

This Month in History

July & August

1 July 1941, The War Department established the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill.
2 July 1869, General Phillip Sheridan officially named Fort Sill in memory of his West Point Classmate, Brigadier General Joshua W. Sill, who was killed at the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee, 31 December 1862.

3 July 1968, General William C. Westmoreland, a field artillery officer and graduate of the Field Artillery School, became the 25th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

6 July 1973, The Army activated the branch-immaterial Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill closed its doors.

17 July 1902, An Act of Congress on 2 February 1901 divided the Artillery arm into Coast Artillery and Field Artillery.

30 July 1815, Thomas Jackson Rodman, a U.S. Army artilleryman, was born. He developed rifled wrought-iron artillery pieces used extensively during the American Civil War.

3 August 1917, A small contingent of French officers with combat experience in World War I reported to the School of Fire for Field Artillery to serve as instructors.

8 August 1917, Construction of Henry Post Army Airfield was begun on the same site used by the First Aerial Squadron in 1915. The airfield was named after Lieutenant Henry B. Post of the 25th Infantry who was killed in an airplane accident near San Diego, California in 1914 while he was attempting to set an altitude record.

8 August 1929, Snow Hall, the Field Artillery School's main academic building, burned down. Named after Major General William J. Snow, Snow Hall housed the Field Artillery School headquarters and a majority of the classrooms.

14 August 1954, The Artillery School officially opened Snow Hall (B730) to replace McNair Hall built in the 1930s. Snow Hall housed classrooms and administrative offices and was air conditioned. The building had 190,000 square feet of floor space and facilities to accommodate 2,500 students and furnished the school with a centralized location for classrooms and headquarters.

17 August 1990, The first III Corps Artillery units on Fort Sill received their alert notices for movement to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Shield.
20 August 1794, Major General Anthony Wayne's small King howitzers participated in the victory over the Miami Indians in the Northwest Territory, opening the land for white settlement with the Treaty of Greenville of 1795.

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