



Sound Off!

ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY MUSICIANS

2011/2012 OFFICERS

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- Harry Booth—Vice President
- Mike Noland—Treasurer
- Deby Kidney—Secretary

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- Gary Hartman—Chaplain
- Bill Von Kamp—Librarian
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Reunion Update—by *Bill von Kamp*



With just a few weeks left before our 27th reunion, I have most everything planned and put together. We will start out on Thursday (Sept 20) with arrivals and registrations. I hope to have the hospitality room open by 1:00 PM. The remainder of the day will be spent renewing old friendships and exploring Huntsville. If there is enough interest, we may be able to put together a jam session in the evening. We'll play this one by ear.

On Friday (Sept 21), it's more of the same throughout the day with making personal contacts and sightseeing. If you have a scrapbook or pictures, please bring them along, I would, however, suggest that if you bring individual pictures you put them in a protective cover. In the evening, we will have a concert by an element of the AMC Band followed by a jam session hosted by them.

Saturday (Sept 22) will be a full day of activities starting with the usual band rehearsal in the morning, our business meeting in the afternoon and the dinner/

dance in the evening. The dress for this will be casual.

For those who have never been to Huntsville, I encourage you to explore the area. The U. S. Space and Rocket museum is a good starting point. Right next to this is the Botanical Garden. There are two veteran museums (one in Huntsville, and the other in Athens, which is right next to Huntsville), The Museum of Art and lots of shopping and good restaurants.

Once again, the hotel is the Holiday Inn-Research Park; Tel 1-256-830-0600. Our guaranteed rate is \$92.00 plus tax. Please try to make this reservation before Sept 1. The reunion dates are Sept 20-22, but this rate is good for 2 days before and after the event.

The registration fee is \$50.00 per person. This is payable by check or money order to me, William von Kamp; address: 4106 Toftoy Dr, Huntsville, AL 35805; phone: 256-533-1674.

This will be our last notification, so let's get with it and make this a fun time for all. Sue and I look forward to seeing everyone once again.

Short US Army Europe Update

HQ, US Army Europe to move from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden Army Airfield during FY2013. Reason: "...[so] the commanding general has access to the functions he needs to make the coordination process easier." Another quoted reason is to save money. The entire U.S. presence in the Heidelberg community, apart from housing, is to disappear by 2015.

The 33rd Army Band (USAREUR Band and Chorus) is to move to Sembach Kaserne (formerly known as Sembach Air Base) located near Kaiserslautern. This move is also projected for FY2013.

The President's Podium, by Dave Ratliff, AMM President

2012 AMM Reunion Checklist:

1. Call hotel and make reservation – Done
2. Mail check to Bill for hospitality fee – Done
3. Attend 2012 AMM Reunion – On my calendar

All three are important and time is getting short. Bill has all of the details on the Reunion in his update.

Where will the 2013 Reunion be held? No one has contacted me about making a presentation in September. If there is no presentation, what happens? In the 25 plus years that the Association has existed, I do not know of a time when there was no plan for the next Reunion.

We have lost many members this past year and we will take a moment to honor their lives at the Reunion. But we lost other members because they didn't pay their dues. There are thousands of military musicians – have you asked someone to join? Face-to-face, a telephone call, an email or social media – all are

ways to contact people. We need new people to maintain the legacy of AMM.

The election of officers is also a critical element of AMM. We need people to step up and take on the leadership of the Association. As I said in my last update, the Secretary and Treasurer positions require the most time while the President's job is much easier. I will not run again for President. I have always believed that two or three years is long enough to serve and then it is time for a new leader to take over and reenergize the organization. It has been an honor to serve as President of AMM.

See you on September 20 in Huntsville!

Dave



Chaplain's Moment, by Gary Hartman, AMM Chaplain

Well, the best laid plans have good intentions, but in the long run, it falls short of the mark. Yes, I am among the guilty who procrastinated about submitting my AMM Reunion Registration and hotel reservation. But this past month, I got them done (YEA!); only to realize that because I had to take off six weeks from work to recover from hip replacement surgery done on May 30th, all my sick time and vacation time were used up. :-)

So instead of looking forward to an entertaining rehearsal during the reunion (and yelling a traditional "break" after every selection), I have to settle on working to earn a new supply of time off. Despite my over-sightedness, I hope enough members are able to attend to keep the event from being cancelled. During a previous online chat, there was some serious concern about the low response in registrations and reservations.

I trust that everyone has endured the hot temperatures this summer. During a couple of intense storms, many of you may have lost power to your homes for numerous days, or suffered significant damage to your property. I have not experienced either, so I count my blessings. For those planning for the future, consider hosting a reunion with other members in your area. It's a classic example of the more you put in to it, the more you'll get out of it.

Blessings and peace!

Gary Hartman
AMM Chaplain



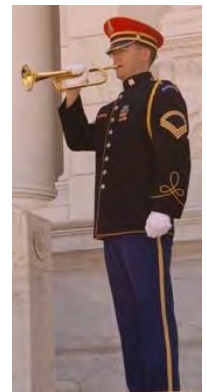
Taps



SSG (Ret.) Thomas W. Trimble, 55, passed away Monday July 16, 2012, after an illness.

Tom served 21 years active duty in the U.S. [Army](#) band program at Ft. Sill, OK: Ft. Campbell, KY; Korea; West Berlin, Germany; and Ft. Stewart. Tom was a veteran of Desert Storm having served in that war with the 24th Infantry Division Band.

Tom is survived by a daughter Kellie Sabie (Aaron); son, Robert Trimble (Jessica); grandchildren, Madelyn, Henry, and Samuel Sabie; brothers, Kevin Trimble Lt. Col USMC (Jennifer), Father James Trimble (Sarah), and David Trimble; ex-wife, Lesa Trimble and a niece and nephews.



Those Small Towns in Germany

It began in the mid-Seventies when the 76th Army Band out of Worms, Germany, became aware of a small town named Einhausen, located about 20 km to the east. The town extended an invitation for the band to come and play, and that they did.

But this was no ordinary gig as the Einhauseners were not ordinary people. Friendships between the band and townspeople were formed and strengthened. The generosity and genuine good spirits of the town were plain to see. The band responded in their performances and time went on. Of particular note was the Einhausen Volunteer Fire Department Band, a 25-person wind ensemble that played much more than standard German oompah. Their music was varied, enthusiastic, and the Musikkorps der freiwilligen Feuerwehr Einhausen was and is the pride of this small town.

In 1975, changes occurred. The 76th Army Band was moved to Kaiserslautern and the soldiers within the band were reassigned elsewhere. The bandmaster, Chief Warrant Officer Richard Saddler, and the enlisted bandleader, Master Sergeant Tom Easley, were sent to Berlin.

Despite the distance and logistics, the relationship between Einhausen and the band leadership continued. Invitations to perform kept coming and the band – this time the 298th in Berlin – kept accepting. All sorts of performances were played, but one that became an annual tradition was performed in November of each



year, mutual schedules permitting.

Einhausen is not a large city. It's a small town and it doesn't have a lot of amenities. Hotels and such simply didn't exist. So when the band arrived out of Berlin, typically via duty train to Frankfurt and then on to Einhausen via chartered bus, the only option for the Einhauseners was to divvy up the soldiers and have the townspeople host them with a place to sleep, plenty of great German cooking, and usually more than just a couple of beers. The band members wanted for nothing – their every wish was fulfilled with a heartfelt smile, especially when the language barrier was simply too much for all parties concerned.

For three weeks in July, 2012, the Einhausen Band toured in three U.S. states. Beginning in Chicago with a performance at the Navy Pier, continuing on to Milwaukee, Wisconsin Dells, WI; New Ulm and Shoreview, MN, the band toured, performed, relaxed, and saw much of the Midwest.

Several Berlin Band alumni, who are older, grayer, and heavier in many cases, accompanied the Einhauseners along the band's tour route to reestablish old friendships, encourage, and support them. Those who did can only hope that the hospitality and genuine good cheer exhibited by our country could in some small way repay the decades of generosity shown to U.S. Army bands out of Worms, Berlin, Kaiserslautern, and Heidelberg.

Treasurer's Report by Mike Noland, AMM Treasurer



As of 27 July 2012, we have \$7,416.29 in the treasury. Just a reminder that your 2012 dues have to be paid before you can attend the reunion. Please try and pay prior to the weekend of the reunion. I will be out of town from 31 July until 20 Aug 2012. I can still be contacted via email and cellphone.

I had a conversation with Dave Ratliff and it was decided that we will not restock on T shirts this year. I have a few left and will bring them down for sale. We will continue our discussion about buying shirts through the AG store at the business meeting. If someone really needs a shirt or two, please contact me and I will

get them from our source in Clarksville.

On another note. I will not be seeking reelection to the office of Treasurer this year. I do plan to present to the members a bid to hold the 2013 reunion back in Clarksville, TN. I have not heard from anyone about presenting a reunion site and I am not going to sit back and allow us to go a year without a reunion. Many of you have been to the past reunions at Clarksville and I can promise you again that you will not be disappointed. I will have all the facts to present to you at the reunion. If anyone else would like to do a presentation, please do as it would be nice to have a choice. For the time being I encourage you to get your forms and money to Bill ASAP and make your reservations. See you in September.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://A-M-M.US](http://A-M-M.US)

ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY MUSICIANS

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.

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