

AIR NATIONAL GUARD BAND OF THE NORTHWEST



MISSION

LINEAGE

60 AAF Band activated, 11 Jul 1942
Redesignated 560th Army Band, 27 Dec 1943
Redesignated 560th AAF Band, Mar 1944
Inactivated, 15 Mar 1946
Allotted to the National Guard, 24 May 1946
Redesignated 560 USAF Band, 26 Sep 1947
Activated, 18 Apr 1948
Activated, Mar 1951
Inactivated, 31 Dec 1952
Reactivated in the Washington ANG, 1 Jan 1953
Redesignated 560 AF Band, 1 Jul 1955
Redesignated ANG Band of the Northwest, 8 Jun 2000

STATIONS

Birmingham AAF, AL, 1942-Aug 1942
Greenville AAB, SC, 4 Apr 1945
Los Angeles CA POE, 8 Apr 1945-16 Apr 1945
India 1946
Ft George Wright, WA, 1948-1948
Geiger Fld, WA
Larson AFB, WA, Oct 51
McChord AFB, WA, 1952
Geiger Fld, WA 1953-30 Jun 76
Fairchild AFB WA

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force

First Air Force

Washington ANG 1948-Mar 1951

Western Air Defense Force, 1952

Washington ANG

141 Air Refueling Wing

COMMANDERS

Capt Jim Phillips

Michael D Delaney

Capt William L. Maxson

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



560th Air Force Band emblem: On a disc Argent, a mountain range Azure snow-capped of the first issuant from base a forest Vert overall a stylized musical symbol Treble Clef consisting of an aircraft in chief of the second emitting contrails Or and a ribbon voluted Gules, all within a border Blue. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "BAND OF THE NORTHWEST" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "560TH AIR FORCE BAND" in Blue letters. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The snow-capped mountain range and forest are indicative of the unit's mantra to perform anytime and anywhere. The stylized Treble Clef signifies the unit's mission

as an Air Force Military Band: to perform music and provide entertainment for military audiences; to enhance morale, esprit de corps and retention; and for civilian audiences, to increase public awareness and understanding of the armed forces.

MOTTO

Band of the Evergreen state

OPERATIONS

One of eleven Air National Guard bands, each with its own separate Area of Responsibility (AOR), the Band of the Northwest proudly serves the military and civilian communities of North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington State. Officially activated as the The Band of the Northwest, also known as the "560th Air Force Band" is stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Washington. Under the command of Major James Phillips, this 35 member band is attached to the 141st Air Refueling Wing of the Washington Air Guard. As with all Air Guard Bands, versatility is key. The 35 members of the Band of the Northwest have the ability to act as ten separate performing groups. From the more formal Concert, Ceremonial and Marching bands, to a swinging 18 piece Big Band, and a variety of chamber ensembles covering, jazz, rock and classical music. Literally, music appropriate for any event or venue.

The band was activated in Birmingham, Alabama, on July 11, 1942, and the following month they transferred to Greenville Army Air Base, South Carolina. Originally designated the 60th Army Air Force Band in December 1943 it became the 560th Army band and was transferred to the 3rd Air Force. In March 1944, the 3rd Air Force redesignated the band as the 560th Army Air Force Band. It was assigned to the 1st Air Force in February 1945 and remained at Greenville Army Air Base until ordered overseas. The band departed Greenville on April 4th and arrived in Los Angeles by train on April 8th, then departed by ship for India on April 16, 1945.

The band served in India under the commanding general, of the India-Burma theater, from May 21, 1945, until it was deactivated from active service on March 15, 1946. During its inactive status, the War Department allocated the 560th Army Air Force Band to the National Guard and later to the Washington Air National Guard. Now designated the 560th Air Force Band, it was authorized to organize personnel as an Air National Guard unit March 1948. With a minimum authorized strength of one warrant officer and three enlisted men, the 560th AF Band was extended federal recognition and activated in the Washington Air National Guard at Fort George Wright, Spokane, Washington, on April 18, 1948. The band was then transferred a short distance to Geiger Field at the Spokane Airport.

The original membership in the 560th Air Force Band was mainly graduate and undergraduate students from Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. Chief Warrant Officer Ben Halgramson, the original band director and commander, was a professor of music at Eastern Washington University. The core of the group was centered around a "show band" concept that attracted some of the finest musicians in the Northwest. The band developed most of its highly touted reputation from radio, television and live performances throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The 560th was ordered to active federal service during the Korean conflict on March 1, 1951 and was assigned to the Western Air Defense Force, Air Defense Command. It moved to the former Larson Air Force Base at Moses Lake in Central Washington, then to McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Washington. The band served at McChord AFB from October 1951 until its inactivation from federal service on December 31, 1952. Effective January 1, 1953, the 560th Air Force Band returned to the Washington Air National Guard. When its assigned unit changed missions and became the 141st Air Refueling Wing, the band moved with the wing to its present location at Fairchild Air Force Base.

560 Band deployed to March AFB, CA and performed at Disneyland. 1988

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 7 Sep 2010

Updated: 24 May 2018

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit History. *Washington ANG, WA, Golden Anniversary, 1924-1974*. Nd.