



Sound Off!

Association of Military Musicians

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Army Materiel Command Band Moves to Redstone Arsenal

HUNTSVILLE, AL -- At first glance, the official opening of the Army Materiel Command Band's new headquarters building on Redstone Arsenal Monday morning seemed like just another ribbon-cutting ceremony.

But the bright music performed by the AMC Brass Quintet was also heralding a summer finale to the command's relocation under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decision.

"The band building is the first step in AMC's move down here," said Lt. Gen. James Pillsbury, deputy commanding general. "We're looking forward to many more events like this" before June.

That's when AMC's own more than 400,000-square-foot headquarters is to open and its four-star commander, Gen. Ann Dunwoody, will transfer the flag to Redstone Arsenal from Fort Belvoir, Va.

Pillsbury, a former commander of Redstone and the Aviation and Missile Command, is already here, as are about 720 of AMC's expected 1,354 positions.

"It is great for Becky and I to be back home at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama," he said Monday. "You just don't know."

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Gillies, the AMC Band commander, is also glad to be here and, for the first time, in a building designed for the band's needs.

His new headquarters is 16,082 state-of-the-art square feet dedicated to the band's musical mission. It features a large rehearsal room, individual practice rooms, a music library, uniform lockers, space for instrument storage, cleaning and repair, offices and more.

Until now, the band was housed in a converted hospital, theater, NCO club or other old building. Band members did what they could with partitions and such, Gillies said, "but if the rock band was playing then you couldn't do anything else in

the rest of the building."

Now, the rockers and other breakout groups have their own soundproof rooms and don't have to spend hours setting up and tearing down their equipment.

Ground was broken for the band's new home in January 2010. The contractor, Dyson Construction of Decatur, handed over the keys to the LEED-certified "green" building in December - three months early.

"We've been (in) here a month and it feels like home already," Gillies said.

More than 20 musicians are here now, he said. A few more are still to relocate from the band's former headquarters at Aberdeen Proving

Ground in Maryland, and still more will come from Army bands around the world. About 40 will be here by summer, and there could be up to 60 over the next couple of years.

The Army musicians have already worked with students in local middle and

high schools, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, and have provided some Christmas music in the area, said Curtis Clark, deputy to the Redstone Arsenal garrison commander.

"This a great day for Redstone, a great day for our community," he said. "These fine soldiers, their presence has already been felt."

For Specialist Joshua Coutts of Hartselle, being at the arsenal is a kind of homecoming. He plays guitar for the jazz band and percussion in the ceremonial band.

Coutts was assigned to the AMC band in December, after he graduated from basic training and the Army school of music.

"It's been great," he said. "I get to come back and see my family and see my friends."

"I didn't even know they were moving a band

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2011 Reunion to be Held in Columbia, SC

Gary Hartman, Entertainment Chairman

Greetings, fellow members. I hope that your location no longer has any snow. The cold weather may have also affected the functionality of your pens, computers, or phones, as we have not made much progress towards receiving reservations for both the reunion and hotel accommodations. I get monthly updates from my hotel contact person, and I can count on one hand the number of reservations made so far.

Please, do not, I repeat, **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to get your reservations in. A lack of hotel reservations will cause a significant financial cost to AMM. Reunion reservations coming to me are used to fund the banquet meal and the Hospitality Room. See the main page for more information.

We hope to offer incentives for those attending this fall, but you won't find out what those are until the event. I am currently negotiating a contract with a dance combo for our Saturday night dance after the banquet. Some of the usual events are still being planned, but are pending a specific time due to other activities scheduled at the hotel. The event schedule will be posted in the next newsletter as details are

finalized. Also, various items of interest in the Columbia area will also be provided, both in the newsletter and in your Reunion Welcome Packet upon your arrival.

Looking forward to seeing everyone from September 15—18, 2011. Stay warm and safe.

Don't delay! Make your reservation NOW at:

*Radisson Hotel Columbia & Conference Center
2100 Bush River Road
Columbia, SC 29210
Telephone: Toll-free: 1-800-395-7046
Rate: \$109 (plus tax) Single/Double Occupancy (mention "AMM" to get the special discounted rate).*

Registration for the Reunion itself is \$50 per person. Please fill out the enclosed registration form, make your check payable to "Gary Hartman" and mail to:

Gary Hartman
217 Ringwood Ln.
Elgin, SC 29045-9138; phone: 803-530-6081

P r e s i d e n t ' s M e s s a g e

By Dave Ratliff

SIX MONTHS! The 2011 AMM Reunion is in six months - where does time go? I hope the return visit to Columbia is as enjoyable as the first.

We will not be able to attend the Basic Combat Training Graduation this year - graduations are now conducted on Thursday mornings instead of Friday. But there are still many things to do and see on Ft Jackson and in the

Columbia area. If you haven't made your reservations, please do so soon - it will help Gary with the arrangements. I'll let Gary discuss the reunion in his article.

Membership - we need to grow. We need to reach those wearing the uniform today and those who recently finished their service. How do we do this? Word of mouth, friends, Facebook, Twitter - there are many options available. If you live near a

band - Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard, go visit and introduce yourself and AMM. Personal contact is the best way to get new members. But we cannot forget our older members. I am not talking about age but those who were the backbone of the original ARMM for the past 25 years. They created the organization and saw it grow. We need to thank them and hopefully do that in person.



Hopefully your Spring and Summer will not be as difficult as your Winter. See you in September!

Dave

SHAPE International Band — “The Best Gig”

By Bruce Malone (1SG, Retired)

From 2001 to 2004 I had the privilege of serving as the Bandmaster for the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) International Band near Mons, Belgium. In US military bands, the position of commander is usually held by a Commissioned or Warrant Officer, but this is a very unique assignment in that the position of commander is filled by a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, a US Army First Sergeant. In addition to having the normal duties of a First Sergeant, the SHAPE Bandmaster must lead the band in high profile ceremonies often involving Heads of State or Foreign Ministers, so the selection and assignment process is tougher than usual. Care is taken to ensure the soldier chosen has the appropriate military and musical leadership abilities.



During my tenure, the SHAPE International Band consisted of fourteen Americans (10 US Army, 4 US Air Force), three Italians (2 Army, 1 Navy), one Norwegian (Army) and one German (Navy). While the US manning remains the same, the European representation varies. Having these different nationalities working closely together provides for an enriching, intercultural experience.

The primary mission of the band was to support the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe through ceremonies, social functions and community relations. We fielded a Ceremonial Band, Jazz Band,

Rock Band, Jazz Combo, Chateau Combo, plus various soloists as needed. Unlike US military bands, however, we functioned without a budget. For official military and NATO performances the band performed for free, but for civilian community relations events, we charged a fee depending on the size of the group and the length of the performance. So, instead of managing a budget on a spreadsheet, the band maintained an official cash bank account. From this account we could make purchases for just about anything.

By far, our most popular performing group was the SHAPE Jazz Orchestra. Based on the instrumentation of a standard big band, this group's diverse repertoire included selections ranging from Count Basie, Glenn Miller and the "old standards" to present-day composers like Rob McConnell and Bob Mintzer. We travelled to towns throughout England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany providing excellent music and entertainment for very appreciative audiences while demonstrating the cooperation of the 26 NATO nations.

I found this assignment so fulfilling. I was surrounded by a diverse ensemble of outstanding musicians who could do some incredible things, sometimes on very short notice. As a professional arranger, I found many opportunities – many times out of necessity – for writing so many different styles of music for an ever-changing instrumentation. I scratched out everything from driving big band charts to national anthems of the new NATO nations to the theme from the Andy Griffith Show.

Current Active Duty Army Bands

- [1ST ARMORED DIVISION BAND](#) WIESBADEN GERMANY
- [1ST CAVALRY DIVISION BAND](#) FT. HOOD TX
- [1ST INFANTRY DIVISION BAND](#) FT. RILEY KS
- [2ND INFANTRY DIVISION BAND](#) UIJONGBU KOREA
- [3RD INFANTRY DIVISION BAND](#) FT. STEWART GA
- [4TH INFANTRY DIVISION BAND](#) FORT CARSON CO
- [8TH US ARMY BAND](#) SEOUL KOREA
- [9TH ARMY BAND](#) FORT WAINWRIGHT ALASKA
- [10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION BAND](#) FORT DRUM NEW YORK
- [25TH INFANTRY DIVISION BAND](#) SCHOFIELD BKS HAWAII
- [36TH ARMY BAND](#) FT. HUACHUCA AZ
- [56TH ARMY BAND](#) JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD WA
- [62ND ARMY BAND](#) FT. BLISS TX
- [77TH ARMY BAND](#) FT. SILL OK
- [82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION BAND](#) FT. BRAGG NC
- [98TH ARMY BAND](#) FT. RUCKER AL
- [101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION BAND](#) FORT CAMPBELL KY
- [113TH ARMY BAND](#) FT. KNOX KY
- [282ND ARMY BAND](#) FORT JACKSON SC
- [399TH ARMY BAND](#) FT. LEONARD WOOD MO
- [SHAPE INTERNATIONAL BAND](#) CASTEAU BELGIUM
- [THE ARMY GROUND FORCES BAND](#) FT. MCPHERSON GA
- [THE FORT LEE ARMY BAND](#) FT. LEE VA
- [THE OLD GUARD FIFE & DRUM CORPS](#) FT. MYER VA
- [THE U.S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND BAND](#) FT. SAM HOUSTON TEXAS
- [THE UNITED STATES ARMY BAND "PERSHING'S OWN"](#) FT. MYER VIRGINIA
- [THE UNITED STATES ARMY FIELD BAND](#) FORT MEADE MD
- [U.S. ARMY JAPAN BAND](#) CAMP ZAMA JAPAN
- [U.S. ARMY MANEUVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE BAND](#) FT BENNING GA
- [U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND BAND](#) REDSTONE ARSENAL AL
- [U.S. ARMY SCHOOL OF MUSIC](#) VIRGINIA BEACH VA
- [U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS BAND](#) FORT GORDON GA
- [U.S. ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND BAND](#) FT. MONROE VA
- [U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY BAND](#) WEST POINT NY
- [USAREUR BAND AND CHORUS](#) HEIDELBERG GERMANY

Source: <http://bands.army.mil/bands/aa/>

Army Ground Forces Band getting new building

By Henry Cuningham
www.fayobserver.com

When Forces Command headquarters moves to Fort Bragg from Atlanta one thing that comes with the command is its own 64-person band.

The 2005 Base Closure and Realignment law directed the Army's largest command relocate to Fort Bragg from Fort McPherson in Atlanta, band and all, no later than Sept. 15 of this year.

For decades, Fort Bragg has had the two-star 82nd Airborne Division Band. Now the Army post also will be the home of the four-star Army Ground Forces Band.

Forces Command sends out its band and its various ensembles for parades, concerts and ceremonies.

The Army Ground Forces Band's ensembles include a concert band, ceremonial band, jazz band, show band, brass quintet, woodwind quintet, Dixieland band and jazz/pop combo.

Officials said most of the band's members have studied music at universities and conservatories. The band also holds free clinics and master classes for college, high school and middle school music students.

To house the band, a \$4.6 million, 18,748-square-foot building is under construction.

The building, surrounded by barracks, is near Burger King on an acre site at Gruber Road and Semaphore Street in the Smoke Bomb Hill area of Fort Bragg.

The walls of the Band Training Facility's rehearsal and practice rooms are being built three layers thick, and the cinderblocks are being filled in with grout.

"We don't want the barracks to be hearing us when they practice," said George Blackard, a civil engineer with the Fort Bragg Area Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "We have to ensure we're not disturbing our neighbors."

The structure is about 50 percent complete, Blackard said.

"There's not many band buildings being built across the country," Blackard said. "Your maintenance facilities and your barracks have a standard design, but this was an interesting project. We really don't have a standard design."

Construction began in September and is expected to be completed by June 29.

"This is pretty amazing," Maj. Treg Ancelet, the band commander, said during a tour of the construction site. "It's rare for a new building for a band to be built from scratch."

Bands often find themselves based in historical buildings that are not treated for sound at venerable old installations such as Fort McPherson, Ga., or Fort Monroe, Va., Ancelet said.



"Most musicians have personal earplugs because the band rooms are so loud because they are not made for bands," Ancelet said.

A band has different building requirements. The walls are angled to enable the sound to bound around. Conduit is nonmetallic to avoid interfering with sound.

The building includes a state-of-the-art rehearsal hall for a 65-piece band and a rehearsal room for a 25-piece ensemble, such as a jazz band. In addition, there are six small group rehearsal rooms for five to eight players and seven individual practice rooms.

Acoustics is the name of the game for the band building. There's acoustic ceiling tile, wall panels and floor panels.

The main rehearsal hall and group practice rooms have hardwood maple floors for added acoustic benefits. Wood floors are unusual in government buildings, Blackard said.

Other features include an instrument locker room, instrument cleaning area and a steam press for uniforms.

The contractor is Lifecycle Construction Services, a Washington, D.C.-based firm that designs and builds for federal and commercial clients.

At the end of the project, the contractor must hire a sound-testing firm to ensure sound reverberates correctly, Blackard said.



AMC Band—Redstone Arsenal

(Continued from page 1)

down here at that point," he said.

The AMC band has a tight schedule of gigs around the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Pillsbury reminded the crowd that instruments are only an addition to these soldier's packs.

"For those of you that have never served in the Army, these are soldiers first and musicians second," Pillsbury said. "They have got to take care of business first on the soldier side, and then they get a chance to perform."



Text Credits: Kenneth Kesner, The Huntsville Times, Jan. 25, 2011

Photo Credits: Beth Clemons, Army Materiel Command, Jan. 14, 2010. <http://www.army.mil>

Chaplain's Corner

Gary Hartman, AMM Chaplain



Here in Columbia, and Charlotte NC (and maybe other places as well), there is an interesting event occurring called the "Drive Thru Difference". This occurs mostly at highly popular fast food places. To read more about this phenomenon, click on this link: <http://newlife919.com/drivethru-2010.htm> (you may have to copy/paste into your internet browser)

Patrons take a pre-printed announcement with them, go through the Drive Thru lane at an eating establishment, order and pay for their food. When they pick up their order, they give the pre-written announcement to the attendant and pay for the meal(s) ordered by the person(s) in the car behind them. This has caused quite a positive buzz around town. Think about it; what an easy way to help someone you don't know (even more effective than with someone you do know). Hopefully, what goes around, comes around. Some day, you too may be the recipient of someone's gesture with a "Drive Thru Difference."

Peace and Blessings
Gary Hartman

Secretary's Notes

Deby Kidney, AMM Secretary



Deby has no report for this edition.

What's Up on the Web...



Glenn has no report for this edition.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Noland, AMM Treasurer



We presently have \$6937.89 in the treasury. I have received the new redesigned dues cards and will be sending them out when you pay your 2012 dues. We have three new members in our organization whose names are Harold Childs, retired Navy, and Raymond Claes, retired Army. Ronald Wadley is now a Lifetime Member. Another new member is Jayme (French) Coltman who is now a Lifetime Member. I was Jayme's Brass Group Leader at the 101st Airborne Division Band in the early 80's. Talk about this making me feel old.

I also sent 10 emails to members who were behind in their dues and was able to hear from six of them who are now current.

Our new T-shirts are in and are on sale. They have the same logo except that it now says Association of Military Musicians over and below the logo. The colors are black, white, tan, gold, sport gray, and stone blue. All come with black lettering with the exception of the black shirt which has white lettering. The sizes range from medium to XXL. Each shirt is \$10.00 plus \$4.95 S&H. The \$4.95 packet can hold up to three shirts. You can start ordering them as soon as you receive the newsletter. Other styles of shirts will be discussed at the meeting. Please indicate on your order if you are interested in purchasing a ball cap with the logo on it. If there is enough interest in caps then I will check the prices. Please contact me if you have questions on shirts or caps.

Taps



SGM (Retired) James "Dutch" Perry announced the loss of his wife Pauline to brain cancer at age 65. She had been ill for a lengthy period before succumbing on 14 Dec 2010. She and Dutch were married for 43 years. Pauline leaves behind four sons, several grandchildren, and multiple siblings. Our sincere condolences to Dutch and his family.



Jerry Tedesco, born Sept 24, 1937 in Allentown, PA. Jerry passed away peacefully Feb 28, 2011 in Tucson, AZ, surrounded by his friends and family. He was extremely proud of having served in the USAF band. He was an accomplished clarinet and sax musician who played in numerous bands, including his own combo. Jerry was an AMM member.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

HTTP://A-M-M.US

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

AMM's Mission

The Association of 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:

- Dave Ratliff—President. Phone 803-865-0120, email cw5rat@aol.com. Address: 229 Steeple Dr., Columbia, SC 29229
- Harry Booth—Vice President. Phone 804-732-1865, email hbproshop@aol.com. Address: 1928 Walton St., Petersburg, VA 23805
- Gary Hartman—Entertainment Chairman and Chaplain. Phone 803-530-6081, email avguy45@hotmail.com. Address: 217 Ringwood Ln., Elgin, SC 29045
- Mike Noland—Treasurer. Phone 931-552-9877, email waldhorn4@bellsouth.net. Address: 402 Andrew Dr., Clarksville, TN 37042
- Deby Kidney—Secretary. Phone 757-879-0588, email kepik@aol.com. Address: 3815 Fox Hollow, Williamsburg, VA 23188
- Glenn Moore—Webmaster, phone 678-665-2845, email glennrmoore@gmail.com
- Frank Hill—Historian, phone 803-736-6908, email gifrank@bellsouth.net
- Allen Lawless—Newsletter Editor, phone 660-998-4590, email ar_lawless@yahoo.com



402 Andrew Dr.
Clarksville, TN 37042