



"Sound Off"

Website = <http://armm.us>

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The Association of Retired Military Musicians

December 2006



The Lead Cornett

Hi folks!

I'm Stan Cornett, the Hospitality Chairman for the 2007 ARMM Reunion in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. I'm a retired Army Bands Officer and am currently working in the Civil Service as the Director of Training and Doctrine at the Army School of Music.

I've just finished locking down the dates for the 2007 ARMM Reunion (13-16 September 2007) with the AAA-rated Lake Wright Hotel and Conference Center in Norfolk, VA.

Here are some details on the Lake Wright with information on room rates and accommodations.

ROOM RATES:

(available 5 days prior and 5 days after the event)

a. Sleep Inn = \$79 per night

b. Quality Suites = \$99 per night

NOTE: "Sleep Inn" and "Quality Suites" are two adjoining "properties" of the Lake Wright.

Reserving rooms in either property still keeps you close to all other attendees and events.

c. When making reservations be sure to ask for the "ARMM Rate."

ACCOMODATIONS:

All guests get:

- Access to fitness center
- Mini convenience store
- Access to Business center
- complimentary newspaper
- Access to glass-enclosed swimming pool year round
- Access to 18 hole golf course
- Free airport shuttle, 24hrs per day
- Free RV parking on premises

a. Sleep Inn

- complimentary deluxe continental breakfast, a hot full breakfast buffet upgrade is available for \$5 per person.
- 2 double beds or one king size bed
- Coffee maker
- Iron and ironing board
- Desk
- 25" TV w/remote and complimentary HBO
- Free local calls
- Free high speed internet access
- Telephone w/Dataport

b. Quality Suites

- Separate bedroom
- Sitting room with pull-out sleep sofa
- complimentary hot full breakfast buffet
- 2 double beds or one king size bed
- Coffee maker
- Microwave oven
- Refrigerator
- Iron and ironing board
- Desk
- Two 25" TV w/remote and complimentary HBO
- Free local calls
- Free high speed internet access
- Telephone w/Dataport

LOCATION:

Just off I-64 at the Northampton Boulevard and Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel exit.

CONTACT INFO:

Lake Wright Hotel and Conference Center
6820 Northampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23502

TOLL FREE: 800-288-5157
FAX: 757-461-5925
Sleep Inn: 757-461-6253
Quality Suites: 757-461-1133

EMAIL: lakewright@lakewrighthotel.com
WEBSITE: <http://www.lakewrighthotel.com>

We also have conference space and a hospitality room reserved for the event. The Lake Wright is ready to receive your reservations now.

I'll be working with Dave Ratliff and others on the agenda for the reunion in the upcoming months. If you have ideas for events you'd like to see happen please feel free to email me your thoughts at stan.cornett@cox.net.

I'll send updated information on the agenda as it becomes available.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in September 2007!

Stan Cornett
Entertainment Chairperson



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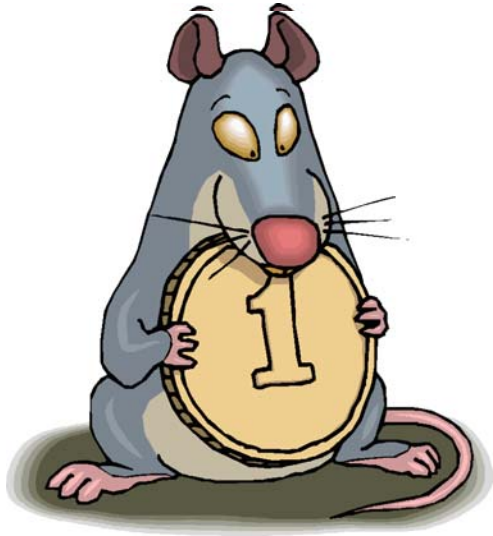
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From the Head Rat

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Thanksgiving is over – hope you didn't eat too much since many of you are (or should be) watching your waistlines! Now the hustle and bustle of December and the excitement of 2007 await. I hope your Holidays are happy, safe, and joyful.



It is hard to believe that 2006 is almost over. I know two people who are glad to see 2006 coming to an end – Gary Hartman and me. Hosting the reunion in Columbia was a thrill and we hope everyone enjoyed their time here. We apologize for any inconveniences – late bus arrival for Ft Jackson and some problems with the hotel. Based on the comments we received, the 2006 ARMM Reunion was a success. 110 people, a tour of Ft Jackson, a magnificent concert by the 282nd Army Band, our rehearsal, but best of all – the chance to renew friendships and make new ones.

This year's reunion was especially memorable because of our dear friends from Einhausen who attended. For over thirty years they have opened their

homes and hearts to us and it was nice to have them here.

The 2007 Reunion will be in Virginia Beach, VA. Lake Wright Hotel www.lakewrighthotel.com will be the location. MAJ (Ret) Stan Cornett will serve as the Hospitality Chair. I have no doubt that Stan will deliver a terrific reunion. Look for Stan's article in this Newsletter for more details.

If this newsletter is a few days late, don't blame the Secretary. I am the delay. Since our September meeting, Stan has looked at dozens of hotels in the Tidewater area. Some were less expensive but did not have the facilities we needed for the dinner and rehearsal. Others were too costly. After reviewing the options, Lake Wright was the best deal. There is a golf course next to the hotel, it is less than a half mile from the Interstate, and the School of Music is just a short drive.

If you would like to host the 2008 Reunion, now is the time to start planning. If you have any questions about how to do this, contact Walt Nail, Bill Von Kamp, Mike Noland, or myself.

Dave Ratliff
ARMM President

TREASURER'S REPORT

It's time to start paying your 2007 dues. I would appreciate that the dues be sent to me prior to the reunion. I know this won't happen but it will cut down on some long lines at the reunion. I will have set times for the dues collection to take place at the reunion site providing I don't get food poisoning again this year. Ask Vic and Denny Englund how much fun they had watching me being sick on 18 holes of golf. When you send your dues in make them out to either Mike Noland or Association Of Retired Military Musicians (ARMM). My home phone is the same and my cell is 931-278-0313. As soon as Pod transfers the rest of the account to me I will give you financial update in the next newsletter.

Mike Noland
Treasurer

Pick Up the Pace

ARMY BANDS UPDATE

CW5 JEANNE PACE
ARMY BANDS PROPONENCY OFFICER
FT JACKSON, SC

What a pleasure it was to see many of you during your reunion in Columbia! I saw some familiar faces and met some new folks as well. Sitting in on the Saturday morning "jam" session was great fun!

As you all know from the video presentation at the reunion, the restructuring of Army Bands (FABXXI) has been approved and implementation will begin with FY 08. The end result of the restructuring, combined with changes due to Army initiatives and BRAC will continue through FY11. This is what is keeping most of us the busiest – updating the documentation to support all of the changes.

Overall, the personnel strength for MOS 42R is looking slightly better than a year ago, but we now need to focus our efforts towards recruiting for the new structure. With that in mind, electric bass and guitar are now on the incentive list with other historically short instrumental ASIs.

I mention this to you because there is an incentive program recently extended to include referrals from retirees: ARS "SMART" (Army Referral System Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team). The program is an initiative to assist our recruiting force in providing the strength for America's Army. The \$2,000.00 Referral Bonus will be payable in two lump sums as follows:

\$1,000.00 will be paid to the eligible sponsor once the Soldier (referral) has commenced Basic Training. Payment requests will be sent to DFAS upon verification that the Soldier is in fact in Basic Training. Payment should be received within 45 days of request submission.

\$1,000.00 will be paid to the eligible sponsor once the Soldier (referral) has completed and graduated from One Station Unit Training (OSUT) or



Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Payment requests will be sent to DFAS upon verification that the Soldier has completed and graduated from OSUT or AIT. Payment should be received within 45 days of submission.

For more information on this program, visit www.goarmy.com.

DEPLOYED BANDS: Communication from our deployed bands has slowed significantly as we are now required to use secure net in communicating. I can tell you that our bands continue to accomplish great things and, to date, have done so without serious injury (or worse) to any bandsmen. Currently deployed: 10th Mountain Division Band; 76th Army Band; 25th Infantry Division Band, and 1st Cavalry Division Band. Recently returned 4th ID and 101st.

A couple of excerpts from Army Bands Intranet:

"As of 30 NOV 06, the 4ID Band has returned back to its home station at Ft Hood, TX. We are 100% accounted for, safe, and sound. Chief Hester and I would like to extend our thanks to everyone for your continued support during our deployment. Without your support and prayers we could not have accomplished our mission."

1SG Lopez – 4 ID

"A shout out to the 1st Cav band and their ensembles performance the other night at the Division MWR here in Bagdad. "Amber Tight" was on point and hit the crowd from all angles with some rock, country, R&B, and other tunes that kept the crowd

moving! the transitions of groups, came with comical musicianship to keep the crowd entertained while the baddest Latin Band ever in Theatre prepared to represent, and represent they did! They got me wanting to learn some serious salsa. I thoroughly enjoyed the concert, and if that's the first, the troops are in for a highly entertaining deployment....."
This from a SGT in the 76 Army Band

PERSONNEL NEWS:

COL Finley Hamilton has announced his upcoming retirement.
LTC Thomas Palmatier was selected for promotion to COL/O-6.

Following WOs have been promoted:

CW5 Larsen (1 JUN 06)
CW4 Catchings (1AUG 06)
CW4 Campbell (1 DEC 06)

CW3 Matt Morse (Fort Jackson) was selected for duty with the West Point Band, replacing CW4 Doug Hammond who will be retiring.

CW4 Kevin Laird has announced his decision to retire, so the Field Band will soon select his replacement.

WO1 James Bettencourt and WO1 Marvin Cardo graduate the Warrant Officer Basic Course on 8 December and report to their bands at Fort Jackson and Fort Rucker, respectively.

Those of you that know CW3 Fred Ellwein will be pleased to know that he has transitioned to the Active Component and will be assigned to the 389th, Aberdeen Proving Ground Band, in January.

Other moves planned at this time include:

CW5 Larsen to Army School of Music
CW5 Paarmann to Fort Sam Houston
CW3 Brazier to 2AD, Korea
CW4 Campbell to Fort Stewart.

Following were selected from MSG/E-8:

SFC Comer, Robert B.
SFC Crandall, Polly R.

SFC Deleon, Edwin M.
SFC Hall, Kenneth H.
SFC Hefflefinger, Adam
SFC Helms, Brandon H.
SFC Hunter, Marvin L.
SFC Kaufmann, Albert E.
SFC Skrbin, Paul A.
SFC Smelser, Jeremy M.
SFC Van Houten, Christopher

Hoping you all have a GREAT Holiday Season and wish you the best for the upcoming New Year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have finally moved our website over to GoDaddy.com and begun adding the photos from our 2006 reunion in Columbia, SC. In keeping with the policy established by Mike Noland, a copy of this December 2006 newsletter will be posted at our website. And, I will also be posting a copy of the amended and approved By Laws for ARMM.

Also, I will be looking into the possibility of hosting a community forum for all military bandspersons and a store to sell ARMM memorabilia where the proceeds can be added to our Treasury.

By the way, Mike Noland is our new Treasurer. If you have not paid your dues for 2007, please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter, make your check payable to ARMM and mail it to him to ensure that you will continue to receive your quarterly newsletters and other information that we make available to our members.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Mike Mideiros
ARMM Secretary

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR APPLICATION

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____
Address: _____ Spouse Name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: (_____) _____ Status: Retired _____ Active _____ Former _____
Email address: _____

I do _____ do not _____ wish my data to be included in any published roster.

Please complete this application and return it along with your check for \$15.00 made payable to ARMM to:



Association of Retired Military Musicians

Mike Noland, Treasurer
402 Andrew Drive
Clarksville, Tennessee 37042
(931) 552-9877



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