

Artillery OCS Class Rosters - December 10, 2023

The following information is provided to help graduates of the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill and other interested parties understand the process we used to provide an accurate list of graduates by class:

The starting point was a master list found in the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame (Durham Hall) during June 2004. We learned that this list was created from documents found in the old Officer Candidate Brigade Headquarters during the 1990's.

The lists appear to have been produced by individuals, who may not have been the most skilled typists or may not have understood the importance of accuracy. We found the error rate to be significant: approximately 30%. More than 15,000 corrections have been made to date on a list that now includes 49,131 names.

(The last correction was made on December 8, 2023 after the son of a graduate provided the correct spelling of his father's first name. It was Pinkney, not Pinky).

The current Master List consists of 47,600 active army graduates from the 13-week, 17-week and 23-week courses and 1,531 graduates from the special 11-week National Guard and Reserve courses.

The master lists found in 2004 were in two variations:

1. Alphabetical with a reference to the class and year:
2. In class order by year that appeared to be derived from the alphabetical lists).

The master lists we started with in 2004 contained numerous errors to include:

Last name misspelled.

First name misspelled.

Incorrect middle initial.

Incorrect class number.

Incorrect year.

Missing names.

Duplicate names.

Name not associated with a class.

Names of non-graduates associated with a class.

A close look at the class lists reveals many errors in the transfer of data between lists.

We used several sources to help create our rosters:

The volunteers working on this project have taken great care to create a set of rosters that are as accurate as possible. In some instances, an "educated" guess was used to determine the correct class. The result is that in many cases our version of a class roster will not match a class photo and/or a class graduation program or even the recollections of graduates. We have compiled a list of un-verified graduates for each year group and they are identified by name on the Master Alphabetical List with a question mark (?) after the class number.

For the Classes from 1941-1946 our primary source was information found stored at Morris Swett Library at Fort Sill:

1. Copies of original assignment orders and pertinent amendments for Class 1-41, Class 2-41, Class 3-41, Class 4-42 and Classes 35-42 through Class 179-46, provided by the General Services Administration to the OCS Commandant in 1963.
2. Copies of Special Orders discharging Officer Candidates to accept appointment as Second Lieutenants and Active Duty in the Army of the United States for Class 5-42 through Class 34-42, provided by the General Services Administration to the OCS Commandant in 1963.
3. Graduation programs for many of the 1957 through 1970 classes.

Other Sources:

4. Class "Red Books" (Early to mid-1950's) with photos and class rosters.
5. Class photos (Class 4-64 and later) with individual pictures and names (Last names and usually only first and middle initials) on display in Durham Hall (1984-2021).
6. Class Orders provided by graduates or family members.
7. Graduation programs with a listing of the graduates on file in Durham Hall (1984-2021) or provided by graduates or family members.
8. Newspaper clipping from the Lawton Constitution and Fort Sill Cannoneer listing the graduates of many classes.
9. Individual recollections of graduates and family members.

For graduates from 1966-1973 the following US Army Registers were used (with caution) to help us verify many of the graduates:

10. Army Register Volume II, 1 January 1967 (USAR and Other Active Lists).
11. Army Register Volume II, 1 January 1968 (USAR and Other Active Lists).
12. Army Register Volume II, 1 January 1969 (USAR and Other Active Lists).
13. Army Register Volume II, 1 January 1970 (USAR and Other Active Lists).
14. Army Register Volume II, 1 January 1972 (USAR and Other Active Lists).
15. Most graduates from 1970 and 1971 could be verified in the 1972 registers.

Some of the obstacles we faced as we worked to rectify the rosters:

Known Graduates are missing from Class Photos.

Known Graduates are missing Class Graduation Programs.

Individuals that did not graduate are shown in Class Photos.

Individuals that did not graduate are included on Class Graduation Programs.

Names and pictures on Class Photos do not match the corresponding Class Graduation Program.

Known graduates are missing from both the Class Photo and Graduation Program.

The spelling (last name and/or first name/middle initial on the Class Photo is often at odds with the spelling on the Graduation Program.

There are numerous instances of individuals appearing on more than one Class Photo and more than one graduation program.

Thank You to the Historian of the Fort Bliss Anti-Aircraft Artillery OCS (Robert L. Manson Class 11-53) for providing us with the list of AAA OCS graduates from 1952- 1953.

In summary – we have put considerable effort into creating the rosters of graduates from The Artillery OCS at Fort Sill.

Roster Team:

Penny L. Dunham and Randy C. Dunham (Artillery OCS Class 10-69)