

Tools and Tips You Can Use to Track Down OCS Classmates

Thanks to the following graduates for sharing the tools and tips they have used to track down classmates. **You will be taken to the blue highlighted search engine websites by clicking on them.** Your computer security settings may alert you that this document is trying to connect to the selected websites and you will need to "Allow" this action to complete the internet connection.

From George Bannon Class 1-67:

Each of the following websites provides a variety of data when searching for individuals, and they can be used to cross-reference and/or corroborate portions of that data:

Zabasearch.com -- provides various listings from years past, with addresses, age, and phone numbers

Peoplefinders.com -- provides age, current and previous cities of residence and known relatives

Whitepages.com -- provides home address, phone number, and on occasion approximate age and members of household

Classmates.com -- limited information unless you pay a subscription fee

Reunion.com -- limited information unless you pay a subscription fee

Military.com -- you can join for free and then search for individuals

Some of those search public records and can narrow down a search for a particular name by giving the age of the person. Having an age and middle name or initial helps narrow the search. It is also helpful to have the spouses name, since peoplefinders.com also lists all known relatives. I have also used county tax assessor websites, when available, to confirm the spouse's name by checking property ownership. Depending on an individual's prominence and/or activity, you can try Googling their name. The public records search can usually provide enough information to then use Whitepages.com for an address and phone number.

There are also some search websites for which you have to pay a fee to do a more detailed search, such as Intelius.com and USsearch.com. I have used those, on occasion when searching for someone with a very common name, or to get information such as an unlisted phone number.

For those with access to the Army's AKO website, there is a search feature on that site for active or retired personnel who have subscribed to AKO. It provides an e-mail address and phone number.

I have also checked both the on-line Vietnam Wall listing and the on-line Social Security Death Index to ensure that I was not looking for people who are deceased.

In the past, USAA assisted me in locating folks who were customers by sending them a message from me, but I'm fairly certain that they have discontinued that practice. Some college alumni offices will also provide that kind of assistance.

From Terry Holden Class 40A-67:

The Ultimate White Page : theultimates.com

Yahoo's people search : People.yahoo.com

AT&T white pages: Anywho.com

People finder: Wink.com

If you can locate individuals social security numbers from old military orders - that can sure narrow down the search. (Keep in mind, the Army changed from military service number to SSN in Mid 1969)

From Jim Wambold Class 24-66:

Another trick is to use a copy of the classes' Graduation Booklet to find the old home-of-record for the individual. That can be used in your first attempt using Zabasearch.com (although, after 40+ years, it may only give you leads to find family members).

Plain old Google has worked in some cases. For example, use the parameters of "John E Doe" Artillery, then "John E Doe" Army, "John E Doe" OCS, "John E Doe" Vietnam, etc.

If you remember an individual's college, you may be able to place a call to the appropriate office and find information. In the two cases I remember, it was as simple as following-up the conversation with an email and a link to our class web site to verify our intent.

Also, middle initials and suffixes (Jr., Sr., III, etc) are valuable in refining your searches.

From Steve Holland Class 19-66:

The greatest single aid to me was my graduating class list with hometowns. I found that a majority of my class did not stray very far from their roots. A great many still lived in their hometowns...or very close. A simple search on Google, Lycos, Intellius, or Ancestry.com followed by a phone call was often enough to produce results. Intellius is especially helpful because it gives ages and past residences.

I'm sure you know this, but individuals with unusual names were fairly easy to track down. It's the John Smiths or Joe Millers who are hard to find.

The Social Security Death Index was also a big help. Most of the candidates in my class registered with Social Security in the same hometowns listed in our graduation program. If the name, age, and place of registration matched, it was fairly easy to confirm that it was the same person.

One of the best sources of information was other classmates, but you have to ask the right questions. It was not uncommon for me to get answers like "Oh, yeah, I ran into John at an airport in Houston, and he was working for an insurance company in St. Louis at the time", or "Jim and I went through jump school together after OCS. I think his wife's name was Carolyn."

I found one classmate, Donald Wilson, by simply typing in his name in Dogpile.com a search engine that searches all of the other search engines. When I did, I scrolled down the list and found a site that had been set up in his memory by his granddaughter, complete with contact information. Don was killed in Viet Nam.

When all else failed, I started making blind phone calls and sending letters with self-addressed stamped return envelopes. This got to be a little expensive after awhile, and I was only dealing with one class.

I also found a few people I was certain were fellow graduates. They just didn't want to be found. You have to account for that.

From Joe Fleming Class 6-65:

The best sight I know of is [Intelius.com](http://intelius.com) . It'll give approximate age as well as locations. Some of it you will have to use in conjunction with sites like Whowhere.com and Anywho.com unless you want to pay a fee for each.

From Barry Loper Class 44-53:

I am late to the table but enjoyed the creativity shown by OCS searchers in finding members of their respective classes. In reviewing the long list of suggestions, I do not believe I saw any search engines regarding graves and grave sites. There are many and the one I found most useful was Gravelocator.cem.va.gov

From Roger Gill Class 19-67:

I started my search with the class roster from our graduation announcement. The only source that I used not mentioned by others was putting requests in magazines of VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, ROA & MOAA. It got my best results from [Intelius.com](http://intelius.com). I think it was \$20.00 for 24 hours. I included a stamped, self addressed post card in second round of requests. That boosted responses.

From Don McCorkle Class 33B-67:

There are some very good People Search engines. I have denoted some of the ones below. You may try any and all. I usually use Zabasearch.com or USA-people-search.com first to get some idea about where people are. Then you can do a phone number search or if Zabasearch.com gives a phone number, I do a reverse look up to make sure the number is good. This gives you a start as to where the person might be. I try to match an approximate age to the person. I was fortunate enough to have a graduation brochure with a home of record. That helps tremendously. Unfortunately, you need to check the Social Security death index to be sure the person is not deceased. All will not be listed.

Zabasearch.com try first

USA-people-search.com try first best pay site

People.yahoo.com try first

Free-people-search.es try first

Ancestry.com try first very good

Familysearch.org very good

411x411.com good

Ancestorhunt.com/Social Security Death good

Yellowbook.com reverse number look-up

About.com 411 Locate

About.com Websearch

Whowhere.com

Peoplefinders.com

Web.public-records-now.com

Search.com

Find.person.superpages.com

Switchboard.com

Pipl.com

Freepeoplesearch.info

Peoplesearchnow.com

Netsleuth.com

Freeprf.com