

Field Artillery OCS Class Rosters

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

The starting point was the master list that was found in Durham Hall during June 2004. We have learned that these lists were compiled from documents found in the old Officer Candidate Brigade Headquarters during the 1990's. The lists appear to have been created by individuals that may not have been the most skilled typists or may not have understood the importance of accuracy. We have found the error rate to be significant: approximately 30%. More than 14,500 corrections have been made to date on a list that now includes 49,114 names (47,685 active army graduates and 1429 National Guard and Reserve graduates).

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 (appears to be derived from the alphabetical lists).

The master lists contain numerous errors to include:

Last name misspelled
First name misspelled
Incorrect middle initial
Incorrect class number
Incorrect year
Missing names
Duplicate names
Names 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.

There are several sources being used to help create the most accurate rosters:

Information found stored at Morris Swett Library at Fort Sill:

1. Copies 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 AD 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. Class graduation programs for many of the 1957 through 1969 classes.

Other Sources:

4. Class "Red Books" (Early to mid-1950's) with photos and class rosters (on file in Durham Hall).
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.
6. Class Orders provided by graduates or family members.
7. Graduation programs with a listing of the graduates on file in Durham Hall 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.

The real problems begin with rectifying the rosters:

Known Graduates are missing from Class Photos

Known Graduates are missing Class Graduation Programs

Individuals that did not graduate are shown on Class Photos

Individuals that did not graduate are shown 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.

The volunteers currently working on this project have taken great care to create an accurate set of rosters. In some cases an educated guess has been used determine the appropriate class. The end result is that in many cases our final version of a class roster may not exactly match a class photo and/or a class graduation program.