



OCS Alumni Association Newsletter

4th Quarter 2020 USAOCSAA Newsletter

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President's Message

Greetings fellow graduates of OCS,

COVID policies are still creating uncertainty. However, we continue our support to the OCS Battalion which includes talking to candidates, attending graduations, helping with H issues, and project work on the Memorial Walk and the OCS Heritage Center. Let me now update you on our organizational status and our plan for the future.

First, we had our fourth quarter board meeting on December 12. COL (R) Dave Taylor was elected Vice President for Operations. Congratulations, Dave. After receiving program updates from the executive committee and project directors, we discussed the 2021 reunion and selected the Nett Award recipient for 2021. It is my pleasure to announce COL the 2021 Nett Award recipient.

Following the board meeting, the OCS commandant and I hosted a small induction ceremony for COL (R) John Ionoff and Mr. Don Dare as distinguished and honorary member 11th Infantry Regiment respectively. Each honoree received a certificate signed by BG Hodne (Commandant of the Infantry School and Chief of Infantry), an 11th Infantry/OCS 80th anniversary chip from me. Then LTC Holstead invited both to sign the official 11th Infantry register.

LTC Holstead and I then conducted the rededication of Wigle Hall as the OCS Hall of Fame and the OCS Heritage Center. LTC Holstead, COL Ionoff, and I cut the ribbon. In at Mrs. Nancy Ionoff; Mrs. Lisa Harman; Mrs. Phyllis Aaron, our designer and project manager; Don Dare; members of the OCS Battalion staff; and B Company, 3-11 Infantry/OC After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the class toured the Heritage Center. Expect a YouTube video shortly featuring the ceremony, the OCS Heritage Center, and the Memorial W

The following are major items from the board meeting and accomplishments since the last newsletter.

- **Memorial Walk-** New to the walk this fall are 24 class bricks from the last four OCS classes, over 15 personal pavers and class bricks from members, five class dedication block (10th Cavalry Regiment), and a memorial block in honor of the COL (R) Bob Poydasheff, long-time legal advisor and the attorney who officially established our remaining Memorial Walk capacity is five 24x24 granite dedication blocks, 600 8x8 granite pavers, or 1,200x 4x8 granite bricks and seven years space for the Hall of

Our Memorial Walk Campaign Continues. I challenge each HoF member to buy a paver for themselves and at least one for deceased HoF member. I encourage other alumni and buy a career paver or class brick for themselves and a battle buddy. Finally, we are standing by for more group pavers; class dedication blocks; division, brigade, and regiment blocks; and memorial blocks.

- **OCS Heritage Center-** The OCS Heritage Center in Wigle Hall is complete and dedicated. Starting with Class 3-21 each class will tour Wigle Hall and be briefed on the traditions of OCS. Any Association member who comes to Fort Benning can arrange a tour of Wigle Hall by contacting me or the Battalion S3.
- **Nett Award-** Tom Evans is the 2021 Nett Award recipient. Tom will be presented the award at the 2021 Hall of Fame dinner. The purpose of the Nett Award is to continue service of COL Robert B Nett to our country, the Army, and the OCS program, and to recognize and honor annually a HOF or OCSAA member or current and former cad provided superior support and advocacy to the OCS program.
- **OCS Hall of Fame-** The OCS Hall of Fame Board met on December 16, 2020. The board consisted of MG Donahoe, the Maneuver Center of Excellence commander; BG commandant; BG Admiral, Armor commandant; COL Hedrick, deputy commandant; and me. Twenty-nine OCS alumni were selected for induction into the Hall of Fame. Fame was established in 1958 to honor graduates who had distinguished themselves during World War II through valorous combat leadership and subsequent superior service. The first honoree was Medal of Honor recipient 2nd Lt. Thomas Wigle.

- **The OCS Alumni Association 2021 Reunion.** The reunion is scheduled for May 7-11, 2021. The reunion will run concurrently with the Hall of Fame induction activities. the Hall of Fame induction ceremony and dinner as well as dedication ceremonies at the OCS Heritage Center and the Memorial Walk. This is a great time for families to

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- **USAOCSSAA Website.** We continue to improve our website. Tom Evans and Mary Cilia are working hard to perfect our member database. We have loaded all the class memorabilia that we have been given. If your yearbook, graduation announcement, or other memorabilia aren't on the website, contact us and we will load it onto the website in a digitized format. You can download a digital membership card or keep it digitally on your cell phone. New 2021 Hall of Fame selectees will be posted soon. We have also posted distinguished members and honorary members of the 11th Infantry Regiment. Hall of Fame members, if there are issues with your picture or biography send a digitized version and we will load it. We have made great strides and will continue to improve the website with feedback from you.
- **Support to USAOCSSAA.** Our goal is to have every graduate join and actively participate in the Association's activities. If you are not currently a life member of the Association, we encourage you to join and purchase your personal paver or brick. Please go to our [website](#) and convert to life membership, buy your brick or paver, and maybe a dedicated class or an Army unit in which you served. And, if possible, consider making a tax-exempt donation to the Association to help sustain the Memorial Walk, Heritage Center to the OCS Battalion.

Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [website](#) for more information on Association activities. You can also contact me directly at President@ocsalumni.org or 706-610-7255.

Standards no compromise. Semper Fidelis. Follow Me.

Frank L. Harman III
Colonel (USA Retired)
President/CEO, USAOCSSAA



Commander's Circle

Greetings from Fort Benning!

We recently selected 29 new members of the OCS Hall of Fame! Reading their stories and accounts from their superiors, peers, family members, and friends humbles and inspires to formally induct these 29 new members during the Hall of Fame week and reunion currently scheduled for the second week of May. Of course, the enemy always gets a vote – the enemy remains the global COVID-19 pandemic. We will make the final decision in March, but the intent remains to hold the event in person, even if we have to take extra precautions to ensure the safety of everyone coming to Fort Benning. Since last year's event was cancelled, this year we intend to honor both the Class of 2020 and 2021 into the Events we are currently planning include the Hall of Fame dinner; induction ceremony; tours of the current OCS footprint, the recently opened OCS Heritage Center at Wigle Hall; opportunities to interact with current officer candidates; and much more.

The slowdown that came with the summer months due to basic training shutdowns has caused a large increase in candidates, just as predicted. We currently have two classes also recently graduated Class 001-19 on December 18, 2020. In addition, we have over 150 candidates in a holdover status awaiting Class 004-21 on January 18, 2021. As we deserved and needed holiday block leave period, we were able to get all the candidates who wished to take leave on break, but they will return to a mandatory two-week restriction in the footprint before resuming the program of instruction on January 18. They have all been given a massive amount of homework to prepare for their next phase of the course – limited activities daily such as physical training during the two-week restriction period. The purpose of this restriction of movement is to mitigate the spread of COVID since the virus will be spread across the country during the break.

Again, thank you all for your service to this great nation, for your sacrifices in the call of duty, and your continued support for your alma mater – the Federal Officer Candidate School. It is truly an honor to serve you.

Standards! No Compromise!

David T. Holstead
Lieutenant Colonel, Armor
Commanding
Office Phone: 706-545-3507
Email: david.t.holstead.mil@mail.mil



CSM's Comments

As I reflect on my first year as the battalion command sergeant major of this great organization, I am truly proud of the many achievements made by the cadre, staff, and students. Several obstacles to our operations this year that challenged our way of thinking and mandated a refinement of policies and procedures commensurate to the ebb and flow of 2 instructors continued to mentor, train, and commission our students through the toughest time in the earlier part of the year, in a professional manner when most of the military is sheltered in place. Their actions are a testament to the collective resilience, responsiveness, and dedication to our unit's motto "Semper Fidelis."

One of our achievements is the creation and implementation of the Gold to Black class opening event. The event is designed to foster a sense of esprit de corps for our storied develop teamwork amongst the students, and underline the importance of attention to detail. The Gold to Black consists of a verbal narration of OCS history followed by a strenuous fitness event, then a tour of Wigle Hall, and ends in Nett Hall with an in-brief from the battalion commander. The event's name is derived from the students switching their gold (which is worn when they first arrive, to the subdued OCS insignia and donning their black ascot to signify that they have passed the threshold of classing up and earned the right candidate. The event was rehearsed with selected week nine students from Bravo Company. The students expressed enthusiasm about the event and confirmed its desired effect. The first class to implement the new event was Delta Company on November 30.

The hard work and dedication of the organization continues to be displayed in the high quality of commissioned officers graduating from the program. I am truly honored to be a Candidate School family and I look forward to another fantastic year.

Standards! No Compromise!

S. Steve Gibbs
CSM, U.S. Army
Command Sergeant Major



Chaplain's Corner

I Love Spam!



This is not something you would expect to hear on the streets of your town or city. But did you know that Spam outsells, worldwide, all other canned meats combined! In 2020 \$ years old. That is, not any single can, but the product in general! I've read, however, that one can of Spam could last that long, since the spiced ham/pork concoction has a shelf life approximately equal to a pumice stone! Some folks would say it has a taste approximately equal to that—though not quite as good.

Indeed, Spam has taken a considerable pounding from the buying public. It was dubbed 'miracle meat' by its creators, the Hormel Meat Company. It was called 'mystery meat' during World War II; a seminary professor of mine, who served in the Pacific Theater, said he refused to eat any unless the **only** other item on the menu was hunger! I have read that in Texas they have an annual "Spam-O-Rama" cooking contest held on the Sunday closest to April Fool's Day. In 1985, Rhode Island College Art Center held a Spam Exhibition, better to sculpt the stuff than eat it!

If nobody likes Spam, except myself, who keeps buying it? Somebody does! Hormel says it sells 100,000,000+ cans a year! That gives it around 75% of the American market. I remember the comment made after Harry S Truman defeated Thomas Dewey to become president of the U.S. "We elected that man president, and I can't find one person who voted for

If you have ever served in Hawaii or Korea, you must know that Spam is loved by so many. While last stationed in Korea, I would give Korean friends Christmas gifts of canned Spam. It was always a well-received offering. During the first Gulf War, while serving as the deputy division chaplain of the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT), we would receive letters from "Any Soldier." One letter was delivered to our office marked: "Any Chaplain, 101st Airborne." My boss, Chaplain (LTC) Herb Kitchens, threw it over to my desk and said write the letter. It was from Mrs. 'Muggs' Gardner of College Station, TX. In her letter, she wrote of her late husband serving in the 101st during WW II. She went on to ask, "What can I do

Please note that we had been eating MREs for over a month or more. I jokingly responded: "I would crawl a mile in the hot sand for a can of Spam and a jar of mustard." Thinkin' come of it, I mailed the letter. Within a few weeks, our mail clerks deposited in our tiny office space nine large cases of Spam, and each was packed with packets of mustard! As chaplains would visit the office to check distribution, I would give each of them a share of the Spam and mustard. It was a wonderful respite. And yes, I ate my fill. We sent Mrs. Gardner you note with a picture of a platoon each holding a can of Spam and ALL having a large grin!

Perhaps being a person of faith may be like a can of Spam or one who had voted for President Truman: the trick is not to be 'popular' but to endure! The product has lasted over 70 years, though people may laugh at us, someone *must* be buying the message cause we're still around!

Maybe that is why the Apostle Paul could say in II Corinthians 4: 7-10:

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing greatness is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed (NIV)

There may be those who would laugh at our packaging, but *spiritual hunger* will eventually drive men and women to examine the *miracle meat* of the Word of God, which has a never-ending end! So we endure, not because of anything innate within us, but because we are God's people.

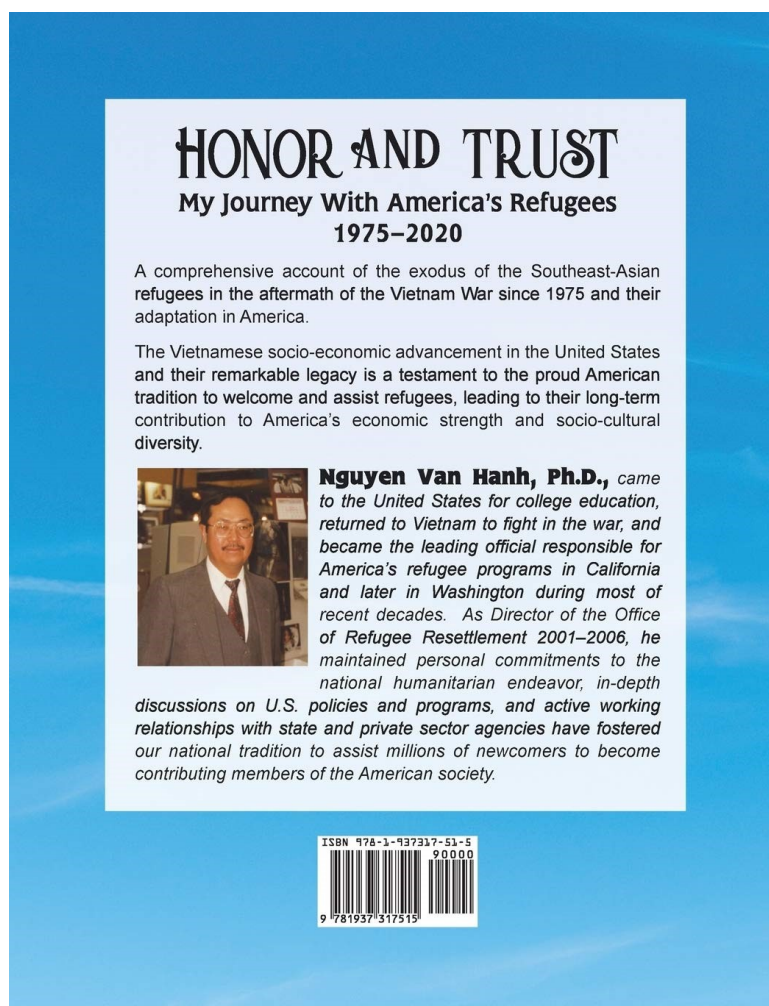


Chaplain (Colonel, USA Retired) Sam Boone served in the Army for over 38 years as an enlisted Soldier, infantry officer, AH-1G cobra pilot, and chaplain. His final assignment was commandant of the L Center and School, Fort Jackson, S.C. He is a graduate of OCS Class 2-74.

OCS Bookshelf

Honor and Trust: My Journey with America's Refugees 1975-2020

COL (R) John Ionoff



To leave the country you fought for and to make a home in a new land is something only the strongest, most resilient people can do. This is the story of one such man, but he represents others. He also represents what America was founded on.

Honor and Trust - My Journey with America's Refugees 1975-2020 by Nguyen Van Hanh, Ph.D., describes his journey as a former refugee and that of other Vietnamese refugees about the Vietnam War, but not about the helicopter assaults, battles, and the bravery of combat soldiers, but rather the consequences of war and the impact not only of the losses

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Vietnamese Army. Dr. Hanh was inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame in 2018. A chapter of the book is dedicated to his OCS experience.

Dr. Hanh weaves into the journey stories of harrowing escapes during and after the fall of Saigon in 1975, but the book focuses on his role in helping to resolve the refugee resettlement which was quite massive in numbers and difficulties. Adapting to a new culture, a new country, plus lack of language skills and in many cases job skills were just some of the challenges Dr. Hanh worked under the California governor, President George H.W. Bush and later as Director of Refugee Resettlement, under President George W. Bush. He and his colleagues apparent in the success Vietnamese Americans have had over the past 45 years integrating into American society. These refugees are now successful, educated, and skilled citizens.

Honor and Trust is well written and documented with numerous pictures. If you were an American advisor to the Vietnamese during the war, you can brush up on your language skills by reading the summary in Vietnamese that Hanh has included at the book's conclusion.

Dan Leifel, Fort Knox OCS, 1967 and 2020 recipient of the OCS Alumni Association Nett award:

Dr. Hanh's story is remarkable. From provincial Vietnam to Fort Benning OCS; from war to emigration, service in teaching, and working with refugees; from the California State highest levels of government in Washington, DC this is not just a remarkable story, but an awe-inspiring saga. In the end, another leader profoundly influenced by OCS.

Making Movies as an OCS Candidate

Bill Fishburne

When I was in Class 502-68, famed actor John Wayne was on post filming *The Green Berets*. One day, I got a note to report to the first sergeant the following morning. Three of our company sang in the choir at chapel services in Infantry Hall every Sunday morning and we had been summoned to meet with the first sergeant. He had received a call for choir training that day and report to Infantry Hall. So we double-timed over there and discovered we were going to be extras in filming *The Green Berets*! We were met by a member of the company and told to get on stage where some rafters had been set up and wait for the real OCS chaplain. We did what we were told. Meanwhile, our OCS collar insignia was replaced by a cross on the left and Captain's bars on the right. The chaplain appeared and gave us the music for "Onward Christian Soldiers," which we began to rehearse singing all four parts.

Meanwhile, Wayne's film company, Batjac Productions, was setting up lights and cameras. We rehearsed for an hour or so while they finished their work then John Wayne, seneschal and director, came to talk to us. He was as nice as he could be and he introduced several other stars of the movie—David Janssen, Aldo Ray, Jim Hutton, and Patrick Wayne. We played chess boards around the room and played a dozen or so concurrent chess matches with us, winning them all, while the lighting guys and cameramen worked on their duties. We ate at lunch time and we joined the cast and crew for a fabulous luncheon that beat the heck out of anything ever served in the 54th Company mess hall.

The filming wasn't very exciting. The script was that Wayne's character, COL Mike Kirby, had received orders for Vietnam. The chaplain's brother was already there, so Kirby stopped by for a rehearsal to see if the chaplain had any message for his brother.

They filmed the scene about a dozen times while the choir sang on. The chaplain was a chaplain, not an actor, and had trouble delivering his lines. After the third take, they stopped to make it part to something more manageable. At the end the chaplain simply said, "Tell him we love him" and that was the end of it.

I can't begin to tell you how much fun we had that day. While our classmates were out on a range suffering in the mid-summer Fort Benning heat, we were singing, playing chess, and eating a fine catered luncheon in the air-conditioned comfort of Infantry Hall. Having extras eat catered luncheons with the stars, incidentally, was not routine on Hollywood sets of the day. I learned that we had Wayne and actor John F. Schultz to thank for that. Early on in the movie production, when Wayne saw that Schultz and the other bit-role actors were being fed hamburgers while the stars ate steaks, Wayne put a stop to it and told the producers everyone ate steaks or no one did, including the lowly OCS choir members. (Actually, I think pasta salad but steak sounds better.) We met an all-star cast of Hollywood movie stars and were treated like royalty. I want to thank Batjac Productions, John Wayne, and my company instructor for the opportunity.

Oh, one more thing. The entire scene was cut from the final production, a fact none of us knew until we invited our friends to go see us in *The Green Berets*. Whether it was the length of the movie (2:21), or the fact that the scene really didn't contribute to the story line, I don't know. But I can tell you that 20 or so OCS candidates had a great time hanging out with John Wayne.

Postscript: Through the years there has been much criticism of the film producers and crew for "stealing time" from the Fort Benning troops in filming the movie. The criticisms have been a taste in many mouths on both sides of the issue. The following may help explain how seriously Wayne and Batjac took their obligation not to detract from either training or the Vietnam War effort.

"Along the way, in some quarters, Duke was accused of poaching U.S. military equipment and logistics at the expense of the war effort, which was not the case. He felt so strongly about the accusation that he took the time to write a lengthy reply letter to a Major McNerney of Huntington Beach, Calif., in July of 1969, to set the record straight: "We were allowed the use of helicopters for a combined 85 hours, averaging about 20 hours a piece. And the use of them even for that limited time was at the convenience of the fliers who were fulfilling their mission in the time in the air in those copters. We paid for the gasoline in those instances. They had acres of howitzers and many tanks and personnel carriers at the base [in Fort Benning, Georgia where the movie was shot], but we were allowed the use of one of their cannons for only an hour. We brought in our own jeeps and furnished uniforms for the personnel we used, while the men were off duty. We brought in and bought and paid for our own ammunition and explosives."

I can attest to the fact that Batjac paid the choir members for our time in the one day we participated in the filming. Each of us received a check in the mail for about \$100 (I don't know the exact amount) which was approximately one week's pay for an OCS candidate at the time.

Bill Fishburne graduated with class 502-68, 54th Co., OC, on May 2, 1968. He volunteered for Airborne and Special Forces and served one tour as an A-Team leader, Det. A-10, 8th Special (Abn), Ft. Gulick, Canal Zone. He currently lives in Hendersonville, N.C., where he continues to sing in his church choir.



OCS MEMORY - "BLOWN COVER"

James Wright

Officer Candidate School was a memorable life event – for some of us more so than others.

In 1965, I was a non-commissioned officer (NCO) with more than six years of active duty. This timeframe included some demanding challenges and experiences while being as Airborne Division, Ranger School cadre, and as a member of a Special Forces A-Team. My Special Forces (SF) A-Team was completing language training at the East Coast Language School in Washington, D.C., in preparation for deployment to Bolivia. This was to be another counterinsurgency mission to prevent Che Guevara's Cuban-style revolutionary takeover of Bolivia. To be departing for Bolivia, I was persuaded by my A-Team leader and team executive officer (XO) to apply for OCS. The downside of this decision was leaving many SF friends and my A-Team at a crucial time. In addition, I had shared many training, operational, and often exciting adventures with these men and regretted leaving the associated comradery. The XO and XO were insistent and persuasive - the XO having been an OCS graduate.

The administrative process associated with being accepted for OCS in 1965 was almost as challenging as attending. The temporary duty assignment to language school in D.C. expedited the process by bypassing layers of command admin and filters. The last hurdle was an appearance in front of a board comprised of officers from the Fort Myer Old Guard, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, presidential, and other ceremonial duties. I satisfactorily answered their questions and passed muster. One board member happened to have been a Ranger School graduate and commented that I should have no problem with OCS. As a consequence, my A- team (and friends) deployed for Bolivia and I deployed to Fort OCS.

My former XO and others had cautioned me to report to OCS as inconspicuously as possible since the tactical officers tended to single out certain candidates for extraordinary attention. Therefore, I packed away my green beret, stripped my uniform of jump wings, Ranger Tab, and Special Forces patch before reporting to 54th Company, Officer Candidate School. I also kept my background low key with very few OCS classmates aware of my prior military service.

In 1965, OCS was just a couple days shy of a six-month program. It consisted of a single battalion, the 5th Battalion, and probably graduated two to three classes a year. I got the existing OCS infrastructure was in place simply to support a quick ramp up in times of a national emergency and not produce any quantity of newly commissioned officers in that situation. The company size classes generally started with about 250 candidates organized into six platoons. My sixth platoon initially consisted of 50 candidates. Each platoon had a tactical officer, generally a second lieutenant and recent graduate of OCS. At the time, there appeared to be an exceptionally high attrition rate. It was not uncommon for each class to lose half the original class start throughout the course of the six-month ordeal. Vietnam ultimately changed all that. At our first platoon formation, the tactical officer informed us that at the end of six months we would go to graduation in his car – he pointed to a Chevrolet Monza parked nearby. Fortunately, our graduation numbers ultimately exceeded his personal Monza capacity.

Life as a candidate was designed to be as stressful as possible with sleep in short supply. Time around the barracks and company area tended to be exceptionally stressful. The tactical officer loved to invent "challenges" to contribute to the stress factor. Uniform drills, formation drills, extra PT, etc. God help you if you were caught giving a command "ten-hut" which meant having to climb a metal wall locker and repeat "attention" multiple times until the tactical officer was satisfied you could give a proper command. We spent several hours each day on Johnson's Paste Wax, a bottle of alcohol, and diaper polishing the floors. We soon learned to climb over the furniture in our rooms to reach our bunks in order to avoid worn polished floors. Unfortunately, the tactical officer became aware of our floor avoidance technique. While at class he would enter the room, walk on each 12" square with his corn sole to leave a "cat's paw" heel imprint on each. This imprint had to be polished out every evening at a great expense of time and effort.

It was common practice (probably a requirement) for the tactical officers to conduct periodic counselling sessions intended to help correct our many observed deficiencies. One day, after eight weeks into the program, one of my roommates was engaged in his weekly improvement session. The tactical officer attempted to ascertain his ability to think off his feet. My roommate was informed the platoon was to conduct an extra field training exercise over the coming weekend and the tactical officer wanted his input on how to enhance the exercise. My roommate thinking my "buddy" blurted out, "Sir, we can get "Ranger Wright" to set up a class on land navigation or patrolling." The tactical officer responded with "Who is Ranger Wright?" My roommate was honor bound to answer the question. My world was about to be filled with many more "challenges" of drills, harangue, excitement and unwanted attention by every tactical officer.

Further research revealed I was the only candidate in the company who had successfully completed Airborne and Ranger schools and Special Forces qualification. I was immediately reported to the tactical officer via a high-volume intercom system – practically broke my hand pounding on the office door requesting permission to enter and lost count of the number of times required after entry! My world became endless pushups, pull ups and harangue. Most noteworthy was a requirement to low crawl into the mess hall, locate a previously designated tray of food that had been placed at a table by one of my classmates. I had to accomplish this feat and be on the first three inches of my chair before any tactical officer spotted me. I had to make yet another attempt to low crawl back to my seat unseen. Needless to say, I quickly lost a couple pounds. At company formations, the presiding tactical officer of the day would shout "Ranger Wright, that bush" and I was required to run from the ranks and attack or karate chop the designated bush. To the extent possible, my classmates did all they could to help me.

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To the extent possible, I attempted to assist my classmates with academics, tactics, and other useful information acquired over my previous time in service. Our platoon motto was "and graduate." Nevertheless, attrition still took its toll. It was not uncommon to return from class and find a classmate's mattress rolled up and his footlocker empty. Academics principal "killer" but low buddy or tactical officer report ratings could result in termination as well. In many instances, it was sad to see this happen since these classmates were persons but somehow could not meet the stringent standards of OCS. There were even instances of dismissal after "turning blue" and becoming a senior candidate in the eight OCS.

In April 1966, I walked across the stage in Infantry Hall and accepted my commission. I was immediately greeted by my tactical officer who congratulated me on being a disting He wished me well on my pending deployment with the 82nd Airborne Division in the Dominican Republic. Unfortunately, for the Army, the tactical officer subsequently left the s initial obligation. He became a very successful high school teacher and coach in Northern Virginia. I was privileged to join him, along with about six others from the 54th Compa "Falcons," at a dinner about 52 years later – he was clearly one of the finest men you could ever want to meet. I later discovered his brother had been one of the truly great her Cavalry Division Ia Drang Battle at LZ Albany of November 1965. His brother's leadership and heroic actions at LZ Albany were responsible for saving many lives. This particular which occurred shortly after our OCS class start date, presaged assignments to Vietnam of most OC 5-66 graduates and the ultimate ramp up of the OCS program to several o

Officer Candidate Class 5-66, 54th Company, 5th Student Battalion, graduated 148 second lieutenants in April 1966. Nine classmates died on the battlefield and many others s from related wounds, Agent Orange, or other causes. Many faced a lifetime of disability. I have not encountered a single classmate who escaped Vietnam totally unscathed.

Throughout the six-month OCS program, we were subjected to a lot of what we considered to be needless harangue, "Mickey Mouse" drills, and other fabricated stress challen to note many of us subsequently realized once in combat that if you could not endure the OCS standards and stresses, you could not expect to lead men in combat and endure unrelenting direct combat operations. Moreover, a lot of self-control and confidence acquired during OCS often underpinned near instantaneous life and death decisions. OCS i approximately 50,000 graduates throughout the duration of the war. The 28 OCS Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipients together with the many OCS graduates on the Vietnar testimony to the courageous OCS graduates who led from the front. Make no bones about it, OCS is about leading men and women in combat. "Standards, No Compromise" c when the going gets really tough and men's fears are heightened. Looking into the eyes of several hundred men during my two tours in Vietnam clearly indicated they expected leadership.

James Wright is a retired lieutenant colonel who was commissioned an infantry officer upon graduation from OCS Class 5-66, April 14, 1966.





Reunion 2021

Mark your calendar for 2021 Alumni Association reunion! The reunion is planned for May 7 – 11, 2021. The Columbus Marriott will again be our host hotel. Registration information is available on the Association's website.

At the reunion, we will induct those selected for the OCS Hall of Fame from both the 2020 class and the 2021 class. Congratulations to the following officers selected for the 20 Fame!

COL	Steven	Epkins
BG	John	Martin
CPT	John	Curran
MAJ	Larry	Rogers
MAJ	Dave	Reiss
GEN	Frank	Grass
COL	George	Bannon
2LT	Donald	Prell
COL	David	Clark
COL	David	Osborne
COL	Michael	Gilpin
BG	Susie	Kuilan
1LT	Douglas	Miller
COL	Charles	Rhyne
MAJ	George	Hughes
MAJ	William	Perkins
COL	Phillip	Glise
1LT	Bernard	Pierce
LTC	Chester	Davis
COL	Christopher	Forsythe
BG	William	Bilo
LTC	Mark	Mariska
COL	Karl	Ginter
COL	Richard	Perez
LTC	Daniel	Payne
COL	Ken	Nance

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Chapter Formation

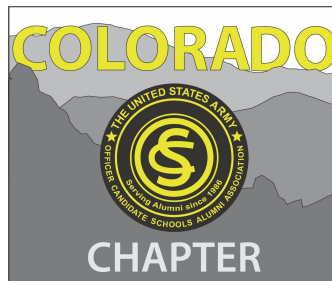
Interested in establishing an OCS Alumni Association chapter in your area?

The Association currently has four active local chapters established to coordinate and promote activities and camaraderie at the local level. The chapters encourage fellowship among the OCS graduate community and promote the purposes of the Association.

Colorado Chapter Commander: Joe Zmugg

Phone: 330-360-7956

E-Mail: jzmugg@outlook.com



Florida Chapter Commander: Ray Trahan

Phone: 727-389-1936

E-Mail: rtrahan1@verizon.net



Ohio Chapter Commander: Dave Taylor



Washington DC Area Chapter Commander: John O'Shea
 Phone: 571-839-0669
 E-Mail: jroshea4@aol.com

If there is no chapter in your local area, consider starting one! The Association has an SOP that describes the process for establishing and operating a chapter. To establish a chapter, 10 founding members are required. The requirements for operating a chapter are submission of an annual report on the activities of the chapter and reporting any change in

If any member is interested in establishing a chapter or would like to receive a copy of the SOP, please contact Dave Taylor, Vice-President of Operations at 330-321-3370 or ChapterDirector@ocsalumni.org.

Member News

- Did you know as a member of the OCS Alumni Association, you are also automatically an associate member of AUSA? This allows you to take advantage of the many benefits offered its members, such as their career center AUSA Jobs Central - at www.ausa.org/jobscentral. Here, you can get a free review/critique of your resume, search for job alerts. There are a variety of resources on the site including pay calculators, tips on resume writing, interviewing, and more.
- Have you been waiting for the upload of the yearbooks and memorabilia to the members' only section of the [website](#)? It's almost complete! Check it out and if you don't see what you're looking for, check back in about a week and it should be loaded.
- Are you a member of the Hall of Fame? Is your information accurate in the website? If it's not, let us know at info@ocsalumni.org. Sometimes the original information we have can't fix it if we don't know, so please let us know if something is wrong.

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