

Sound



Off!

A s s o c i a t i o n o f R e t i r e d M i l i t a r y M u s i c i a n s

2009/2010 Officers

- Bill von Kamp—President and Entertainment Chairman
- Jimmy Belcher—Vice President
- Mike Noland—Treasurer
- Deby Kidney—Secretary
- Jim McCraw—Chaplain
- Frank Hill—Historian

Serving ARMM:

- Mike Mideiros—Webmaster
- Allen Lawless—*Sound Off!* Editor

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82nd Airborne Band in the 'Stan

By 1SG Jeff Harper

Greetings to our many retired comrades from the All American Band as we wrap up our mission in Afghanistan. Our young men and women have achieved many significant benchmarks over the past year and I would like to take a moment and share a few with you.

Starting our deployment, the Band travelled south from Bagram Airfield to Kabul where we performed for General Stanley McChrystal's assumption as the International Security Assistance Force commander for Afghanistan. It was a significant ceremony in that the new commander brought a different approach to how we conduct operations in Afghanistan, especially concerning interaction with local nationals.

Over the course of our deployment, the Band performed for senators and congressional representatives, ambassadors and senior ranking military officials. Performances represented

every major holiday and the unit performed for countless morale functions, runs, barbeques and casino nights in support of our service members and civilians on Forward Operating Bases throughout Afghanistan. In this time of decreased MWR resources and increased danger, your legacy as military musicians was omnipresent.

The 82nd also had a central role in our partnership/mentorship mission with the Afghan National Army (ANA) Bands and the National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA) Band. Working in groups or one-on-one relationships, our soldiers passed on the best traditions, performance techniques and practical factors to musicians that started from scratch with no civil or military musical infrastructure in place. Topping off our year in Afghanistan, the NMAA Cadet appreciation day highlighted one of our very own as the first female in uniform to sing the Afghan National Anthem in Dari as a part of the ceremony. During rehearsal, cadets broke formation and rushed the stage to get pictures of the event. She was immediately lauded by senior Afghan officers and has no doubt set a high mark in US Afghan military relations without firing a shot.

I could not be prouder of the accomplishments of our service members and am honored to have served with them one last time before I join your ranks. All the best to you from Bagram, Afghanistan.

Ed. Note: 1SG Jeff Harper is the First Sergeant with the 82nd Airborne Division Band. On a personal note, I am honored and proud to have served with Jeff in the 298th Army Band in Berlin, some 20-odd years ago. Jeff is winding up his career and is looking forward to returning home to his wife Sarah and retirement.



Redstone Groundbreaking Ceremony for the AMC Band

Information extracted from the 1/23/2010 issue of the Huntsville (AL) Times (article written by Kenneth Kesner); and the U.S. Army Band web site at <http://bands.army.mil>.

Redstone Arsenal is getting an Army band next year. Specifically, the home of America's missile and space programs is getting the Army Materiel Command (AMC) Band which is currently stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

To prepare for the move, Redstone Arsenal broke ground on a brand-new state-of-the-art facility encompassing 16,000 sq. ft. Total contracted cost for the structure is \$4.3 million.

Several decades have transpired since Redstone Arsenal hosted a band, but the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decision of 2005 is changing that. Huntsville welcomed the idea of an Army band in an appropriate ceremony this past January. The AMC brass quintet helped support the festivities at the groundbreaking ceremony, which was attended by Army and local leaders.

According to ARMM President and Entertainment Chairperson for the 2010 ARMM Reunion [see article below], the AMC Band



may support ARMM's reunion—this despite the fact that the band is scheduled to begin moving from Aberdeen Proving Ground this November with the move completed in March 2011.

According to the referenced sources, the band will be supporting the community long before that date with a concert scheduled at Huntsville High School on March 21.

The Army Materiel Command is located in not fewer than 140 locations around the



globe. The AMC Band has supported those operations in Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Afghanistan. Evidently the band is no stranger to travel and supports AMC soldiers wherever they might be.

Also referenced in the Huntsville Times article is the term "breakout group", referring to the AMC Band Brass Quintet. This seems to indicate that the band program has been reorganized to the extent that such groups are inherent to any Army band, whereas in years past, such groups would largely depend on available musicians. The AMC Band features other "breakout groups" such as a woodwind quintet, the jazz combo "Hazardous Material" and "Raw Material", another ensemble that features rock and pop tunes. This is in addition to the expected concert band and ceremonial band.

Congratulations to the AMC Band!



2010 Reunion News and President's Message By Bill von Kamp



Since my last writing, I have had several confirmations for the

September reunion.

As a reminder, it will be in Huntsville, AL on 16,17,18 September, 2010. The hotel is the Holiday Inn Research Park and the number to call for reservations is 1-800-845-7275 or 1-256-830-0600. Our reservation code is ARM. If you have any difficulties, ask

for Leslie Walker.

The room rate is \$92.00 plus tax. Our registration fee is \$25.00 each for member and spouse. Any additional guest will be \$50.00 each. This fee should be sent to me with check or money order payable to William von Kamp. My address is 4106 Toftoy Dr, Huntsville, AL 35805. Telephone 1-256-533-1674 and email suevkamp@aol.com. If this year's dues have not been paid, please contact Mike Noland on this matter.

I met the new commander of the AMC Band which is scheduled to be reassigned here in 2011 [see related article above]. He is CW4 Peter Gillies. There's a chance that we will get a combo for our Saturday dance. I'll keep on top of this. On a more official note, we have mentioned that there are a couple of proposed changes to our bylaws. Harry Booth is presently putting this into proper form and they will be posted in our next letter. Please read them over care-

fully and don't hesitate to ask questions if you feel that you should. These changes will be voted on in September. We are also looking for someone who is adept enough with computers to establish and operate our web site. If anyone is interested, please contact me or Deby Kidney. She can be reached at 1-757-879-0588 or kepik@aol.com.

So for now, let's set our sights on Huntsville in September and get ready for a good time.

News and Events from Other Service Bands

NORFOLK – Nearly 2,000 active duty and retired military members, civic leaders, and residents of the Hampton Roads area braved the elements to attend the 14th annual “Salute to Veterans” concert on November 6. Held in beautiful Chrysler Hall in downtown Norfolk, Va. and free to the public, the concert was a combined musical effort that included members of numerous military bands from throughout America’s First Region.

U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) sponsored the event, and the theme of this year’s concert, “Defenders of Freedom – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow,” was reiterated by the USJFCOM Chief of Staff in his remarks at the beginning of the event. “We at Joint Forces Command are extremely proud and extremely grateful of those who are in harm’s way tonight as we pause to enjoy some music and pay tribute to those veterans who have served and are serving right now,” Air Force Maj. Gen. David M. Edgington said.

The performing ensemble was a combined military band, comprised of members from the U.S. Fleet Forces Band; U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Band; U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band; Marine Detachment, Armed Forces School of Music; and the U.S. Coast Guard Band.

One of the participating members from the U.S. Fleet Forces Band, flute player MU2 Heather Downing, spoke about her experience in the multi-service band. “It was an honor for me to perform in this concert. I would like to thank our veterans for the



sacrifices they have made on behalf of our nation. I have enjoyed this opportunity to rehearse and perform alongside members from other services, and I wish we could do more multi-service concerts throughout the year.”



One bandmaster from each of the five participating military units conducted a portion of the concert. Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Bissel, Director of the U.S. Fleet Forces Band, conducted “Victory at Sea” by Richard Rod-

gers, arr. Bennett, and “If You’re Reading This” by Tim McGraw, arr. MU1 Justin Skorupa. MU2 Hilario Mireles and MU3 Sarah Janiak provided the vocals on the latter. The Senior Enlisted Leaders of the bands representing each service conducted their portions of The Armed Services Medley. MUCM Jon Pasch represented the U.S. Navy while conducting Anchors Aweigh.

Among the many veterans attending the performance was the evening’s honored guest, retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Grant S. Williams, Sr., one of the original Tuskegee Airmen. He offered words of encouragement to the men and women serving in uniform.

“I tell the young people not to let anybody tell them that they can’t be something or be somebody. If they put their mind to it and stick to their guns and follow through with whatever they do and do it to the best of their ability then they can do anything,” Williams said.

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Ed. Note: Many thanks to MU1 Erin Horn, Editor of the Navy Band Program’s newsletter Program Notes for permission to reprint both articles on this page. Program Notes is published by the Navy Band Program each quarter and can be viewed at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyMusic/PGRMNOTES.htm>.

Photo credits—top photo, MU3 Trent Perrin from the US Fleet Forces Band; bottom photo, featured vocalist from the Air Force Heritage Band of America. DOD Photos by SSgt. Joe Laws, USAF.

Navy Drops Doubling Requirement

By MUCM Scott Williams, Navy Bands Office

Effective 1 January 2009, the doubling requirement for the Musician rating has been deleted. Here’s how it will be implemented: New hires will audition only on one instrument, unless they desire to double and have the required proficiency level at the initial audition. This can usually be determined during pre-screening.

MUs at “A” and “C” school may elect to drop their secondary NEC prior to graduation via a 1306/7 •

MUs currently assigned to bands may drop their secondary NEC upon transfer via a 1306/7 •

Those who wish to retain a secondary NEC must display a level of ability equal to that expected of a primary NEC. This will be documented by a 1306/7 from the individual requesting to retain the SNEC, and will require a command endorsement attesting that the person meets or exceeds the performance standards for that instrument. This change affects flute, clarinet, saxophone, and euphonium instrumentalists. MU1 Horn has already begun calling recent auditionees (primarily flute and clarinet players) who were qualified

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Poundin' Sand 2010, Three Ensembles, Two Bands, One Rockin' Night!

By SGT Brian Badgley
56th Army Band, 1st Armored Division Band

From Army Bands Online—<http://bands.army.mil>

You may have thought of it as your average Friday night on Camp Victory, maybe you were spending some quiet time in your CHU, or maybe you were spending some time at the MWR watching a movie or making a phone call home. However, if you were one of the 250 people who made their way over to the Green Bean patio on January 29th, you would have been witness to a truly remarkable event. The music was crankin' and the cigar smoke was filling the air, and members of the 56th Army Band and 1st Armored Division Band were busy rockin' out. Poundin' Sand 2010, the first time that a collaborative show took place between three rock ensembles of two different Army Bands with one common mission: To rock the boots off the Soldiers of Camp Victory.

The show began with a set by Tuffboxx and the Baghdad Horns from the 56th Army Band, playing a mixture of classic rock, ska, and punk rock. Tuffboxx has been entertaining troops throughout Iraq for the past 11 months, traveling by convoy, rotary flights and fixed-wing aircraft to countless Forward Operating Bases and Joint Security Stations. This night marked the final time that Tuffboxx would perform in theatre.

Next up was the 1st Armored Division's own rock ensemble The Dirty Hescoes. Just arriving in theatre less than a month ago, this marked the first time that the members of the Dirty Hescoes were able to bring their full show to a live audience here in Iraq. Playing music

from the 1990's and 2000's the Dirty Hescoes established themselves as the new go-to ensemble for rock music for US Division-Central. They entertained the crowd with an eclectic mix of music such as Bush's "Machine Head", Rage Against the Machine's "Killin' in the Name of", Jimi Hendrix's "Fire", and Stevie Wonder's "Superstition", featuring a free-style rap by the Dirty Hescoes own SGT Jay Simpson.

The final act of the night was the 56th Army Bands modern rock ensemble, Sunburn. Also marking their last performance in Iraq, the members of Sunburn pulled out all the stops this evening. They thrilled the crowd with a high-energy performance that had them climbing on picnic tables, crowd surfing and jumping from place to place as they performed their music.

Throughout the course of the past year Sunburn has developed a cult-like following of fans and this evening the fans let them know just how much they appreciated their music.

After Sunburn finished their programmed set the crowd remained in place demanding four separate encores, to which the band members were happy to comply.

This night was not only about entertaining the troops, but it also symbolically marked the changing of the guard of Army Bands here on VBC. With the 56th Army Band completing their tour here in Iraq and redeploying in the next month, this event marked the completion of their mission and provided a chance to say thanks to the troops and civilian workers that supported them in the past year. But at the same time the members of the 1st Armored Division made their presence on VBC known, and the residents of VBC know know that the 1st Armored Division is here to provide the same outstanding band support they have come to expect.

Photo by SGT Rob Lawson



Navy Doubling Requirement

(Continued from page 3)

on a primary, but weakness on the secondary necessitated a regret, to tell them the news. Just within a short amount of time this has produced new enlistments, and we should expect to see the results of this arriving in our bands early next year. Incidentally, this news has traveled VERY fast through the flute and clarinet communities, and we've gotten many inquiries that should result in auditions. Bear in mind that the time lag from "auditionee" to "rated MU" is from 9 to 18 months due to DEP time, two months at RTC, and up to six months at SOM prior to reporting to the first band.



Secretary's Notes

Deby Kidney, ARMM Secretary



When I accepted this position, one of the things I was adamant about was finding new ways to introduce ARMM to those military band members who may not know about us. To that end, I recently set up a page for ARMM on Facebook, one of the largest social networking sites on the web. It gives us a huge presence to some folks that we haven't been able to reach otherwise. Currently there are 187 Facebook ARMM members, most of whom are not dues-paying. From here it's just a matter of introducing these potential members to our organization and turn them into dues-paying folks. I am excited about the potential for the use of this type of technology to increase our membership.



Chaplain's Corner

Jim McCraw, ARMM Chaplain



Here are some things I have been thinking about with the possibility of ARMM becoming AMM. Based on my observations at our 2009 reunion, most if not all of us have been around long enough to have experienced a few transitions. A transition can be our joining or becoming a part of a group or association, or it can be a group receiving us as a new member. Either way there is transition required. As a new member, there can be a bit of anxiety as to whether or not we will fit or blend in. If joining the group is voluntary rather than necessary like a job, the blending in is not as serious as needing a job, but it is fairly common that we all like to belong to something and not making it can leave us with a feeling of what did I do, or not do? Being the new member requires in most cases that we make an effort to belong, blend, fit or whatever. In most cases we can figure out how long we want to stick around. If the case is a group not receiving the new person and they leave, then it is not going to universally be felt that the group was at fault. More than likely most will feel that the group was fine before the new person, so there was no need to change to accommodate a new member. A group has a distinct personality, and generally members will take the opportunity to grow into the group. If the group is ingrown and not willing to make room then it will not grow. In either case, the responsibility is on us as individuals to make the transition successful. The obligation of the new member is pretty obvious, however; the successful group depends on the membership. Either case requires maturity. God bless you all.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Noland, ARMM Treasurer

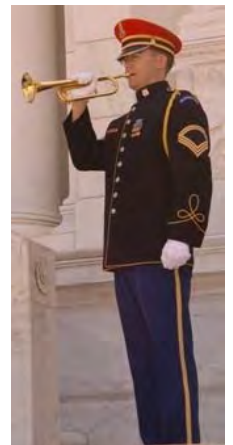


We presently have \$8,179.46 in our checking account. There are still several members who have not paid their 2010 dues and your 2010 dues must be paid to attend the reunion in Huntsville, AL.

Taps



There have been no reports of deaths of ARMM members or spouses since the last newsletter.





A s s o c i a t i o n o f R e t i r e d M i l i t a r y M u s i c i a n s

ARMM's Mission

The Association of Retired Military Musicians is a fraternal organization that strives to preserve the proud tradition of military music. Military musical ensembles don't just play marches and ceremonial music—today's audience demands much more than that, and with panache to boot!

Membership is open to any and all who have served in a military musical organization, whether a band, orchestra, fife & drum corps, or a vocal group.

Contact Information:

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