776

While the origin of the ADA Branch lies in the Coast Artillery Corps of the First World War, the origins of the Branch are deeper in Army history. As early as 27 September 1776 when Colonel Henry Knox recommended the creation of an artillery school, the importance and need for field and coast artillery existed.

1814-1834

The successful defense of America's coast by artillerymen at Fort McHenry, Maryland, from a British naval assault in September 1814 emphasized the importance of artillery in national defense. Ten years later, the Adjutant General of the US Army authorized the creation of a school just for artillery instruction at Fort Monroe, Virginia. For 10 years, the school remained in operation, training three-quarters of all active artillery personnel. Despite the school's successes, limited funds forced its closing in 1834.

1857

On 29 December 1857, the Adjutant General's office reestablished the Artillery School at Fort Monroe. The Civil War caused the suspension of instruction at the school. At the War's end, the school reopened as The Artillery School of the United States Army.

1901

In 1901, the Coast Artillery Corps was organized to defend US coastal forts. Coast Artillerymen manned guns from 6 to 16 inches in caliber. The gunners also manned mobile tractor-drawn and railway artillery to supplement fixed defenses.

1906

In 1906, the Department of Artillery of the United States Army became the Department of Coast Artillery. The mission of the Artillery School changed to one of preparing officers and enlisted men for duties pertaining to seacoast gun defense. One year later, in 1907, the War Department issued General Order No. 24, separating the Coast Artillery and Field Artillery. That same year, the War Department authorized the reorganization of the Artillery School at Fort Monroe as the Coast Artillery School.

1917-1920

With America's entry into World War I in 1917, the Secretary of War deployed an advisory board of officers under the direction of Colonel Chauncey B. Baker who recommended the creation of an anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) service and a school to train these air defenders.

The Coast Artillery Corps assumed the AAA mission because it was the only artillery branch with experience in firing at moving targets. Further, Coastal Artillery gunners were available because the German battle fleet was under blockage thereby eliminating the need to man forts on East Coast of the United States

The Americans distinguished themselves with excellent marksmanship: the AAA service used on on-twentieth as much ammunition as our British allies to shoot down each German plane. Battery B, 1st AAA Battalion, set the best engagement record of any unit, US or allied, when they used the mobile French 75mm gun to shoot down nine German planes in a 118 day period. Americans also distinguished themselves in the training of artillerymen and in the development of tactics. After the war, all US AAA units were demobilized and the AAA ceased to exist until 1920. Between 1920 and 1921, the government reestablished the AAA service and organized it into six regiments. These regiments provided defense of harbors and priority installations such as the Panama Canal.

1930-1940

By 1930, a new emphasis was placed on anti-aircraft artillery giving it equal tactical merit with seacoast artillery. In 1938, the War Department added additional emphasis when \$800,000 was provided to procure mobile anti-aircraft guns and mounts.

Air power played a greater role in World War II than it had in World War I and the need for AAA was greater than ever. The Germans demonstrated this as their blitzkrieg swept through Europe in 1939 and 1940. The need for AAA defense in the Pacific became equally obvious.

Near the end of the War, the AAA separated from the Coast Artillery Corps. The Anti-Aircraft Artillery School was established at Camp Davis, North Carolina on 9 March 1942. Two years later, the AAA School moved to Fort Bliss, Texas where the clear weather and solitude of the desert Southwest provided excellent year-round training and testing grounds.

1940 – 1970s

With the advent of high-performance jet aircraft, the possibility of a Soviet manned bomber attack against the United States emerged. This brought about a resurgence in air defense activity. Numerous anti-aircraft units, both heavy and light guns, were added to the Army inventory. For the first time, light anti-aircraft battalions became organic to Army divisions. Heavy anti-aircraft artillery gun battalions were deployed around critical assets within the United States. Guns ultimately gave way to long-range air defense missiles to counter the threat of long range nuclear bombers flying at extremely high altitudes.

The AAA School at Bliss focused on the development of surface-to-air and the First Anti-Aircraft Artillery Guided Missile Battalion was created to assist in the effort.

The Battalion participated in the first American firing of a captured German V-2 rocket at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, on 16 April 1946.

On 11 June 1946, the AAA School came under the command of the newly established Anti-aircraft Artillery and Guided missile Center, Fort Bliss. On 1 November 1946, the War Department directed the redesignation of the AAA School to the Anti-Aircraft and Guided Missile Branch. Coastal Artillery was inactivated in 1950. Finally, the Air Defense Artillery Branch was established on 20 June 1968 by General Order No. 25.

The firing of the first all-American missile, the WAC Corporal, highlighted the early part of 1947. By the mid-1950s, both Nike and Corporal missiles reached operational status. The Nike Ajax represented a major break-through in technology and is the forerunner of today's family of Air Defense missiles.

As the threat posed by intercontinental ballistic missiles increased, the manned bomber threat decreased. This led to the elimination of air defenses within the United States and Air Defense planners concentrated on defending American maneuver forces.

1970 – 1990

During this time period the Air Defense Artillery Branch underwent an aggressive modernization program resulting in the fielding of new weapon systems such as Patriot and Avenger. Concurrently with this modernization of weapon systems was a modernization of Air Defense concepts leading ultimately to development of enhanced anti-ballistic missile capabilities for Patriot which set the conditions for success on the future battlefield.

1990 – Present

During Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Patriot, Hawk, Vulcan and Avenger units played key roles in defending sea ports, air bases, logistics centers and maneuver forces. Throughout the air and ground campaigns, ADA units' battle against Iraqi ballistic missiles became one of the most highly publicized events of the war with Patriot being singled out for helping to ensure coalition solidarity.

In March 2003, Coalition forces again entered Iraq conducting one of the most swift and precise campaigns ever. US Air Defense Artillery forces were again key members of the combined arms team with Patriot engaging every threatening Iraqi missile using the recently fielded PAC-3 capability.

Today's ADA forces face a growing and complex threat including ballistic, cruise, and air-to-surface missiles, rotary and fixed-wing aircraft capable of delivering cannon fire, sub-munitions and conventional bombs, unmanned aerial systems (surveillance and attack), and artillery, rockets and mortars (RAM). In response to these threats, ADA uses a host of integrated weapons and sensors including Patriot, Avenger, Sentinel, and the new Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Systems. C-RAM is now deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom to counter the threats posed by RAM, and is saving lives of US soldiers and coalition partners. The first THAAD battery successfully completed operational testing and is progressing towards Materiel Release while the second THAAD battery is currently in training.

“SOLDIER” by *George L. Skypeck*

I was that which others did not want to be,
I went where others fear to go,
And did what others failed to do.

I asked nothing from those who gave nothing,
And reluctantly accepted the thought
Of eternal loneliness should I fail.

I have seen the face of terror,
Felt the stinging cold of fear,
And enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love.

I have cried, pained and hoped,
But most of all, I have lived times
Others would say were best forgotten.

At least some day, I will be able to say
That I was proud of what I was, a soldier.

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Saint Barbara

According to legend, Saint Barbara was the extremely beautiful daughter of a wealthy heathen named Dioscorus, who lived near Nicomedia in Asia Minor. Because of her singular beauty and fearful that she be demanded in marriage and taken away from him, he jealously shut her up in a tower to protect her from the outside world.

Shortly before embarking on a journey, he commissioned a sumptuous bathhouse to be built for her, approving the design before he departed. Barbara had heard of the teachings of Christ, and while her father was gone spent much time in contemplation. From the windows of her tower she looked out upon the surrounding countryside and marveled at the growing things; the trees, the animals and the people. She decided that all these must be part of a master plan, and that the idols of wood and stone worshipped by her parents must be condemned as false. Gradually she came to accept the Christian faith.

As her belief became firm, she directed that the builders redesign the bathhouse her father had planned, adding another window so that the three windows might symbolize the Holy Trinity.

When her father returned, he was enraged at the changes and infuriated when Barbara acknowledged that she was a Christian. He dragged her before the prefect of the province, who decreed that she be tortured and put to death by beheading. Dioscorus himself carried out the death sentence. On his way home he was struck by lightning and his body consumed.

Saint Barbara lived and died about the year 300 A.D. She was venerated as early as the seventh century. The legend of the lightning bolt which struck down her persecutor caused her to be regarded as the patron saint in time of danger from thunderstorms, fires and sudden death.

When gunpowder made its appearance in the Western world, Saint Barbara was invoked for aid against accidents resulting from explosions--since some of the earlier artillery pieces often blew up instead of firing their projectile, Saint Barbara became the patroness of the artillerymen.

Saint Barbara is usually represented standing by a tower with three windows, carrying the palm of a martyr in her hand. Often, too, she holds a chalice and a sacramental wafer and sometimes cannon are displayed near her. In the present calendars, the feast of Saint Barbara falls on December 4th and is traditionally recognized by a formal Dining-In or military dinner, often involving presentation of the Order of Saint Barbara.

The Story of Molly Pitcher

An artillery wife, Mary Hays McCauly (better known as Molly Pitcher) shared the rigors of Valley Forge with her husband, William Hays. Her actions during the Battle of Monmouth (28 June 1778) became legendary. That day at Monmouth was as hot as Valley Forge was cold. Someone had to cool the hot guns and bathe parched throats with water.

Across that bullet-swept ground, a striped skirt fluttered. Mary Hays McCauly was earning her nickname "Molly Pitcher" by bringing pitcher after pitcher of cool spring water to the exhausted and thirsty men. She also tended to the wounded and once heaved a crippled Continental soldier upon her strong young back, carrying him out of reach of hard-charging British. On her next trip with water, she found her artilleryman husband with the guns, replacing a casualty. While she watched, Hays fell wounded. The piece, its crew now too depleted to serve it, was about to be withdrawn.

Without hesitation, Molly stepped forward and took the rammer staff from her fallen husband's hands. For the second time on an American battlefield, a woman manned a gun (the first was Margaret Corbin during the defense of Fort Washington in 1776). Resolutely, Molly Pitcher stayed at her post in the face of heavy enemy fire, ably acting as a gunner.

For her heroic role, General George Washington himself issued her a warrant as a noncommissioned officer. Thereafter, she was widely hailed as "Sergeant Molly". A flagstaff and cannon stand at her gravesite in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. A sculpture on the battle monument commemorates her courageous deed.

The Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher recognizes individuals who have voluntarily contributed in a significant way to the Field Artillery Community. The order is managed by the U.S. Field Artillery Association.

Fiddler's Green

Imagine if you will, a starry night in southwestern Oklahoma just after the Civil War. Nestled in the shadows of the Wichita Mountains is a battery of smoothbore cannon camped for the night. As the campfires dim and the flasks of rum and lemon are empty, the conversation turns to the life hereafter. A rugged, old chief of section is surprised to learn that all present have not heard of the special destiny of Redlegs and combat vets. As the young artilleryists listen intently, he shares with them the Legend of Fiddler's Green.

The chief of section explains that the souls of the departed eventually end up in heaven or hell. Heaven lies about six miles down the dusty road to eternity, and Redlegs get there by turning left at the first crossroad. From this same junction, hell is about eight or nine miles straight ahead. The road's easy to identify, it's the one paved with good intentions. A little way down the road to hell there's a sign pointing to a trail that runs off to the right of the main road. It reads "Fiddler's Green – Artillerymen Only."

Then the chief of section teaches them the following poem:

*Halfway down the trail to hell,
In a shady meadow green,
Are the souls of many departed Redlegs
Camped near a good old-time canteen,
And this eternal place
Is known as Fiddler's Green.*

*Though others must go down the trail,
To seek a warmer scene,
No Redleg ever goes to hell,
Ere he's empties his canteen,
And so returns to drink again
With friends at Fiddler's Green.*

The campfires die out, and the Redlegs doze off to sleep, knowing Fiddler's Green awaits them and all their cannon-cocking brethren in the life hereafter