

The 2d Marine Division Band



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Jan/Feb 2014

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 2d Marine Division Rock Band, "Three Round Burst," has been proclaimed the *2013 Marine Corps Small Ensemble of the Year!* They were required to submit a live recording that was judged by a board of the senior enlisted and officers of Marine Musicians. The Marines involved in the Rock Band are: Sgt Drake (NCOIC), Cpl Corderman, Cpl Javaras, Cpl Mills, and Cpl Ramirez. Congratulations Marines and keep up the great work!



The 2d Marine Division Rock Band from left to right: Cpl Javaras (percussion), Cpl Corderman (lead vocals, guitar), Cpl Ramirez (piano), Sgt Drake (NCOIC/ bass guitar), Cpl Mills (percussion).

Promotions

The 2d Marine Division Band's newest promotees are Sgt Drake (bass guitar), Sgt Laderer (saxophone), Sgt Zheng (saxophone), Cpl Rainer (euphonium), and Cpl Ramirez (piano). Congratulations, NCO's!



From left to right: Sgt Drake, Sgt Zheng and Sgt Laderer.



Cpl Rainer and Cpl Ramirez

Welcome Aboard



The 2d Marine Division Band welcomed Sgt Michael Hickey (Trumpet) from 3d Marine Aircraft Wing Band. Sgt Hickey, along with his wife Sarah and soon to come daughter, Aoife, will make a wonderful addition to the 2d Marine Division Band!

Training

Gas Chamber

In the midst of chaos and uncertainty, Marines gain the advantage through their superb training and discipline. They must keep their composure in order to solve complex problems and take ethical and decisive action on the battlefield. The element of chaos in training is never more present than during the Gas Chamber. The 2d Marine Division Band recently successfully completed their annual CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) training, otherwise known as the Gas Chamber.



Above: Sgt Matt prepares for the Gas Chamber.



Above: GySgt Farquhar (Enlisted Conductor) isn't afraid of a little CS Gas.

Coaches Course –

Sgt Matt, Jeremy



The Combat Marksmanship Coaches' Course, a sculpting tool for the Marine Corps' finest shooters, never settles for anything less than perfection. More than 232 years of sharp-shooting history, along with the slogan "Every Marine a Rifleman," still doesn't compare to the level of passion these future coaches must have to be effective on the firing line. According to the combat marksmanship instructor-trainers, coaches must have a passion for what they do. The first week includes an introduction to the Marine Corps Marksmanship Program, coach responsibilities, coaching techniques, disassembly

and assembly, weapons handling and fault check procedures. In addition, the students have discussions focusing on the combat mindset, immediate target engagement and engaging multiple and moving targets. In order to train other Marines and recruits to fire accurately, the students must first master aiming and firing on the major kill areas of their target, which are the head, chest and pelvic areas. Training also consists of night engagement, the unknown distance course, using hand-and-arm signals and testing the students' practical application for all areas of fire. The final training day is what the potential coaches have been waiting for, graduation. The 2d Marine Division Band would like to congratulate Sgt Matt on successfully completing this course!

Recent Performances

Brass Quintet Plays in Afghanistan

The 2d Marine Division Band's Brass Quintet (SSgt Austin Hunt - Trumpet, Sgt Jeremy Matt - Trombone, Cpl Richard Cordiero - Trumpet, Cpl Daniel Cvach -Tuba, Cpl Cameron Murray – French Horn) performed in Afghanistan during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Feb. 5. During the frigid February morning, Marines, Sailors, Coalition partners and Afghan National Security Forces gathered to watch Maj. Gen. W. Lee Miller, Jr., Commanding General, II MEF (Fwd), and Sgt. Maj. Paul Berry, Sergeant Major, II MEF (Fwd), case their unit's battle colors, signifying the end of their command responsibilities in a province that historically saw some of the most intense fighting since 2001.



From top to bottom: Sgt Matt (Trombone), Cpl Murray (French Horn), Cpl Cordiero (Trumpet), SSgt Hunt (Trumpet), Cpl Cvach (Tuba).

Black History Month Parade

Organized in 2009 by Mount Olive residents Vicky Darden and Sheila Oates as a tribute to the African-American community, the Fifth Annual Black History Parade has grown into one of the largest parades on the Eastern seaboard.

The parade has featured many bands and community organizations from all over North Carolina, including the 2d Marine Division Band from Camp Lejeune. In this year's edition, the Marines will join members of Ft. Bragg's Airborne Division to represent the Military contingent of the parade. There is also a reading of Dr. Martin Luther King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

With 250 Entries from the past few years, the parade continues to grow in recognition of the contributions of the African-Americans throughout US history.



The 2d Marine Division Band under the direction of GySgt Farquhar, and Drum Major GySgt Cox.

VMFAT-501 Change of Command

In February, the 2d Marine Division Band traveled via C-130 to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, to perform in a Change of Command Ceremony for VMFAT-501. The mission of Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 is to conduct effective training and operations in the F-35B in coordination with joint and coalition partners in order to successfully attain the annual pilot training requirements.



The 2d Marine Division Band in front of the F-35B.

Featured Fan:

Mr. Pál I. Pusztai

(DoD Senior Intelligence)



Mr. Pusztai: Pál I. Pusztai, GS-14, 54 years old, DoD Senior Intelligence Analyst

2DMDB: Where were you born? Raised? High School? College?

Mr. Pusztai: I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and am currently a product of the Cleveland public school. I graduated from West Technical High School in 1977; later, I earned several degrees at The Essex Community College, The College of Notre Dame of Maryland, and The Joint Military Intelligence College.

2DMDB: Why do you believe music is important to the Marine Corps?

Mr. Pusztai: Music is very important for several reasons: uplifting morale and making special occasions and events more interesting and noteworthy. Also, a military music program is a matter of tradition. Music has been part of the military for centuries. Can you imagine ceremonies, military funerals, and special military events without real musicians playing their instruments? Playing a recording just does not have the same impact. What also tends to be overlooked, especially by those that complain that taxpayer money is being wasted on military music programs, is the community outreach the band provides to not only the military community but to the surrounding civilian community as well.

2DMDB: Who is your idol, or someone you look up to? Why?

Mr. Pusztai: When I was much younger, my idols consisted of a handful of major symphony oboists who provided me with examples to emulate as I continued to develop as a musician. However, now that I am much older and wiser due to life experiences, those idols are long gone. For many years now, my idol has been Jesus Christ-- during his lifetime, he was strong and courageous as well as caring, compassionate and understanding with so much love to offer. He reached out to everyone regardless of their situation.

2DMDB: What is your favorite, or most memorable moment involving a Marine Corps band?

Mr. Pusztai: Performing with the 2d Marine Division Band at the 2013 Holiday Concert! That was an easy question!

2DMDB: How was performing in the 2d Marine Division 2013 Holiday Concert alongside your son, Cpl Jonathan Pusztai?

Mr. Pusztai: I had a blast! Playing in the band along with Jonathan is something that I will always cherish! How many musician parents have had the privilege and honor to perform in a military band where their son or daughter performs? I received many compliments about Jonathan from, not only his fellow Marines, but also from his chain of command. I did my best to behave and not act like a gloating proud Papa!

2DMDB: Any extra words you would like to say about the Marines in the band?

Mr. Pusztai: What a great group! Wonderful musicians! I also found them very professional and hardworking. The members of the 2d Marine Division Band truly give their all in their work. I can say this comfortably, given that I am speaking as a musician, but also the fact that I had performed with them. I also can see why Brigadier General Lukeman was so enthusiastic during his welcome remarks at the concert!

Featured Marine:

Sgt Dylan Drake

(NCOIC of Rock Band)



2DMDB: Where were you born? Raised? High School? College?

Sgt Drake: DuBois, Pennsylvania; born and raised. I attended DuBois Area Senior High School. I do not have college experience.

2DMDB: Why did you decide to join the Marine Corps to be a musician?

Sgt Drake: I wanted to perform with other musicians who had the same drive to excellence that I do. The Marine Corps stood out to me among other services as a place that always strives for excellence.

2DMDB: Any advice for fellow, and or younger Marines?

Sgt Drake: It's all what you make it. I didn't always believe that throughout my career but I look back now and my biggest accomplishments were the things I took control of. Even if you may never have much to control, do the absolute best with what you do have.

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2DMDB: Why do you believe music is important to the Marine Corps?

Sgt Drake: It is a tradition that has been around since the Corps started. Like all of our other traditions, it is a sign of distinction. Music is the epitome of the touch of class and professionalism that the Marine Corps is known for.

2DMDB: What has been your most memorable performance in your career so far? Why?

Sgt Drake: The most memorable performance so far has been setting the world record for the largest chain pushup for the Guinness Book of World Records. It was a blast all along the way; from planning the event to playing it. And it's not every day that you get to participate in a world record breaking! The fact that we actually broke the record is always a good reminder that Marines can do anything they set their mind to.

2DMDB: What are some of your goals you have set for yourself as a musician, and as a Marine?

Sgt Drake: After I depart the Marine Corps, I aspire to attend college, continue writing new material, gig as a professional musician, and find my way into a producer role in a studio. As a Marine, my goal is to be "dedicated to training new Marines and influencing the old."

2DMDB: What inspires you to play music? Why?

Sgt Drake: Growing up in a very musical household, I heard great music all my life. I've dreamed of playing in groups of that caliber and strive to always get closer to producing that product.

Farewinds and Following Seas



SSgt Christopher Dwyer
Enlisted Conductor / Platoon Sergeant



Sgt Brent Hauer
Sound Engineer NCOIC



Cpl Jacob Reeves
MWR NCOIC

This Month in History

“Mardi Gras with 2d Marine Division”

During this month in history the 2d Marine Division Band marched at the Mardi Gras Parade in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The 2d Marine Division Band would travel to the historic celebration, a carnival observance that consists of parades, balls, and parties. The Band would march down the city for several different parades, per Mardi Gras season, on routes stretching up to 6 miles long!

Although the 2d Marine Division Band has covered the commitment in the past, most recently in 2011, the parades have since been performed by Marine Corps Band New Orleans.



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The new sobriety tests are tough.