



**The U.S. Army Officer Candidate Schools Alumni Association
Annual Report 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022
TUSAOCSAA Chapter One**

Chapter One, the DC Chapter, has returned to periodic in-person meetings at American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, VA. The pandemic caused by the coronavirus continues to slow the return of these meetings but that impediment will reduce with time. Nevertheless, the Chapter did maintain a robust number of activities to meet the mission of the Alumni Association and raise the visibility of TUSAOCSAA in the National Capitol Region.

The Alumni Association continues to benefit from valuable strategic partnerships with the American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association (AAFMAA), the United Services Automobile Association (USAA), and the Association of the US Army (AUSA). Each one of these organizations provides our association with monetary and in-kind support allowing us to maintain our efforts to achieve the mission of honoring the legacy of the Army's Officer Candidate Schools and supporting those candidates currently enrolled. Chapter One is privileged to help achieve this mission

In October 2021 Chapter One maintained an exhibit booth at the Annual Meeting of the Association of the US Army as we have done in the past. TUSAOCSAA is one of a number of affiliated organizations of the AUSA. This relationship allows us to receive booth space, without charge, at an annual exhibit that draws a crowd of over 30,000 attendees who come to hear from the senior Army leadership and view state of the art equipment and services available to the American soldier.

Also during October, Chapter Commander COL John O'Shea, USA (Ret) and Legion Post 20 Commander, CAPT Jim Noone, USN (Ret) met with SGM Gavin McIlvenna, USA (Ret). SGM McIlvenna is President, Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. SGM

McIlvenna discussed national plans for commemoration of the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and opportunities for the public to participate in observances and educational presentations.

During November 2021 the DC Chapter presented wreaths at the three national war memorials in DC as part of Veterans Day activities. While the Chapter also presents a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, centennial observances at the Tomb precluded us from doing so in 2021. During December volunteers from the Chapter usually participate in Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery but pandemic restrictions this past year closed the cemetery to all but family members of those interred at the cemetery.

During January 2022, the Chapter coordinated with American Legion Post 20 for a Zoom session with Professor Will Hitchcock who spoke about the importance of General Dwight Eisenhower and the legacy left by the president for ensuring diplomatic and military stability. American Legion Post 20 is unique in that it consists of members of the National Press Club each one of whom has access to renowned national and international experts. Professor Hitchcock is a distinguished professor at the University of Virginia.

During February 2022, we again coordinated with Legion Post 20 in holding a Zoom session featuring Mr. Eric Doman, a former State Department foreign service officer who currently serves with the US Agency for International Development. Mr. Doman spoke about our evacuation from Afghanistan, the fate of those left behind and his efforts to provide refuge for those Afghanis who supported our efforts during the 20-year period of US involvement.

Also, during February as well as April 2022, the Chapter organized a Zoom session with currently enrolled Officer Candidates. The concept was the initiative of class OC 24-69 the graduates of whom were interested in a dialogue with those currently in training. The session was very successful. Despite a more than 50-year time span between those currently enrolled and those who graduated in 1969, both the candidates and members of Class OC 24-69 experienced a kinship and connection that transcended the years.

During April, Chapter Commander COL O'Shea participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new exhibit at the Army Transportation Museum on Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA. The exhibit contains memorabilia and artifacts from the Transportation Officer Candidate School which was conducted at Ft Eustis from 1966-1968. COL O'Shea's comments are attached to this report. The OCS Alumni Association was pleased to provide substantial funding for the exhibit in the Transportation Museum. On Memorial Day during May, the Chapter presented wreaths at the three national war memorials in DC on behalf of the Alumni Association.

During June, Chapter One was invited to send a representative of TUSAOCSAA to the annual meeting of AAFMAA. COL Clifford Fields, USA (Ret) attended from the Chapter. During the meeting, BG Michael Meese, President of AAFMAA, specifically mentioned the value of the partnership between the two organizations and the work TUSAOCSAA does in support of currently enrolled and graduates of the Army Officer Candidate Schools.

During July, COL O'Shea represented TUSAOCSAA at the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Dedication Ceremony followed the next day by an Alliance Peace Conference sponsored by the Korean Defense Veterans Association (KDVA). Speakers at the conference included the Korean Minister of Defense, the Korean Ambassador to the US and General Paul LaCamera, Commander United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/US Forces Korea. The conference focused on current developments within the Korean peninsula and future capabilities of the alliance.

The Chapter resumed in-person meetings at Legion Post 177 during May 2022 and July 2022. We intend to maintain a robust schedule during the coming next 12 months as we have done during the past year. Events planned include participating as an exhibitor at the annual meeting of AUSA and presentation of a framed photo of a bench along the Memorial Walk donated as a tribute to the late SEN Bob Dole who graduated from OCS in November, 1944. His widow, Elizabeth Dole, is this year's recipient of the George Catlett Marshall Medal for distinguished and selfless service. The intent is to present her with the photo during the AUSA meeting.

In the coming year, the Chapter will present wreaths at the three national war memorials during Veterans Day and Memorial Day and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on November 12th and May 31st. We will continue to enrich our strategic partnerships with AAFMAA, AUSA, USAA, and Legion Post 20. Additionally, the Chapter will pursue opportunities to participate with the KDVA, an organization committed to enhancing the ROK-US alliance by advocating for and supporting those who created and maintain the alliance. We will also continue to seek military experts whose presentations would be of interest to our members, particularly those currently serving.

COL John R. O'Shea, USA (Ret)

