

530th AIR FORCE BAND



MISSION

The primary function of the 530th is to provide appropriate music for military drill and ceremonies, troop morale, funerals, etc.; however, the band is equally active fulfilling requests for off-base engagements. These community related activities range from concerts and serenades to parades and dances. The majority of requests for band performances are for times other than regularly scheduled drill weekend training periods. Band members must be flexible with their personal schedules and must have the understanding of spouses, family, and employers.

Within the band are such ensembles as the marching/ceremonial band, the concert band, an 18 piece dance band known as "The Guardsmen," a rock-fusion group known as "Sound Barrier," a Dixieland ensemble known as "The Dixie Dudes," a jazz octet, a protocol combo, and various brass and wood wind ensembles.

LINEAGE

530th Air Force Band

STATIONS

Dobbins AFB, GA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

1Lt Alan B. McConnell

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 530th Air Force Band was formed in the fall of 1946 and commanded by CWO William F. Walker. It was activated for Federal service with the 116 Wing on 10 October 1950. The band was stationed in Alexandria, Louisiana until 10 July 1952, when they were released from active duty. In February 1953, the Georgia Air National Guard reformed the band with CWO John Love as Commander, a position he held until retirement in February 1960. Under his leadership, the band achieved recognition as the best Air National Guard Band in the United States and in 1959, was chosen to represent the Air Guard at the dedication ceremonies, addressed by President Harry S. Truman, for a new National Guard building in Washington, B.C.

MSgt Roy Drukenmiller, a charter band member and assistant band director, served as interim commander from June 1960 to November 1961 when First Lieutenant Gordon R. Moore was designated Commander. Retiring in December 1980, Lt Col Moore was replaced by Capt John W. King who served as Commander/Director until his retirement in February 1996. Maj King was presented the Georgia Meritorious Service medal at his retirement ceremony. Current Commander for the 530th Air Force Band is First Lieutenant Alan B. McConnell.

In Georgia, they played for the shoppers in malls throughout the state. They played in schools throughout Georgia in connection with the Drug Demand Reduction Program. In Wyoming, they played for the Cowboys in Cheyenne's "Granddaddy of all Rodeos." They played for visitors at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee. They played for the Indians at Sheridan's "All American Indian Days" festivities. They've honored the Confederate dead at the Stone Mountain Memorial; the massacred Cavalry at the Custer Battlefield in Montana; traveled to the Azores to serenade the island people; welcomed to Dobbins the President of Tanzania; honored generals from one star to four; and serenaded dignitaries from Mayors and Congressmen to Governors and Presidents.

From the little league field at Marietta with only a few parents to cheer, to the Atlanta Braves Stadium with a national TV audience of thousands, the "Star Spangled Banner" has the same meaning for the 530th. They continue to maintain an average of 60 engagements annually,

appearing in their role as Goodwill Ambassadors for the Georgia Air National Guard, before tens of thousands of people. For over five decades, the 530th Air Force Band has provided a tremendous service to all Georgians and to all the Air National Guard units in the state.

The Air National Guard Band of the South has been performing all over the state of Georgia since the beginning of October. During the UTA in October the Concert Band and Eagles Flight performed to a very enthusiastic crowd in Dillard, Georgia. The Arts Council from Dillard had been working with the Band for months to make this performance possible and the efforts definitely paid off! The Flute Ensemble did submit their recording and proposal for a performance at the National Flute Association Convention for 2004 (in Nashville, Tennessee). After only one weekend to rehearse and record, the flute ensemble, now named High Flutin', felt very good about what they were able to accomplish. November was a busy month for the Air National Guard Band of the South. The Band began their drill weekend performing at a high school in an area of Georgia that they had not been to before.

Although it was a small audience, it was a strong performance by the band and the people who were there really enjoyed it! The Marching Band of the Air National Guard Band of the South marched in the Atlanta Veteran's Day Parade and actually made it to the radio. SMSgt Jim Jackson reported that you could hear the band performing "National Emblem" in the background of WGST's broadcast. The Band won The Best Band Trophy for the parade this year. What an honor! We knew there was a good reason to have all of those band directors who work with marching bands every year come into the group! The band experienced true esprit de corps as they worked together to accomplish the goal of completing the new physical fitness test before the end of the year. Being musicians, we worked hard to find music that was the correct speed and stepped away to the beat...And, for 2004, the 530th Band already has a busy schedule planned.

February 2008 -- It was the rockin' sounds of the Thunder Roll, a rock-n-roll combo from the Georgia Air National Guard's 530th Air Force Band that attracted scores of children in the village of Damerjog, Djibouti recently underscoring that music is truly the universal language. Most of the kids couldn't speak English, but they had no trouble dancing along to the American music that filled their village. "Thunder Roll," one of Central Air Force's two bands, performed for the kids for more than an hour Monday morning, playing everything from The Clash to Smashmouth. The village of Damerjog is less than 20 minutes from Camp Lemonier, the primary U.S. military base here, and the Marines who conduct base security often visit Damerjog and the other surrounding villages in an effort to get to know the local residents. The Marines brought the band, which belongs to the Georgia Air National Guard, to Damerjog for Monday's performance. "It's all about relationships," said Marine Capt. Christopher Crim, commanding officer of B Battery, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, of Camp Pendleton, Calif. Crim and his Marines visit four local villages at least once a week.

They play soccer with the kids, set up movie nights, hand out school supplies, help repair water reservoirs and simply spend time with the villagers. "The purpose of this is quite simple: to gain an appreciation of their culture and build relationships," he said. "The simple things go the farthest, school supplies, flip flops, things that are useful to everyday life." Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Larry Winner, one of the band members, got into the mix and danced with the children during the performance. "At first I was a little apprehensive, but we saw how they were

reacting," Winner said. "When you look into their eyes you could see a connection. The music was just lighting them up." Winner said he was pleasantly surprised by the enthusiastic reception the band received. "Music truly is the universal language," he said. "That's an old cliché but it's true. Everyone can relate to the beat."

Recently, I attended the Rabun County Music Festival in the mountains of northeast Georgia. Our own Air National Guard Band of the South was a featured act. Under the leadership of Captain Alan McConnell and Chief Master Sergeant Jim Jackson, the 530th Air Force Band, also known as the Air National Guard Band of the South, represents our branch of service with a proud tradition of excellence. The performance took place at the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. The audience was a diverse group of residents, including several military veterans. The Band took advantage of the opportunity of performing at such a fabulous indoor venue and audio and video taped their performance.

The audio tape will be converted into compact disc format and then used as a demonstration tool for prospective organizers of events that might request the band to perform. "I am proud to be a member of the band. We are privileged to represent the Air National Guard in many military and civilian venues," SSgt Elisa Lyle, a flutist, said. "Rabun Gap was a beautiful setting with a generous and appreciative audience." The Air National Guard Band of the South was organized in 1946. It was originally stationed in Alexandria, Virginia. It was activated for federal service in 1950.

The band was released from active duty in July of 1952. It was reorganized by the Georgia Air National Guard in February of 1953. The band achieved recognition as the best Air National Guard band in the United States. In 1959, it was chosen to represent the Air Guard at the dedication ceremonies for a new National Guard building in Washington, D.C. President Harry Truman was the keynote speaker. Through the years, the band has performed in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, Wyoming, Montana, Indiana, Michigan, Delaware, Tennessee, Washington D.C., the Azores Islands, Norway, and the Dominican Republic. However, its primary area of responsibility includes Georgia, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Other noteworthy performances by the 530th Air Force Band include entertaining the visitors to the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee and playing the 'Star Spangled Banner' at several Atlanta Braves' baseball games.

