

**The Stephen F. Austin State University Department of Military Science, known as the Lumberjack Battalion, was established on 20 November 1968. The battalion has provided college-trained officers for the United States Army, the United States Army Reserve and the Army National Guard since its existence. The battalion was first commanded by Lieutenant Colonel James E. Calahan. Lieutenant Colonel Calahan served as commander from 1968 to 1971. Other professors of Military Science include: Lieutenant Colonel William J. LeClair from 1971-74; Lieutenant Colonel Talton E. Pace from 1974 to 1979; COL Terry M. Carlton from 1979 to 1982; Lieutenant Colonel Paul W. Kellerhals from 1982 to 1987; Lieutenant Colonel Fredrick Stepaniak from 1987 to 1988; Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth C. Meredith from 1988 to 1990; Lieutenant Colonel Van S. Ellis from 1990 to 1992; Major Patrick M. Parker from 1992 to 1994; Lieutenant Colonel Steven E. Clay from 1994 to 1997; Lieutenant Colonel Armor D. Brown from 1997 to 2000; Lieutenant Colonel Michel J. W. Jimerson from 2000 to 2003; Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey A. Pike from 2003 to 2007; Lieutenant Colonel Todd Reichert from 2007 to 2012; Lieutenant Colonel David Miller from 2012-2015. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Pfeiffer from 2015 to 2018. The current Professor of Military Science is MAJ James Attaway, III.**

**The first extracurricular organization sponsored by the department was the Austin Raiders, the cadet Ranger organization, still going strong. It was formed in 1968 and it played a vital role in the recruitment and retention of young men and women into the Lumberjack Corps of Cadets. This role is also enhanced by the Corps of Cadets Ranger Challenge Teams. The Austin Guard, the color guard organization, was formed in 1970 and since its foundation has participated in presenting the colors at home football games, parades and other events. The Stone Fort Battery is a spirit organization within the Army ROTC program. The members fire "Ol Cotton," a 75mm Cannon, at football games and other events to promote esprit de corps among the university students and the Lumberjack Battalion.**

**In 1988, a rappelling tower was constructed which enhanced the training and esprit de corps among the cadets. The tower is frequently used to train students from other departments, community organizations, as well as cadets.**

**LTG (Retired) Orren Whiddon is the highest ranking Army officer graduated from SFASU and a longtime supporter of the Lumberjack Battalion. A 1955 graduate of SFASU (prior to the formation of the**

**Lumberjack Battalion), General Whiddon is the eighth inductee into the University Alumni Hall of Fame.**

**The Department of Military Science at Stephen F. Austin State University has commissioned over 600 officers since its organization. The highest ranking graduate from the military science program is Major General Thomas J. Richardson, May 1980 SFA grad, commissioned 2LT Quartermaster. MG Richardson retired in 2014, and is now currently working as a Senior Mentor for the Army's Mission Command Training Program.**

**Since its activation, the Department of Military Science has grown to be a vital and accepted part of the Stephen F. Austin State University campus.**