

Having served as the 59th Superintendent of the United States Military Academy I wholeheartedly support your recommendation to name the Battlefield Acoustics Lab at Wright Patterson Air Force Base after the late Col. William J. Cavanaugh who was decorated for his outstanding service as a West Point Liaison Officer.

Col. Cavanaugh was commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from ROTC in June 1951 following receipt of his professional degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was ordered to active duty in July 1951, at the 6th Armored (Training) Division, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO where he served as Unit Training Officer, regimental S3, plans and training staff officer, and divisional G3 staff training inspector while on active duty during the final two years of the Korean conflict.

Following relief from active duty in July 1953, he organized and served as Company Commander of Company A, 319 Engineer Combat Battalion, 94th Infantry Division (Reserve), and later in battalion operations and intelligence staff assignments with the 319th. Upon deactivation of the 319th, he organized and served as Commander of the 424th Engineer Construction Company, XIII Corps, made up of HQ Company and two line companies of the 319th.

Following the above engineer unit command and staff assignments, Col. Cavanaugh served in mobilization assignments with the New York and Chicago Districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. From 1972 to 1982, he served as Admissions Liaison Officer and Massachusetts State Program Coordinator for the U. S. Military Academy Admissions Program.

Col. Cavanaugh is a graduate of the U.S. Army Engineer School Basic and Advanced Engineer Officer Courses, Ft. Belvoir, VA, the Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces Ft. Leslie McNair, VA. In December of 1982, Col. Cavanaugh was retired from the active U.S. Army Reserve with 31 1/2 years continuous service since he received his original ROTC commission.

Col. Cavanaugh was the Charter President of the Colonel Richard Gridley Regional Chapter of the Army Engineer Association for which he was awarded an AEA Bronze DeFleury Medal. He was awarded the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal upon his retirement in 1982 from active reserve service primarily for his work in improving the U.S. Military Academy admissions liaison program in Massachusetts. He held the North American Defense Service Medal and the U.S. Army Reserve Medal with two bronze attachments for 30 years of reserve Service.

Having commanded troops in combat, [Wired](#) magazine said it best: “Battlefields are noisy places, and pilots and soldiers often struggle to filter out information and communication from the chaos of combat. Ideally, the soldiers, air crews, or sailors would be able to ignore the unimportant sounds, identify the important ones, and tell where they’re coming from.” The anechoic chamber at WPAFB continues to ensure that our armed forces have the best training and military equipment available.

Thus, it is only fitting that the Battlefield Acoustics Lab be named after Col. William Joseph Cavanaugh. Thank you for honoring this brilliant officer.