



The U.S. Army OCS Alumni Association
Space/Treasure Coast Chapter
NEWSLETTER
October 2021



Commander's Message



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This is our inaugural newsletter after receiving Provisional Chapter status from OCSAA. Thanks to the Founding Members for your enthusiasm and support that enabled us to "Stand Up" on 12 July. I am pleased to report that we have a steadily increasing flow of new members; we have nearly doubled our membership from 10 to possibly 19 since July. To me this is a fantastic manifestation of OCS graduates showing their pride in the OCS program as well as a profound commitment to our mission of preserving the OCS legacy. Well done, everyone!

Welcome to new members who joined our Chapter since the Founder's Meeting: Bob Brewster (Port Orange), Steve Kenney and Al Kisler (New Smyrna Beach), Dan McAteer (Malabar), Joe Pavone (Cocoa), Roy Pinette (Rockledge), and Associate Member Joel Mayne (Stuart).

Rob McCall
Engineer 13-69

Provisional Chapter Status

OCSAA approved our Provisional Chapter status on 08 August; they will monitor our viability for the next year and, if all goes well, we'll receive full chapter status on 08 August 2022.

STCC Goals

Following the Founder's Meeting, we established the following goals:

- a. Raise Army leadership awareness of the crucial role of the OCS program in producing future leaders.

- b. Help preserve the OCS legacy of service and sacrifice.
- c. Participate in community service and help OCS Alumni/veterans in need.
- d. Foster Camaraderie among OCS Alumni through social interaction.
- e. Identify potential guest speakers of interest to our members.
- f. Sustain present membership and recruit new members, with particular emphasis on recruiting National Guard, USAR, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan-era OCS graduates.

Founding Members



L-R: Lee, Donn, Cal, Pat, Bill, Tom, Paul, Rob and Phil. Missing is Skip Taylor

Just So You Know!

During the Founders Meeting, it became readily apparent we have a very talented membership. We have a collection of former military officers and civilians who have risen to prominence in their chosen career field.

Included in this group are senior State Department officers, professional educators who have published, and decorated military who attained the rank of Colonel in both Active and Reserve Components. Three of our founding ten members have been inducted in the OCS Hall of Fame. Additionally, we have a former corporate-level CEO as well as successful business persons who have owned and operated their own companies. This base of talent provides a great foundation and resource for STCC to achieve our goals and objectives as well as accomplish the OCSAA mission of preserve the OCS legacy.

STCC Progress and Development

We developed a Phase I Action Plan to help us get through the next several months. This included designing business cards, a Chapter logo, applying to TUSAOCSAA to establish a provisional Chapter, design media - posters, handbills and brochures to help publicize our new Chapter. One important task was to identify possible events or venues where STCC could have an official, visible presence. Accordingly, we joined the Merritt Island Veteran's Memorial Center (VMC) on 12 August; this will give us considerable visibility to the veteran community. We designed and produced a large acrylic plaque with the STCC logo for permanent display in VMC. Our first event at VMC was the 9/11 Remembrance, where Phil and Rob manned a booth.

We had 8 1/2 x 11" handbills printed, explored the use of social media and subsequently created an STCC Facebook page on 22 August. Beginning in mid-August, we identified National Guard and USAR units in the AO, with plans to introduce them to STCC, as appropriate. We had two-sided brochures ("rack cards") and a 20x30" poster printed for display at the VMC's 9/11 Remembrance and their Veteran's Day festivities in November. Several Commander's Updates were emailed to members to keep them abreast of developments. Based on our experiences to this point, and the efficacy of the Phase I Action Plan, we prepared a primer that could be of use to other areas interested in forming their own chapter. We continued efforts to find new members via follow-up email, referrals from other members and word of mouth; this has resulted in six new STCC members.

Ongoing are efforts to actively seek and recruit National Guard, USAR, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan-era OCS graduates via direct

interaction at various venues. One objective in our Phase I Action Plan was to reach out to American Legion and VFW Posts in the STCC AO to attract OCS graduates who belong to their organizations. In early September we emailed 24 American Legion posts, asking them to share the STCC handbill with their members. We also emailed five of the 20 VFW posts in the AO, and are planning to “snail mail” the remainder as well. To date we have had favorable responses from one VFW and one American Legion post. The STCC handbill has been featured in the Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter (the nation’s largest MOAA chapter with over 1,200 members) online newsletter, with three MOAACC members immediately expressing interest in joining STCC.

Regional Mini-Reunions

Our national headquarters has canceled the Spring 2022 national reunion at Fort Benning/Columbus Georgia due to increased COVID Variant protection measures being adopted at Fort Benning. It was felt the unpredictability of the situation would continue over the next six months and we could not expend the effort, time and money planning for a reunion under those uncertain conditions.

As an alternative, one suggestion was to hold regional mini-reunions - “staff rides” - everyone arrives Friday evening, Saturday is spent in a meeting and visit to local points of interest, and dinner that evening, with participants leaving Sunday morning. This would allow OCS Alumni in the region to drive in and enjoy each other's camaraderie, which should be more convenient than trekking to Ft. Benning whenever the next national reunion is held. As you know, we attempted to organize and host a mini-reunion in late February 2022 but encountered difficulty coordinating with other chapters; resulting delays gave us insufficient time to put all the pieces in place and we had no choice but to regretfully withdraw our offer to host. Perhaps we can revisit the mini-reunion idea for late 2022 or early 2023. Thanks for your patience as we tried to work things out.

9/11 Remembrance at the Veterans Memorial Center




Phil and Rob manned the STCC table at the 9/11 event. We attracted some attention but expect much better results at Veterans Day festivities in November. Rob's wearing the "experimental" STCC shirt (see below).



The 9/11 ceremony at VMC. Our membership at VMC gives us a base for STCC meetings and other activities. The VMC also contains an excellent military museum. STCC Executive Officer, CPT (former) Donn Weaver currently serves as Brevard Veterans Council Chairman.

STCC Shirts

	<p>Rob's first try at an STCC shirt. Please let him know if you are interested in one. Price is \$17-\$30 with embroidery, depending on fabric. You will need to deal directly with the local shirt company - customsignsandshirts.com - 3730 W. New Haven, Melbourne.</p>
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Reminder - 06 November Meeting

Just to remind - our general meeting will be 1100 hours at the Veterans Memorial Center, 400 South Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island. Spouses are invited and we can order in lunch from Jersey Mike's.

Questions? Call Rob McCall at (305) 923-9057 or Donn Weaver at (757) 871-6676.