

The 2d Marine Division Band



May/June 2014

In This Issue

Pg. 2: Promotions

Pg. 3: Welcome
Aboard/
Reenlistment

Pg. 4: Training

Pg. 5: Recent
Performances

Pg. 6: Recent
Performances cont.

Pg. 7: Featured Fan

Pg. 8: Featured
Marine

Pg. 9: This Month in
History

Pg. 10: PAO Staff/
Comic

"It's all to do with the training: you can do a lot if you're properly trained." -Queen Elizabeth II

A Trip to Europe

In May, the 2d Marine Division Band had the privilege of traveling to Europe to perform in a few monumental ceremonies. The Band started their tour in Paris, France where they performed at the Battle of Belleau Wood Memorial Ceremony along with a parade that ended at the famous "Devil Dog Fountain." They also performed a concert at Les Invalides and a military tattoo at the Chateau de Vincennes. The Band then traveled to England to perform in the Beating Retreat Ceremony and Horse Guards Parade to celebrate 350 years of the Royal Marines. The Marines in the 2d Marine Division Band were excited to have had this opportunity and hope to go back soon.



The 2d Marine Division Band during the Military Tattoo at the Chateau de Vincennes in Paris, France.

Promotions

In May, the 2d Marine Division Band was proud to promote Sgt Clapper, Sgt Cordeiro, Sgt Drake, and Sgt Harper. Congratulations to our newest Marine promotions!



Sgt Clapper, Trumpet



Sgt Cordeiro, Trumpet



Sgt Drake, Piccolo



Sgt Harper, Tuba

Welcome Aboard



In June, the 2d Marine Division Band welcomed LCpl Devalder (trumpet) and LCpl Shafarman (bass guitar). LCpl Devalder and LCpl Shafarman are both joining us after their successful graduation of the Basic School of Music in Norfolk, VA.

Reenlistment

The 2d Marine Division Band is proud to announce the reenlistment of SSgt Baltzer (percussion).



Training

Physical Fitness Test (PFT)

The 2d Marine Division Band took their annual Physical Fitness Test (PFT) in May and did remarkably well! The PFT consists of 3 events: first is pull ups (males) or flexed armed hang (females). Second is crunches, and the goal is to do as many as possible in 2 minutes. Finally, is a timed 3 mile run. The band average was 240 out of 300 (first class).



Pictured above: The 2d Marine Division Band during the crunches portion of the PFT.



Pictured above: Sgt Drake during the flexed arm hang portion of the PFT.



Pictured above: Cpl Murray completes the pull-up portion of the PFT as the other Marines await their turn.



Pictured above: MGySgt Boatright crosses the finish line for the 3 mile run portion of the PFT.

Recent Performances

Morning Colors Featuring BGen Lukeman

On May 15, the 2d Marine Division Band performed at a Morning Colors ceremony, which is not unusual for the band, however this one was different. BGen Lukeman, Commanding General of the 2d Marine Division, took the podium and conducted the band through the nation's march, "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Cpl Schott, a trombone player in the 2d Marine Division Band said "it was cool to see the interaction and it looked like he really enjoyed it."



Pictured above: BGen Lukeman conducts the 2d Marine Division Band through "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

MajGen Gurganus Retirement



On May 15, the 2d Marine Division Band helped mark the end of an illustrious 38-year Marine Corps career for MajGen Charles M. Gurganus, previously the Deputy Commanding General of Marine Corps Combat Development Command. MajGen Gurganus will be returning to his hometown, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Pictured left: MajGen Gurganus receiving the national ensign in honor of his service.

Recent Performances Cont.

Jacksonville Jamboree

In May, the 2d Marine Division performed for the patriotic opening ceremony for the Jacksonville Jamboree. This year, the 2d Marine Division Band opened with the 2d Marine Division Brass Band, pictured below, performing a fun and exhilarating set of popular tunes for the crowd.



Pictured above: the 2d Marine Division Brass Band – from left to right Cpl Schott (trombone), Cpl Frost (tuba), Sgt Matt (trombone), SSgt Baltzer (percussion), Sgt Hickey (trumpet), Sgt Filkins (percussion) Sgt Cordeiro (trumpet), Sgt Laderer (saxophone), Sgt Zheng (saxophone).

Featured Fan:

LtCol Tomko



2DMDB: Full Name, Rank, Age, and Unit/Section/Billet?

LtCol Tomko: LtCol Todd Shane "RHINO" Tomko USMC, 50, G3, 2d Marine Division/
THE G3, 31 1/2 years in the Corps, take over Wounded Warrior Regiment in Quantico
in July.

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

LtCol Tomko: Born and reared in Quincy, Illinois. Piano performance major (full scholarship) University of Illinois (1981). Played studio music for a while, then enlisted for 10 years. Went MECEP to University of Missouri where I paid for college in cash (didn't have the GI Bill at that time) by playing the piano at a local restaurant and bar. Yep, paid CASH FOR COLLEGE from my tip jar.

2DMDB: Why do you believe music is important to the Military Bands?

LtCol Tomko: Music has been instrumental (no pun intended) in controlling formations and lead to the inspiration of the fighting force back to Biblical times. Music has also been a catalyst for inspiring the people during dark times of war and conflict. Chopin's music covered the military emotion of the Napoleonic era, same with Beethoven. Rachmaninoff's music rendered the emotion of the Bolshevik revolution. The Tribe of Levi (musicians) led the charge of Joshua's forces in every conflict and battle in the Old Testament. The Marine Bandsmen were the Personal Security Detachment for Gen Zinni in Somalia. Music has been an integral part of every Mess Night and Dining In, tracing back to the Boxer Rebellion. Bringing together the different instruments of the band is akin to a coordinated and reinforced live fire attack where every instrument of war has to be brought in at the precise moment and coordinated in order to achieve those perfect effects. In my mind, it is all the same.

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

LtCol Tomko: Beethoven, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder & Billy Joel. Billy Joel was influenced by Beethoven and brought to the new era. Same with Stevie and Ray, Ray led the charge for Stevie and set those conditions...all cutting edge for their time with a brilliance unequalled or replicated. What is key about Beethoven (deaf), Stevie and Ray (both blind)...they each had disabilities and achieved brilliance. Meanwhile, we have so many in today's society who struggle with the little things in life and use it as a crutch, whereas these artists looked for the way to be great rather than focus on the disability.

2DMDB: Any advice for current active duty, and/or younger Marines?

LtCol Tomko: WORK. Anything can be achieved through HARD WORK. There is a Marine Corps Order and directive for everything we have to do in our lives....just work to achieve every goal you set and apply all of your energy toward that. EVERY DAY IS A TRAINING DAY and if you don't force yourself to become better intellectually, physically, spiritually and emotionally...then you have lost that time that you can NEVER retrieve. Make work your hobby and love it with everything you have. NEVER accept failure.

2DMDB: What is the difference between a ceremony with a band, and one with a recording, from your perspective?

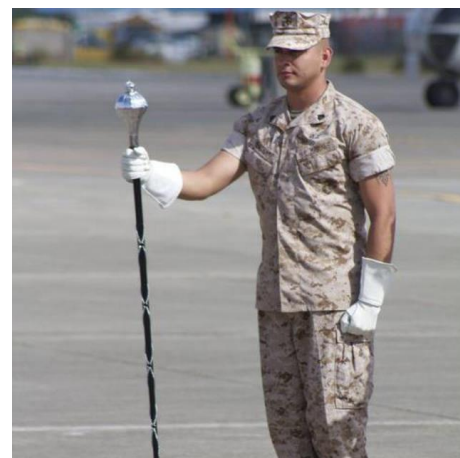
LtCol Tomko: Live music is the ONLY way to go!!! Having a recording for any military event is like parachute pants and crispy bangs....things that NEVER should have occurred in fashion history. I lived through that era and it was ugly (not me...I remained true to being cool and NOT trendy). Pre-programmed disco is like qualifying with your T/O weapon with blanks in a Nerf gun.

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

LtCol Tomko: There is no one particularly favorite or memorable moment. Every formation where I hear the Marines' Hymn or ceremony where I hear Taps....it moves me. Stars and Stripes Forever is my all-time favorite. Of course, any time you guys can pull off the 1812 Overture along with artillery....that rocks as well. Bottom line...every time I hear the band is my favorite.

Featured Marine:

Sgt Muschamp



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

Sgt Muschamp: I was born in Belize City, Belize. Raised in Houston, Texas. Went to Kempner High School.

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

Sgt Muschamp: I originally wanted to join and become a Scout Sniper, but after much convincing after my recruiter found out I played the saxophone, described the opportunities I would have of becoming a Marine Corps Bandsman and I agreed to give it a go!

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

Sgt Muschamp: The Marine Corps is very rich in its history and traditions to include its bands and their roots and roles in various different military ceremonies dating far back. The ceremonies simply would not be the same without Marine Corps Bands providing ceremonial support.

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

Sgt Muschamp: I have had the Honor of playing overseas in many different countries, performing in U.S. Embassies and for many important dignitaries. But my most memorable performance was with the Marine Forces Pacific Band when I went on a 4-month humanitarian mission aboard the U.S.S. Pelilieu. While ashore on one of the stops our party band performed at a school for the deaf and blind, and the reaction from the children I would never forget, even though some could not see and some could not hear the music, it was very apparent that they could all feel it!

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

Sgt Muschamp: I will definitely continue my education as a Marine to be able to help the Marines under my charge as best that I am able to and will continue to strive to be a better musician.

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

Sgt Muschamp: The many different people that I perform for inspire me to play music, because it just gives me a sense of fulfillment after a successful gig!

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

Sgt Muschamp: I don't really think I have one idol in particular...but I do believe that I have a number of mentors above me that I continue to look to for advice and guidance in the many different matters that may arise whether it be personal or professional.

2DMDB: Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

Sgt Muschamp: A successful business owner living life to the fullest with all of my family back in Houston!

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

Sgt Muschamp: For my fellow and younger Marines, the only advice I really have is to treat every day as if it were your last....cherish the time that you have with your family and friends and don't take the things that you have for granted! YOLO.....

This Month in History

This month in history, the 2d Marine Division Band participated in the Royal Tournament in London, England. The tournament was similar to the Beating Retreat of 2014 in that it featured three services from different countries playing their respective pieces of their nations before culminating in a mass band of musicians and performers. In 1999, the last Tournament was held, discontinuing at the Millennium due to a lack of funds. In 2010, the show made a return as the British Military Tournament, but was recently ended once again in 2014 due to financial constraints.



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