SFA Army ROTC Lumberjack Battalion History

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.

Subsequent professors of Military Science include:

- Lieutenant Colonel William J. LeClair from 1971-74
- Lieutenant Colonel Talton E. Pace from 1974 to 1979
- Colonel 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
- Major James A. Attaway, III from 2018 to present

The first extracurricular organization sponsored by the department was the Austin Raiders, which is a cadet Ranger like organization. The Austin Raiders were formed in 1968 and has played a vital role in the recruitment and retention of cadets into the Lumberjack Battalion. The Cannon Crew is a cadet 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 amongst the university students and the Lumberjack Battalion. Ol’ Cotton was graciously donated by the late Lieutenant General Orren Whidden, who is the highest ranking US Army officer graduated from SFASU.

The Department of Military Science has commissioned over 600 officers since its activation and is a vital part of the Stephen F. Austin State University.