

# U.S. ARMY BANDS

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\*This publication supercedes FM 12-50, 6 September 1991

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## Preface

This manual explains the function of Army bands in both war and peacetime operations within the scope of Force XXI Operations. It also explains the mission, capabilities, responsibilities, operations, training, and sustainment of Army bands. It is the primary doctrinal guide for Army bands. This manual is based on lessons learned from historical experience. Leaders can use this publication as a basis for leading and using bands effectively.

This manual applies to bands of the Active Army, the Army National Guard (ARNG), and the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR). Exception: The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is authorized by Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) to support the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) and the Military District of Washington, and has a unique mission at the national and international levels which is separate and different from other Army bands. Doctrine for this unit is governed by the dictates of their unique mission.

The proponent of this publication is the U.S. Army Element, School of Music. To comment on this manual or recommend changes, write your comments on DA Form 2028 (Recommend Changes to Publications).

Key each comment to the specific page, paragraph and text line that should be changed. Provide comment on the content's accuracy, relevance, completeness, and timeliness. Avoid editorial corrections unless failure to do so would seriously effect the accuracy and validity of this publication. Give reasons for each recommended change to ensure full understanding and complete evaluation. Send your comments to Commandant, U.S. Army Element, School of Music, ATTN: ATSG-SM-CMT, 1420 Gator Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23521-5170.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.



## Chapter 1

# Background

### MISSION

1-1. The mission of Army bands in Force XXI Operations is to provide music to enhance unit cohesion and morale and to musically support military operations. Bands provide important support of information operations, and should be integrated into public affairs (PA), civil affairs (CA), and psychological operations (PSYOP) plans. Army bands are assigned secondary missions (except The U.S. Army Band, The U.S. Army Field Band, and The U.S. Army Military Academy Band, which have unique missions). These principal secondary missions are augmentation of security operations for command posts (CP), or augmentation of perimeter security for enemy prisoner of war (EPW)/civilian internee operations.

### OVERVIEW

1-2. Bands provide support for ceremonies, troop support functions, concerts, protocol functions, and religious ceremonies, both for US troops and for host nation populations. Army bands are musical performing units composed of trained, manned, and equipped soldiers that provide music for a variety of purposes. (The following bullets are not in a hierarchy.)

- To enhance soldiers' morale and their will to win
- To win the support of the American people
- To support the commander's intent
- To serve as a commander's combat multiplier
- To aid military operations
- To enhance recruiting efforts
- To support civil affairs/community relations operations

### EMPLOYMENT

1-3. Army bands are the commander's weapon of peace and provide support in both the garrison and battlefield environments, as evidenced in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and more recently, Operations Joint Endeavor and Urgent Fury. Bands perform indoors and outdoors in most climatic conditions. Musical support, however, should be withheld when weather conditions would impair or damage musical instruments, or threaten the welfare of the performers. In addition, bands will not perform music or carry instruments while double timing to avoid causing injury to band soldiers or damage to musical instruments. Based upon the specific band mission, bands will provide support to any geographical area of operations.