

FIELD ARTILLERY OCS ALUMNI CHAPTER NEWS JANUARY 2012

FAOCS Alumni Chapter Inc. Business Meeting - May 3rd:

The Annual Business meeting of the FAOCS Alumni Chapter Inc. will be held at Fort Sill, Oklahoma during the 28th Annual FAOCS Alumni Chapter Reunion. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 0900 on Thursday May 3rd at Kerwin Auditorium in Snow Hall. In addition to the regular business meeting, two directors will be elected for three year terms to fill the positions that expire this year. The directors whose terms expire are Mike Dooley and LTC Dave Lewis. LTC Lewis is currently serving as the Chapter President. He was appointed to fill a vacant director position last year when LTC Tim Sullivan was re-assigned to Fort Campbell). Mike Dooley is the Chapter Treasurer. Both plan to seek re-election.

Committees Needed:

The Alumni Chapter is looking for more participation from graduates. We are looking for individuals who are willing to devote time and effort to help perpetuate our legacy. If we do not get with the program, this whole thing will just fade away. We need to establish committees to address specific issues and activities. Many committee functions can be done from your location, especially if you have a computer. Others may require traveling to Fort Sill, to assist with ongoing Hall of Fame projects during the year.

For example: we need a Hall of Fame Committee to track down graduates that should be inducted into the Hall of Fame and initiate that process. There are hundreds of graduates out there that meet the Hall of Fame criteria. Some of them are reading this right now.

We also need a committee to track down more graduates. We currently only have contact with 12 % of the school's total. Some may think that a magic list was left here when OCS closed at Fort Sill in 1973 and that it is kept updated. Unfortunately there never was such a list. The means now available to track down graduates are many and if a plan is developed with willing and able participants we should be able to easily double our contact list. Many classes have done remarkable jobs already. A very special Thank You goes out to Gene Richards (Class 11-52) for single-handedly providing contact information on nearly 65% of the graduates from the early 1950's. He did it the "old way" and inspired many others.

We are in the process of forming a committee to bridge the gap between the Fort Sill OCS graduates and Fort Benning OCS graduates who were commissioned Artillery since 1973. Those Fort Benning OCS Artillerymen are the key to perpetuating our organization. One of our past chapter presidents and a current key staff officer in our host unit are Fort Benning OCS graduates. Nearly all of the young Artillery Lieutenants who served as escorts for the two past reunions are Fort Benning OCS graduates. We currently have committees in place for the reunion registration, the golf tournament and reunion planning. An awards committee is being formed to recognize the outstanding Field Artillery Branch OCS Lieutenants graduating from the Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC-B) at Fort Sill.

Of course, there are other committees needed and issues to be addressed. If you have a sincere interest and the time and willingness to serve on a committee, please contact us.

FAOCS Alumni Chapter Scholarships For 2011

Scholarships were awarded in partnership with the Field Artillery Association to the following:
\$750 to Zachary Granger, a freshman at Texas Tech University
\$750 to Gunnar Klemmer, a freshman at Harding University
\$750 to Kevin Dooley, a sophomore at Cameron University
The Chapter will award at least three (3) \$750 scholarships to deserving students during 2012

Please visit the Chapter website often for updates on Chapter activities

The FAOCS Alumni Chapter website is: www.faocsalumni.org

The FAOCS Alumni Chapter is on facebook – please check it out at “faocsalumni”
If you LIKE our facebook page: Please hit the LIKE button. We appreciate it.

OCS Memories:

Hopefully more of you have memories and stories about your time at Fort Sill OCS to share. Please consider putting some of them down in writing and contribute to our effort to gather and record those recollections for historic purposes. If you have already contributed – THANKS!!!! There are still thousands of stories and observations out there that could help us tell the story of OCS from the candidate's perspective. We have put together a 334 page document "***The OCS Experience – Memories of Robinson Barracks and Artillery Officer Candidate School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma 1941-1973***" It was first posted in PDF format on the Chapter website in January 2011. **It's an open ended endeavor so we add more content as we receive it.** If you would like a hard copy of the current document, please contact us for the cost of printing and mailing to your address.

Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame – Nomination Deadline is March 10:

The deadline for receipt of nominations and the supporting paperwork for the May 4, 2012 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is March 10, 2012. Details on the nomination procedure and the required forms can be found in the Hall of Fame section of the Chapter website at www.faocsalumni.org. It really helps if you get the paperwork to us as soon as possible. A considerable amount of work goes into the process after it arrives here at Fort Sill. If you know of an OCS graduate deserving of the honor, please take the initiative and get started with the nomination procedure. We are not aware of the retired rank of many graduates. If you are a retired Colonel or above and have not been inducted into the Hall of Fame, please let us know. Thousands of OCS graduates do not know about our organization, the annual reunions or the OCS Hall of Fame. Help us track them down and get them in the Hall of Fame.

Tax Deductible Contributions to the Alumni Chapter:

The FAOCS Alumni Chapter Inc. is a tax exempt organization under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(C) (3) and all contributions to the FAOCS Alumni Chapter Inc. are considered charitable donations. Contributions are used to pay for the preservation and maintenance of the Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame at Durham Hall (the last remaining WW II era wooden barracks in the Robinson Barracks area); defray Alumni Chapter operating expenses; promote educational programs; provide scholarships for Artillery Soldiers and family members of Field Artillery Association members; and help grow the FAOCS Alumni Chapter Endowment Fund with the Lawton Community Foundation (which will eventually be used to continue our activities and maintain our legacy in perpetuity). To make a tax deductible contribution please send a check or money order. Clearly designate that it is a contribution on the face of the check and send to:

Field Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Inc., PO Box 33612, Fort Sill, OK 73503.

We are grateful to the many graduates of the Artillery OCS program who continue to support our efforts. Contributions to the Chapter for the tax year ending September 30, 2011 totaled \$15,817.

All activities of The FAOCS Alumni Chapter (Durham Hall operation and maintenance, tours for visitors, reunion groups and VIP's, FAOCS Hall Of Fame nomination processing and record keeping, Chapter business, reunion planning and execution, Chapter website operation, periodic email updates, newsletters, OCS historic research, fallen comrades information, class roster research and mailing list maintenance) are a 100% Volunteer Effort. There is no paid staff.

Endowment Fund:

Last June, the Alumni Chapter applied for a matching grant for new contributions to The FAOCS Alumni Chapter Endowment Fund with the Lawton Community Foundation. The grant application was approved in September and the Board of Directors then approved the transfer of \$5000 from the Chapter checking account to the Endowment Fund. That contribution was immediately matched by a grant of \$4000 from the Lawton Community Foundation. On January 13, 2012 the Endowment Fund Balance stood at \$73,639. The Fund was established on December 5, 2005.

Privacy Policy:

The Field Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Inc. respects your privacy. To be placed on the FAOCS Alumni Chapter mailing list, please provide us with your name, OCS class number, complete postal address and email address. You will then receive the annual FAOCS Alumni Chapter Reunion Invitation and Newsletter (and other mailings about FAOCS Alumni Chapter activities). The postal mailings, email notifications and the FAOCS Alumni Chapter website at www.faoocsalumni.org are the primary means the Chapter has to announce its activities and keep the alumni informed. Class mailing lists provided by graduates are encouraged to help us build our Chapter mailing list.

The FAOCS Alumni Chapter Inc. has a policy of no disclosure of any type of information on its mailing list to any outside individual or organization. You can be removed from the mailing list at any time by contacting us at: faoocsalumni@sbcglobal.net or by postal mail to:

Field Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Inc., PO Box 33612, Fort Sill, OK 73503.

World War II, Korea and Vietnam Memorials on the Chapter Website:

We have prepared a remembrance file for each Fort Sill OCS graduate who was killed in action during World War II, Korea or Vietnam. The 1182 individual files contain as much biographical data and information about those individuals and the circumstances concerning the losses as we have been able to find. Sources include the National Archives, unit histories, unit magazines and newsletters, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Incident reports, various news clippings, press releases and personal papers provided by family members.

Some of the files are fairly large and some have very little information. We have included many of the remembrances and comments (posted by those who served with our Fallen Comrades on The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Virtual Wall, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall USA, the Virtual Wall Vietnam Memorial, The Korean War Project and the National World War II Memorial Registry). Clicking on any individual name in the World War II, Korea or Vietnam Memorials on the Chapter website will open our own file for that individual. We have prepared companion loose-leaf notebooks with that same information and they are now on display in the Hall of Fame.

If you have any additional information or comments about any of our Fallen Comrades, please forward it to us, so we can add it to the collection. As with any historical endeavor, there may be information from one source that contradicts something cited by another source.

Photographs:

If you have photographs from your time in OCS or from reunions you have attended – please share them with us (jpeg format, if possible.) You can send us hard copies in the mail or scanned copies on disks, thumb drives or by email. The **Photo Gallery** page on the FAOCS Alumni Chapter website <http://faoocsalumni.org/photos.html> has pictures from the school's history (from the archives and contributions from graduates) as well as reunions and current activities. We cannot possibly include every picture you send, but will try to include as many as possible. Please send images that can be used to show the world what OCS was about and the camaraderie that resulted from that experience.

Durham Hall (Building 3025) – The FAOCS Hall of Fame is open by Appointment Only:

There are currently only two volunteers here at Fort Sill to maintain the Hall of Fame. We do our best to open up Durham Hall and give guided tours to anybody with an interest at any time. The Hall of Fame is open by appointment only and we need a little lead time. There is a sign on the door explaining the situation along with a phone number and a website address. The 580-355-JARK number is forwarded to my cell phone after one ring. It's a 15 minute drive from my home to Durham Hall.

If you are planning a trip to Fort Sill or want to visit the Hall of Fame: call or e-mail well in advance to make sure we can be available.

Thanks for your support of our Chapter and the efforts to keep it going strong.

100th Anniversary of the Field Artillery School:

Colonel (Ret) Walt Zaremba, FAOCS Class 6-61 had the honor of unveiling the 50th Anniversary monument during the Field Artillery School 100th Anniversary ceremony on May 19, 2011. Army Chief of Staff, General Raymond Odierno (then Commander U.S. Joint Forces Command) and a Field Artillery Officer was the keynote speaker. It was windy and storm clouds threatened, but the weather held off until after the ceremony and then dumped five inches of much needed rain on the area.

Educational Outreach:

We continue to make great strides in our efforts to promote the history of the Artillery Officer Candidate School and the contributions of its graduates and cadre to the U.S. Army and the Nation. In addition to our scholarship program, we provide tours and briefings to many distinguished individuals, graduates, family members of graduates, active duty soldiers and other interested parties during the year.

We have prepared a comb bound booklet of information that is presented to many of the visitors. It includes the history of the Artillery Officer Candidate School (to include Coast Artillery and Anti-Aircraft Artillery OCS), the FAOCS Hall of Fame, the Alumni Chapter, Fort Sill and Artillery Branch History, Distinguished Artillery OCS graduates, Hall of Heroes, Saint Barbara, and updates on current OCS and Branch Training. The document is constantly updated and new content added. A PDF version can be found on the Chapter website. Contact us if you would like to obtain a hard copy of the current version.

Documents and Publications:

We are still in the process of scanning many historical documents and publications from the Artillery Officer Candidate School and displaying them for visitors to the Hall of Fame to look through and enjoy. We will eventually make them available for viewing on the Chapter Website. We would like to thank the graduates who have sent us original documents and copies or scans of historic items to add to the collection in Durham Hall. If you have anything lying around that might be of interest, we would welcome your contribution. Durham Hall is a great place to display these items.

Mailing Lists - Address Changes and E-Mail Changes - Please Keep Us Up to Date:

The easiest way to notify us of a mailing address or email change is to email the information to us at faocsalumni@sbcglobal.net. Don't forget to contact us if your email addresses changes. We are losing contact with a lot of members who move or change email addresses, and do not let us know. Encourage those who might not be on our list to contact us with current postal mailing address and email. Please check your email security settings to make sure our emails will reach you. If you can't email us then call us at 580-355-5275 or send the changes by mail.

U.S. Field Artillery Association:

You can help support the Alumni Chapter by joining the U.S. Field Artillery Association or renewing your expired membership. The Field Artillery Association directly supports us through the yearly Chapter Grant Program (\$3.00 for each new member and \$2.00 for each sustaining member). Lifetime memberships are again available. The website is www.fieldartillery.org

The Artillery Branches:

We have been doing some research on the history of the Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery Branches and their roots back to the time when the Artillery Corps was split into two components: Coast Artillery and Field Artillery. This was followed by the development of Anti-Aircraft Artillery as part of the Coast Artillery and later the eventual consolidation of Anti-Aircraft Artillery and Field Artillery into the Artillery Branch. 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.

It might be time for the Alumni Chapter to consider forging a relationship with the Air Defense Artillery Branch. Although there were many Fort Sill OCS graduates commissioned Air Defense Artillery beginning in 1968, there was never an Air Defense Artillery OCS and as such there is no Hall of Fame for Air Defense Artillery OCS. Fort Sill is the Fires Center of Excellence and the initial branch training location for all Fort Benning OCS graduates commissioned in Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery.

FAOCS Alumni Chapter Past Presidents:

We appreciate all of the work that our Past Presidents have done to make our annual reunions a success. Without their voluntary support and leadership the activities that many have taken for granted would cease to exist. We remain in contact with them as they continue to serve our Nation.

Congratulations to our immediate Past President (June 2009 to June 2011) Tim Sullivan for being recommended for promotion to Colonel by the board that met in August. He is currently serving as the Deputy Commander of the Third Brigade Combat Team (3BCT) 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) "Rakkasans" at Fort Campbell, as they prepare to deploy to Afghanistan in the Fall.

Terry Ivester was promoted to Colonel on June 30, 2011. He commanded the 1/78 FA from June 2007 to June 2009 and was our Chapter President during that time. Colonel Ivester recently sent his greetings to all from Afghanistan, where he serves as Deputy Commander of Task Force 2010.

Colonel Jim Ekvall assumed duties in October 2010 as Division Chief G-3/5/7 Electronic Warfare Division at Headquarters Department of the Army after a tour as the Senior Advisor to the Commanding General, 4th Iraqi Army Division, Tikrit, Iraq.

Colonel (Ret) Tony Puckett recently returned from Iraq. He is employed by Northrop Grumman and spent a year training the Iraq Army in the use of the Paladin self-propelled howitzer.

FAOCS Hall of Fame member Colonel (Ret) Nate Slate is the local Northrop Grumman Site Manager.

Tracking Down Your OCS Classmates - Help Us Find Lost Graduates:

The 2012 Reunion is a milestone for many classes

It's a 70 year anniversary for 1942 classes

It's a 60 year anniversary for 1952 classes

It's a 55 year anniversary for 1957 classes

It's a 50 year anniversary for 1962 classes

It's a 45 year anniversary for 1967 classes

It's a 40 year anniversary for 1972 classes

We have received numerous inquiries on the subject of tracking down classmates. A lot of you are tracking down classmates for the upcoming reunion. A few years ago we put together a document to help you out with that endeavor. Some of you have done a remarkable job and we are pleased to share some of the tools and tips used by some of the more persistent and successful "trackers" in the past. A link on the Chapter website **Tracking Down OCS Classmates** will give you access to that document. We need more of you out there to join in the effort. A lot of progress has been made the past few years. If you are currently searching for classmates, please let us know how you are progressing.

Building 2600 Memorialization: LTG Carl H. Jark:

We initiated a request on April 14, 2011 to have building 2600 (The original headquarters of the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill) named in honor of LTG Carl H. Jark, the first commandant. Thanks to the efforts of MAJ Joel Heinzeroth (then 1/78 FA S-3) and LTC Tim Sullivan, the request was approved by the Fort Sill Memorialization Board on April 28 and the Fort Sill Commanding General on June 14.

The approval letter states that "any and all pictures, plaques, inscriptions, signs or other items to be fixed on, placed by, or to reside in the facility pertaining to this memorialization must be approved by the Fort Sill Memorialization Board in advance." This will take some detailed planning and might even be worked out in conjunction with our (on-hold) plans to replace the LT Robinson Memorial plaques.

Historic Note: The first FAOCS class started on July 10, 1941 and graduated 79 second Lieutenants on October 1, 1941. The course was 13 weeks long. When Jark left the school in 1942 to serve in World War II classes of 550 were starting each week. The staff had expanded to a strength of 66 officers and a course capacity of 6600 candidates; 12 classes of 550 candidates each.

MORE 2012 REUNION INFORMATION

When entering Fort Sill, Security Personnel may search your vehicle unless you have a Department of Defense decal. The driver of the vehicle must have a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance and all occupants must have a photo ID.

Military buses will be used for all on-post transportation to activities and will be available each day at a centrally located assembly point in front of Allin Hall (5678 Fergusson Rd) on Fort Sill. Car pooling and pre-planned ride sharing by attendees using off-post lodging is encouraged.

Although the last scheduled group event is on May 4th, Durham Hall will be open for visitors on Saturday morning May 5th. This gives you another chance to spend some leisure time enjoying the displays in the Hall of Fame, looking through the memorabilia and enjoying the visual presentations.

Be prepared for foul weather and variable temperatures. Bring comfortable shoes for the daytime activities. Dress is casual, with the exception of the Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony on Friday evening, which is a coat and tie event with appropriate dress for the ladies. Retired military are encouraged to wear mess dress or dress blues for the Hall of Fame Banquet, if you can fit into them.

Consider arriving a day or two early or staying for a day or two after the reunion to take in some of the attractions in the area, like Medicine Park, The Meers Store and the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

The drive to Hobart (just over an hour from Fort Sill) to visit the General Tommy Franks Museum is well worth the trip. It is open Monday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.