



# Army ROTC – SFA Lumberjacks “Be the Best!” Fall 2010 Newsletter



## Commander's Brief

**Greetings from Nacogdoches!**

**We have been busy here in the Lumberjack Battalion since our last newsletter. Overall, our program continues to grow and produce outstanding officers for our Army.**

**We started this school year with 106 cadets in the unit, which represents a 50% increase over the past three years. Our growth is a testament to the quality of young men and women who choose to serve as Army officers in this time of great national need. We remain extremely proud of our cadets as they carry on the legacy of outstanding service established by all those Lumberjacks who have served before them.**

**In October, we hosted our first Lumberjack Reunion. I am grateful for the support of the university in helping us plan and execute this event, and we were glad so many former cadets were able to attend. It was great to meet everyone and listen to all of the stories (and I'm sure that most of them were even true). I hope everyone enjoyed the event, and we look forward to the next reunion.**

**We are excited to welcome three new cadre members to our organization; two of which are Lumberjack graduates. Captain Megan Hartley (Class of 2006) joins us from Fort Hood and serves as the instructor of our freshman class, and First Lieutenant Kyle Locke (Class of 2007) joins us from right here in Nacogdoches and serves as our Enrollment Officer. Sergeant Christine Spreen joins us from Conroe, TX. She serves as the National Guard Liason who is instrumental in the battalion's recruiting efforts to field highly motivated cadets for our nation's reserve forces**

**In this edition of our newsletter, you will find articles highlighting several events we have conducted within the battalion and the accomplishments of our cadets. As you will see, our cadets continue to represent SFA with distinction as they participate in officer training in locations throughout the United States. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback. I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season, and as always, AXE'EM JACKS!**

**Lieutenant Colonel Todd Reichert  
Professor of Military Science**

## SFA ROTC Reunion

More than 80 guests attended Stephen F. Austin State University's first Lumberjack Battalion Reunion on October 16, celebrating the history of the university's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program and the more than 500 officers commissioned during its 42-year history.

The reunion included a breakfast reception at the Military Science Building followed by a buffet lunch and awards presentation in the Baker Pattillo Student Center. Later, attendees were honored during the Lumberjack football game against the University of Central Arkansas.

James R. "Jimmy" Britton of Dallas and Edwin W. "Ed" Hander of Columbia, Mo., the first two officers to graduate from the program in 1968, received special recognition during the reunion. Retired Lt. Gen. Orren R. "Cotton" Whiddon of Lufkin, a 1955 SFA graduate, also was recognized as the most senior military officer to have graduated from SFA and for his longtime support of SFA and its ROTC program.

The university received word from many invited officers who were not able to attend the reunion because they are currently serving across the country and around the world. Among them was Maj. Laural Levine, a 1994 SFA graduate now stationed at Camp Eggers in Afghanistan.

Along with her regrets, Levine sent an American flag that was flown in honor of SFA at the International Security Assistance Force Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sept. 2. The flag was presented to SFA President Baker Pattillo by Lt. Col. Todd Reichert, Military Science professor, during the Board of Regents meeting.



## ROTC Fall Enrollment Up 30%

Enrollment in the SFA ROTC program is up 30% from this time last year. "We're excited about the increasing numbers of students showing an interest in serving our country as Army officers," says Lieutenant Colonel Todd Reichert, Professor of Military Science. "The Army sends us here to ensure we fill the ranks of the officer corps with quality men and women, and it's great to see so many SFA students taking an interest in serving as leaders in our Army. As our numbers increase, we also see the quality of our officer candidates increase in terms of academic performance, physical fitness and leadership ability."

Many independent factors are responsible for the increased enrollment in the SFA ROTC program. Increased efforts to find motivated high school and college students, excellent scholarships and financial assistance, and expanding recruiting efforts into the Dallas, Houston and Shreveport area are just a few. "Our Goal is to find current and future Lumberjack students who are motivated, intelligent and interested in a profession of service and leadership," says Reichert.

Between increased enrollment and instructors who are knowledgeable, experienced and care deeply about the success of their students, you can bet that SFA ROTC will continue to produce quality officers to lead our Army for decades to come.

## Ranger Challenge

Ranger Challenge is the varsity sport for ROTC cadets, where the best from each ROTC program come to compete in a three day event at Camp Bullis in San Antonio. During those three days of competition the cadets compete in eight events. This year SFA Ranger Challenge fielded two teams, one all male team and one co-ed team. The first day of competition began with both teams competing for the top spot in physical fitness. The second event of day one was a written exam that tested cadets on their knowledge of land navigation, patrolling operations and first aid techniques. By the end of the first day of competition, both teams were at the middle of the pack and poised to mount a big comeback against the field.

On the second day of competition, the Lumberjack company commander Cadet Jacob Kelly gave both teams an inspiring motivational speech. "Basically, I just told them that the competition was far from over, and the only way they were going to get back in it was to work together as a team," said Cadet Kelly. By the end of the second day it seemed as if the speech had given the Ranger Challenge teams the motivation needed to move ahead in the standings. The events on day 2 included the obstacle course, weapons assembly and disassembly, grenade assault course, and day and night land navigation.

On the last day of competition cadets competed in a 10 kilometer foot march. After all the scores were tallied, the SFA Ranger Challenge teams took home two trophies. The male team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 10 teams, and the co-ed team took 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 9 teams. Both teams from SFA also took home first place streamers for specific events. The male team placed first in weapons assembly and disassembly, while the co-ed team brought home a first place streamer in the 10 kilometer foot march and obstacle course.

## Lumberjacks Excel at Ft. Lewis

Last summer, junior Lumberjack ROTC cadets participated in The Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Ft. Lewis, WA. LDAC is the "final examination" that all cadets must take before being accessed as officers in the Army. Their performance at Ft. Lewis, along with their previous performances on campus and overall grade point average, will determine their career placement in the Army.

The Lumberjack Company sent 13 cadets to Ft. Lewis last summer, with two of them standing out among their peers. Cadet Brent Westbrook earned the coveted "exceeding the standard" evaluation. Cadet Anderson earned the highly-touted RECONDO badge. This badge exemplifies a cadet's hard work and dedication to excel in every graded event at LDAC.

Their high marks can be attributed to the time and effort they invested in preparation for LDAC, not just in ROTC, but also in the classroom, and certainly taking the Lumberjack Company's motto of "BE THE BEST" to the extreme. The Lumberjack Company plans to send 16 cadets to LDAC this summer. We wish the best of luck to those attending. BE THE BEST!



## Summer Training

We would like to recognize our nursing cadet Patrick Smith who completed the Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP), Winn Army Community Hospital at Ft. Stewart, GA. This three-week program assigns nursing cadets to Army hospitals throughout the U.S. and Germany. The program introduced Cadet Smith to the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) and to the roles and responsibilities of an Army Nurse Corps Officer. Under the supervision of an experienced Army Nurse, he obtained hands-on experience which he will carry with him into his military career.

We would also like to spotlight Cadet Brent Westbrook who completed Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) at Ft. Wainwright, AK. While attending CTLT, Cadet Westbrook was assigned to Bravo Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 21st Infantry. CTLT is a training program that allows cadets to work with an active duty second lieutenant for 30 days. While working alongside a US Army platoon leader, Cadet Westbrook spent two out of the three weeks in the field. While in the field, Cadet Westbrook conducted Stryker gunnery and live fire exercises. Cadet Westbrook was assigned to an infantry platoon based on his desire to serve as an Infantry officer in the future. His time spent with the platoon leader and the soldiers of Bravo Company gave him a unique opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience.

## Fall FTX

The Lumberjack Company's fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) was held November 12-14 at Ft. Polk, LA. Cadets were placed in various realistic situations and command positions throughout the weekend. The purpose of the fall FTX is to challenge and test the cadets' understanding of tactical operations and the fundamentals of leadership. The fall FTX is also a preparation exercise for those cadets who will be attending Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Ft. Lewis, WA. The senior leaders here at Lumberjack Company use this FTX to expose cadets to situations similar to those they will face at Ft. Lewis. The three days spent at Ft. Polk are only a sample of what a cadet can expect during their summer training lasting 29 days.

During their time at Ft. Polk, cadets trained on several tasks that are common in today's modern Army. Cadets received instructions on how to operate Forward Operating Bases (FOB). Following the instruction, cadet leadership received their first operations order for the weekend, which was to operate two entry control points on the FOB. This type of realistic training gave the cadets real world insight as to how today's modern soldiers live and function in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan. The weekend's training also consisted of situational training exercises (STX). During squad STX, cadets practiced ambushes, raids, and reconnaissance missions. STX lanes are design to place cadets in leadership positions that require them to use tactical skills and knowledge in order to complete the mission.

The Field Leaders Reaction Course (FLRC) was the last training event of the weekend. FLRC provides cadets the opportunity to develop their leadership skills by leading a squad in challenging problem-solving exercises. Like STX lanes, FLRC exercises provide cadets the opportunity to hone in on key aspects of leadership, but they also focus on developing cadets' problem-solving and critical thinking skills in a simulated tactical environment.



Cadet Rodney Combs prepares to assault an objective



Lumberjack cadets' work together to complete an FLRC event



## Airborne



Does jumping out of a perfectly good airplane sound like something you might be interested in? Well, this proposition interested four of our cadets this past summer enough to jump at the opportunity. Cadets Brandon Deen, Cameron Kirkland, Spencer Henry, and Christopher King completed airborne school. Airborne school is a rigorous three-week course held at Ft. Benning, GA in which volunteers learn the basics of parachuting as a means of combat deployment before making 5 actual jumps in their final week.



## SPRING 2010 CALENDAR

December 17<sup>th</sup> - Commissioning

December 18<sup>th</sup> - Graduation

January 19<sup>th</sup> - Spring Semester Begins

January 26<sup>th</sup> - Company Awards Lab

February 11<sup>th</sup> - Nurse Day

February 19<sup>th</sup> - Company Land Navigation

April 8-10 - Spring Joint FTX

April 27 - Spring Awards Lab

April 29 - ROTC Military Ball

May 13 - Commissioning

May 14 - Commencement



### Websites for SFA ROTC

Visit us at <http://www.sfasu.edu/rotc>



We'd love for alumni to send us a picture and/or a note to tell us where you are and what you're doing now.

## Commissioning

Between May and August 2010 the Lumberjack Battalion commissioned seven new Second Lieutenants into the United States Army. Guests who attended the commissioning ceremonies included family and friends along with the President of Stephen F. Austin State University, Dr Baker Pattillo, and members of the Board of Regents. The Lumberjack Battalion plans to commission two new Second Lieutenants during a ceremony on December 17<sup>th</sup> in Regents Suite B of the SFA Student Center at 5:00 p.m. We invite you to come and watch as we present the rank of Second Lieutenant to the future leaders of America's Army as they take their Oath of Office.



2LT's White and Gilbert



2LT's Wellspring, Starks, Moore, Mckissack, and Rapp

## Cadre and Staff



LTC Todd M. Reichert - Professor of Military Science



MSG James Wright - Senior Military Instructor (SMI) (MSII's)



MAJ Kwang C. Fricke - Executive Officer (XO)



CPT Megan Hartley - Military Science Instructor (MSI's)



SFC Jon Foster - Military Science Instructor (MS III's)



1LT Kyle Locke - Recruiting Operations Officer



2LT Justin Rapp - Gold Bar Recruiter



2LT Jermain Williams - Gold Bar Recruiter

Samuel Gardner- Supply Technician

Sonnie Mosier- Administrative Assistant

Peggy Beres- Human Resources Technician