

Institutional History of the Department of Military Science and the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)

Omnis Via Cougar

Washington State Professors of Military Science

MAJ Wayne S. Walker
Pulman Military College
October 1879-March 1893

2LT George E. Stockle
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1893-1897

1LT Wilson Chase
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1897-1898

Cadet Leo L. Totten
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1898-1899

CPT John Kinzie
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1899-1903

CPT Edward Kimmel
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1903-1908

CPT Harry E. Mitchell
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1908-1910

1LT Peter J. Hanessey
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1910-1911

1LT Claire R. Bennett
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1911-1915

CPT Fred J. Osterman
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1915-1917

COL (Ret.) Willis T. May
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1917-1919

LTC John F. Wall
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1919

CPT Walter F. L. Hartigan
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1919

LTC A. W. Cleary
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1919-1920

CPT (Ret.) Samuel M. Parker
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1920

CPT Walter T. Scott
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1920-1923

MAJ Floyd D. Carlock
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1923-1927

MAJ Samuel A. Gibson
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1927-1931

MAJ Ray M. O'Day
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1931-1935

COL William E. Donegan
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1946-1949

COL Alexander K. Reid
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1952-1952

COL Charles M. Adams Jr.
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1952-1955

COL Orin B. Sykes
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1954-1955

COL Howard L. Cornutt
Prof. of Military Science
1964-1966

COL James L. Osgard
Prof. of Military Science
1966-1970

COL William B. Graham
Prof. of Military Science
1970-1974

LTC Robert Mooney
Prof. of Military Science
1974-1976

MAJ Rodney C. Henely
Prof. of Military Science
1983

LTC Paul N. Yacovitch
Prof. of Military Science
1983-1985

LTC Donald A. Johnson
Prof. of Military Science
1985-1988

LTC Donald E. Havre
Prof. of Military Science
1988-1990

LTC Kenneth R. Vreeland Jr.
Prof. of Military Science
1990-1995

LTC Clare (Pat) H. Armstrong
Prof. of Military Science
1995-1999

MAJ Dave Hinkle
Prof. of Military Science
1999

LTC Jay J. Ebbeson
Prof. of Military Science
1999-2001

LTC Jim M. Zuba
Prof. of Military Science
2001-2005

LTC Jeffrey S. Baker
Prof. of Military Science
2005-2008

LTC Craig A. Whiteside
Prof. of Military Science
2008-2011

LTC Todd A. Pfloner
Prof. of Military Science
2011-2014

LTC Christopher Heatherly
Prof. of Military Science
2014-2017

LTC Brendan R. Hobbs
Prof. of Military Science
2017-2020

MAJ Lowell W. Rooks
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1955-1956

COL Thomas K. P. Stithell
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1956-1962

COL Thomas F. McNeil
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1962

LTC William L. Morrison
Prof. of Military Science and Tactics
1962-1966

LTC Burr E. Adams
Prof. of Military Science
1955

COL Gustav M. Bacharach
Prof. of Military Science
1956-1958

COL William W. Bailey
Prof. of Military Science
1958-1961

LTC Johnnie C. Brink
Prof. of Military Science
1961-1964

LTC William H. Overholser
Prof. of Military Science
1976-1978

COL Phillip E. Courts
Prof. of Military Science
1978-1980

MAJ Thomas C. Stephens
Prof. of Military Science
1980-1981

LTC Michael E. Hess
Prof. of Military Science
1981-1985

Timeline

Washington State University Presidents

George W. Lilley 1891-1892

John W. Heston 1892-1893

Enoch A. Bryan 1893-1915

Ernest O. Holland 1915-1945

Wilson M. Compton 1946-1951

C. Clement French 1952-1966

W. Glenn Terrell 1967-1985

Samuel H. Smith 1985-2000

V. Lane Rawlins 2000-2007

Elson S. Floyd 2007-2015

Kirk H. Schulz 2016-Present

1890

- March 28, 1890: The governor of Washington signs legislation authorizing the Washington State Agricultural College and School of Science, later Washington State University (land-grant university).
- January 13, 1892: College doors open.
- WAC starts issuing \$15.00 wooden cadet uniforms. Many of these uniforms are lost in the Old Ferry Hall fire.
- December 21, 1892: President Heston's arrival spurs student protest and physical attack.
- 1893: First formation of the military marching band.
- March 10, 1895: Pullman Military College burns to the ground. WAC begins transferring many of the 134 displaced cadets while in the process of growing the WAC student population to over 300 attendees.
- July 22, 1895: President Bryan with advice from Major Wayne S. Walker from the Pullman Military College (1891-1893) was dedicated to ensure the cadet success for WAC until the college. President Enoch A. Bryan is the unofficial father of the WSU Department of Military Science.
- November 23, 1897: Old Ferry Hall burns down.
- April 21, 1898: The Spanish-American War was an armed conflict between Spain and the U.S. Multiple cadets and students drop out to answer President William McKinley's call to volunteer to join the Army.
- July 1898: Battle of San Juan Hill. Col Theodore Roosevelt, who eventually became vice president and later president of the United States, and who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2001 for his actions in Cuba, changed the fate of the battle. Roosevelt's company was led by 1LT Wilson Chase.
- August 13, 1898: End the Spanish-American War. The ten-week war was fought in both the Caribbean and the Pacific.
- February 6, 1899: Due to the 1898 Treaty of Paris, negotiated on terms favorable to the U.S. which allowed it temporary control of Cuba and ceded/annexed ownership of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines islands.
- June 1899: The first Chinook yearbook is distributed.
- August 1900: WAC has one of the originally 42 ROTC programs in the country.
- November 13, 1900: Committee approves changing school colors from pink and blue to crimson and gray.
- March 2, 1905: The state legislature approves changing the name of Washington Agricultural College and School of Science to State College of Washington.
- 1908: Lt. Edmund L. Corcoran composed the "Caisson Song" which was later to be known as "The Army Goes Rolling Along." It was dedicated on Veterans Day of 1954 by the Secretary of the Army.

1910

- July 26, 1914: World War I begins in Europe.
- May 12, 1916: The Auditorium and Library Building is renamed Bryan Hall (originally dedicated on June 9, 1909).
- April 6, 1917: One-third of the student body has disappeared from campus following the country's entry into World War I. More than 700 students and alumni are in the military or naval service or working to produce food and war materials for American military forces, allies, and the home front.
- May 1917: The federal government and the college sign a contract which converts considerable portions of the campus and educational facilities to military instruction.
- June 15, 1917: The Army begins sending units of 300 recruits to the campus for training every two months.
- April 1918: Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.) was formed on Pullman campus along with 156 colleges and universities. The program ended with the war and produced no commissioned officers. Many of the WSC students within the program entered into the enlisted ranks of the active duty.
- October 1918: WSC is hit with Spanish Flu which stops classes (over 800 students infected) and multiple buildings on campus are converted into hospitals. Sadly the illness killed 40 Army cadets on campus.
- November 7, 1918: Third Army is activated at Chaumont, France, with orders to disband and disband German forces during World War I. Five days later, WWI ends in victory for the Allies.
- November 11, 1918: World War I ends (Some countries note the signing of the Treaty of Versailles being signed June 28, 1919 ends WWI).
- Shortly after the Armistice ending the war is signed, the Army cancels the contract sending units of 300 recruits to the campus for training every 2 months.
- February 20, 1919: Class project delivers Cougar fight song by Zella Melcher.
- October 28, 1919: The cougar becomes the official mascot of WSC.
- November 28, 1925: Herbert "Batsy" Meecker (ROTC alumni) stars on the gridiron.
- July 1927: Silver Lake, also known as Lake de Puddle, is drained for completing Hollibaugh Fieldhouse in 1929.
- July 1927: After Washington Governor Roland Hartley presents the college with its first live cougar mascot at ballgame of a game in 1927, it is quickly named Batsy in Herbert "Batsy" Meecker's honor.
- October 24, 1929: Wall Street Crash of 1929 started, known as "Black Thursday" and continued until October 29, 1929 "Black Tuesday."
- March 3, 1931: "The Star Spangled Banner" officially became the National Anthem by law (Title 36, U.S. Code 170).
- July 1936: WSC art student, Randall Johnson, creates the first cougar head logo.
- August 1939: There are 235 ROTC programs in the country.
- September 1939: World War II begins in Europe.

1920

- December 7, 1941: The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the college began housing and training soldiers to meet the challenges of World War II. Aviation, Japanese language, signal corps, radio, and gunnery are taught under government contract.
- May 15, 1942: Women's Army Corps (WAC), a U.S. Army unit created during World War II to enable women to serve in noncombat positions and converted to an active duty status on July 1, 1943.
- December 1942: The Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) was a military training program during World War II (instituted on 227 colleges; training focused on engineering, medicine, psychology, personnel psychology, and 34 different foreign languages) and ended February 18, 1944. Soldiers returned to active duty.
- 1943: The majority of veterinary students (freshmen to seniors) at WSC in 1943 resigned commissions in the Medical Administrative Corps (MAC) to join the enlisted reserve corps under Captain Henry Burdette. The students were assigned to duty in the Army Specialized Training Program and were officially designated Company C, ASTP.
- September 23, 1943: Cougar football suspended for the duration of WWII.
- January 1944: WSC Creamery produces the first can of Cougar Gold Cheese.
- May 17, 1944: Liberty ship named after WSC president explodes at naval base (Disaster ends a ship honoring E.A. Bryan has significant social impact).
- June 6, 1944: D-Day, France was liberated when the U.S. and its Allies stormed Normandy Beach (the pass used was "Mickey Mouse"). The official name of the operation was "Operation Overlord."
- May 25, 1945: The football program resumes under Coach Phil Sarboe, a 1922 WSC graduate.
- May 1945: VE Day, Germany surrenders.
- August 6, 1945: The 1st atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan (dropped by a plane named the *Enola Gay*).
- August 9, 1945: The 2nd atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.
- September 2, 1945: World War II ends.
- January 1946: Post-WWII construction at WSC was marked by the importing of many temporary buildings to handle the boom of returning soldier students.
- February 1946: The Cold War began between the U.S. and Soviet Union.
- September 23, 1946: A surge in military veterans enrolling as students results in admission requirements imposed to manage enrollment. As World War II comes to an end, enrollment at WSC passes 5,000, signaling the return of C.I. and a drop in war-related employment.
- 1947: The Department of the Army was established by the National Security Act of 1947. It was previously known as the War Department.
- June 10, 1948: CPT Clayton H. Mickelson, DVM (WSU class of 1939) wins the Distinguished Service Cross for Heroism as an Army veterinarian. CPT Mickelson is 1 of 12 veterinarians who were in various units during WWII and were later POWs during the Japanese occupation. CPT Mickelson was captured and died as a POW on February 4, 1945 at Okyoku Maru voyage.
- February 20, 1949: President Holland's dedication of LTC Ira Christian Rumberg Rifle Range.
- August 10, 1949: Department of Defense was created.
- May 1950: The Uniform Code of Military Justice was enacted.
- June 25, 1950: A massive artillery barrage from the North signals the beginning of the Korean War.
- 1954: Remaining American divisions were withdrawn from Korea.
- September 1954: Cuba (from 1931) and TUB (from 1901) torn down.
- August 17, 1955: President Eisenhower signed the Code of Conduct.
- November 1955: Vietnam War begins. At WSU, students organized anti-Vietnam War protests and sit-ins on campus.
- June 14, 1956: The Army flag was dedicated. Also the 181st Anniversary of the U.S. Army.
- November 11, 1956: The army song "The Army Goes Rolling Along" was dedicated by the Secretary of the Army. It was not officially announced until December 12, 1957. Originally known as the "Caisson Song," it was composed by Lt. Edmund L. Gruber in 1908.
- July 1959: From WSU to WSU, Washington State College officially becomes Washington State University.
- July 1962: WSU joins Athletic Association of Western Universities, the precursor of today's Pac-12.
- September 24, 1962: The compulsory ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program was changed to voluntary, reflecting a greater focus on academics at WSU.

1960

- August 1969: In 1969, the program that is today known as the WSU College of Nursing accepted its first class of 37 students.
- 1970: The WSU campus is rife with Vietnam war protests and student unrest.
- 1970: First female cadets entered ROTC program across the states due to a successful 1969 pilot program.
- May 5, 1970: Students occupy the French Administration Building to protest the invasion of Cambodia.
- 1973: The majority of American troops pulled out of Vietnam.
- April 30, 1975: Vietnam War ends.
- November 4, 1979: Iran Hostage Crisis.
- May 18, 1980: Mount St. Helens erupts, leaving a thin layer of ash on campus.
- October 25, 1983: The Grenada Operation commenced.
- August 27, 1984: For the first time in the University's history, WSU uses an early start semester academic calendar.
- December 1989: Operation Just Cause. U.S. Army forces supported by the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy, participated in Operation Just Cause—the invasion of Panama.
- March 28, 1990: WSU celebrates its 100th anniversary.
- August 2, 1990: Gulf War begins. Army deploys to Kuwait for Operation Desert Shield.
- January 1991: Marlin Fitzwater announces, "The liberation of Kuwait has begun." "The air war started Operation Desert Storm begins.
- January 17, 1991: At 2:38 a.m. (local time) or January 16 at 6:38 a.m. CST due to an 8 hour time difference, with an Apache helicopter attack, U.S. warplanes attack Baghdad, Kuwait and other military targets in Iraq.
- February 24, 1991: Operation Desert Storm ground campaign begins.
- February 28, 1991: Operation Desert Storm ends and Gulf War ends.
- December 1991: Dissolution of the USSR and the Cold War.
- February 1992: U.S. and Russia sign a treaty officially ending the Cold War.
- April 6, 1992: Bosnian War begins (in Bosnia and Herzegovina).
- October 3, 1993: Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia. Operation Restore Hope began December 8, 1992. 10th Mountain Division support of Task Force Ranger "Mogadishu Mile."
- November 11, 1993: WSU Veterans Memorial finds home on campus.
- October 3, 1993: G.I. Jobs magazine salutes WSU efforts. WSU ranks among the nation's top 15 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools providing the most opportunities and support to American veterans pursuing their education, according to G.I. Jobs magazine.
- September 2010: Operation Iraqi Freedom ends. Operation New Dawn begins.
- December 15, 2011: Operation New Dawn ends.
- September 18, 2012: Memorandum of Understanding signed guaranteeing 5 cadet applicant enrollments each year into the College of Nursing.
- September 18, 2013: WSU Veterans Center opened.
- June 15, 2014 to Present: Operation Inherent Resolve. Part of the military intervention against ISIL, the Iraqi Civil War (2014–2017), Global War on Terrorism, and the Syrian Civil War.
- December 28, 2014: Operation Enduring Freedom ends.
- January 2015: Support Mission for Operation Inherent Resolve. Part of the military intervention against ISIL, the Iraqi Civil War (2014–2017), Global War on Terrorism, and the Syrian Civil War.
- June 11, 2015: WSU sets M1 enrollment record for the BDE of 80 cadets.
- March 28, 2015: WSU celebrates its 125th anniversary.
- May 5, 2017: WSU Cadet Samantha Micholich ranked number 6 out of 5,404 commissioning cadets (also made top ten on the WSU Dean's list).
- August 2018: WSU sets M1 enrollment record for the BDE of 80 cadets.
- August 2019: There are 273 ROTC programs in the country.

National ROTC Insignia (1816-Present)

WSU and WWII Military Programs at WSU (1918 & 1945)

WSU Department of Military Science Insignia (1910-Present)

1910-1927

1927-1929

1929-1959

1959-1988

1988-Present