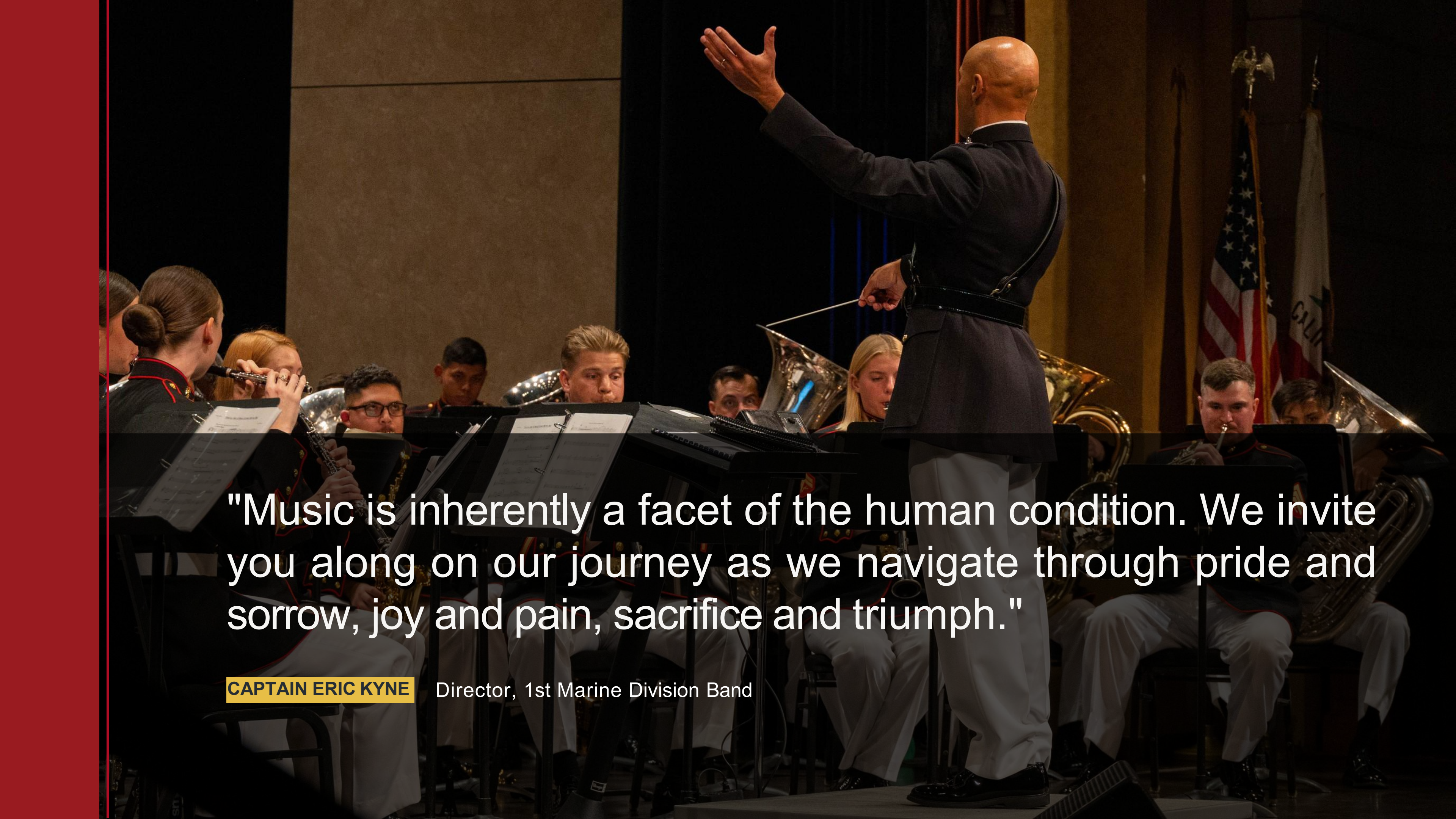


1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND

PRESS PACKAGE





"Music is inherently a facet of the human condition. We invite you along on our journey as we navigate through pride and sorrow, joy and pain, sacrifice and triumph."

CAPTAIN ERIC KYNE

Director, 1st Marine Division Band

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THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND

ABOUT US

The 1st Marine Division Band is a professional military band organized during World War II. Based at Camp Pendleton, California, this elite band maintains high proficiency in musical performance while upholding the unit's legacy of outstanding service during military conflicts since 1940. The band has deployed in support of operations as recent as Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Although the primary mission of the 1st Marine Division Band is to provide musical support for military parades and ceremonies, they remain versatile in order to accommodate a wide variety of musical requests. Community engagement, support for music education, and fostering unity between the Marine Corps and the Nation it serves, are constant priorities of the 1st Marine Division Band. This unit passionately engages in many community outreach events including career discussions, music clinics, public concerts, and recruiting tours in order to remain close and connected to its fellow citizens.

Typically supporting over 300 commitments a year, the 1st Marine Division Band employs several different ensembles including the Wind Ensemble, Ceremonial Band, Brass Band, Popular Music Group, Jazz Combo, Woodwind Quintet, and Brass Quintet. The band's most notable events have included President Ronald Reagan's 100th Birthday Celebration, Tournament of Roses Parade, Battle of Belleau Wood Memorial Ceremonies, funeral performances for both First Lady Nancy Reagan and President Gerald Ford, and performing with the San Diego Symphony at the Rady Shell.

THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND

COMMAND ELEMENT

Director

Captain Eric Kyne

Enlisted Bandleader

Master Gunnery Sergeant Devon Van

Assistant Director

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sean Salazar

Drum Major

Gunnery Sergeant Craig Palmer

Enlisted Conductor

Gunnery Sergeant Michael Barnett

Instrument Repair Technician

Master Sergeant Matthew Duncan

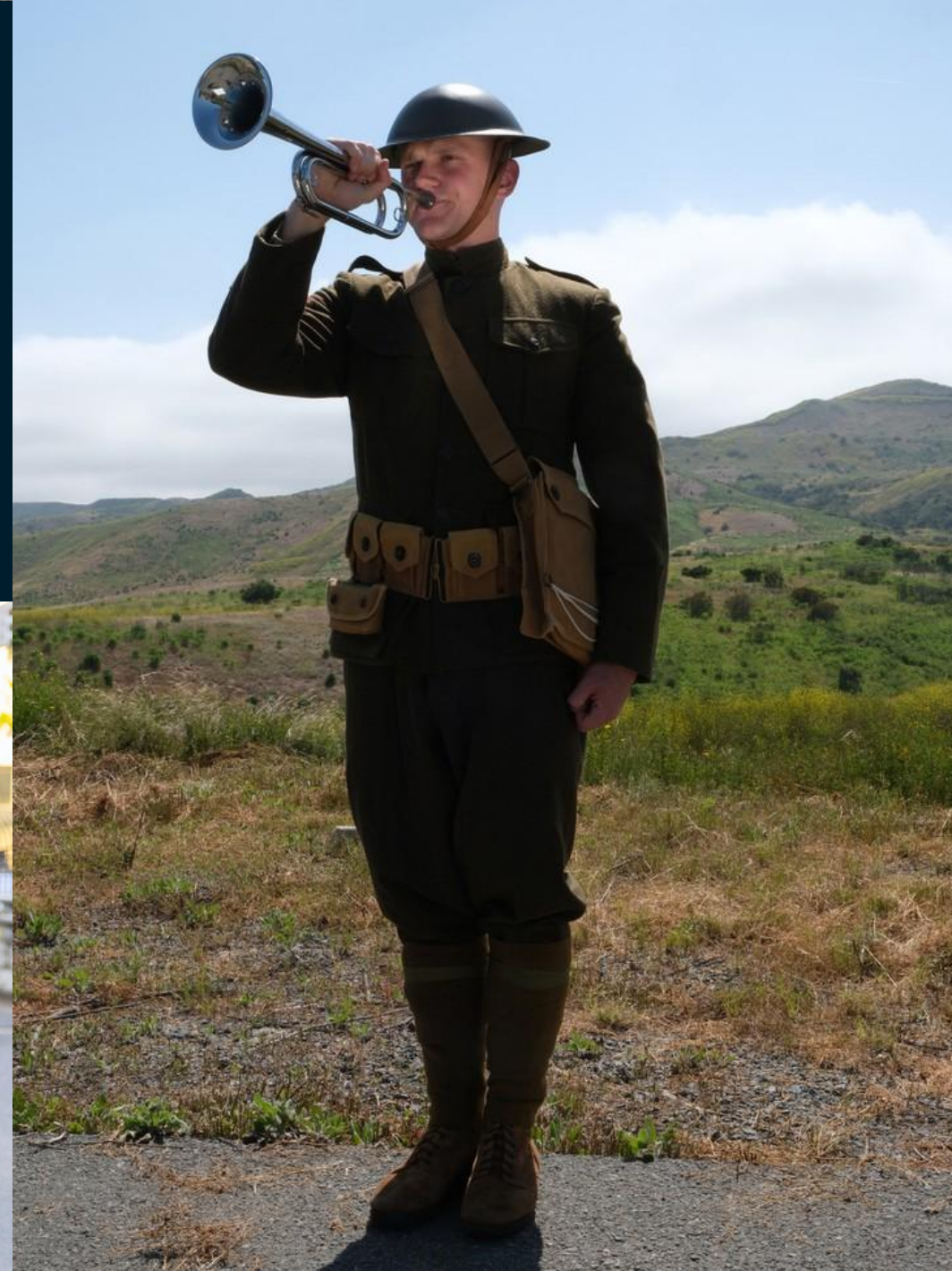
Production Manager

Master Sergeant David Birkby





*PASSION.
TRADITION.
SERVICE.*





WIND ENSEMBLE

The Wind Ensemble includes instruments from the woodwind, brasswind and percussion families. Comprised of 50 Marines this ensemble performs traditional marches, overtures, instrumental solos, classical transcriptions, and patriotic favorites. The Wind Ensemble performs regularly throughout Southern California and outside of the continental United States. Highlighted performances include Honor Our Fallen Concert in San Francisco, Los Angeles Fleet Week, and the WWI Remembrance Ceremony in Belleau Wood, France.



CEREMONIAL BAND

The Ceremonial Band is the cornerstone of the 1st Marine Division Band. It combines precision drill movements with inspiring music to showcase our proud military heritage. The 1st Marine Division Ceremonial Band has traveled throughout the United States and internationally, supporting community events, military ceremonies, and parades. Whether performing for the President of the United States, foreign dignitaries, local military commands, or community events, the precision of the Ceremonial Band displays why the 1st Marine Division Band is deemed the "Pride of the Division."

*BRASS BAND*

The "Old Breed Brass Band" performs high-energy shows both onstage and as a mobile group, engaging audiences of all ages. Their product is a distinctive blend of jazz improvisation, dance music, pop songs and heavy funk, often showcasing exciting original compositions and energetic soloists. The Brass Band is a flexible ensemble performing everywhere from concert stages to street corners. The "Old Breed Brass Band" has appeared at events such as the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Downtown Disney Magic Music Day in Anaheim, California and various West Coast Fleet Weeks.

*POPULAR MUSIC
GROUP*

Affectionately known as the "Diamondbacks", our Popular Music Group performs a wide spectrum of popular music. Their music styles include pop, funk, rock, country, and R&B. This high energy ensemble is most commonly used at indoor and outdoor venues to include the Houston Rodeo, Disneyland and supporting Seattle Fleet Week.



JAZZ COMBO

The Jazz Combo, an expeditionary ensemble derived from the Popular Music Group, is ideally suited for intimate performances of contemporary and popular music. Composed of highly skilled soloists and rhythm section musicians, the ensemble demonstrates exceptional versatility across a wide range of genres, including jazz, funk, Latin, and other contemporary styles. The group regularly serves as a featured ensemble for community outreach events and music clinics, while also enhancing the atmosphere of sophistication and professionalism at formal receptions, and special events.



BRASS QUINTET

The Brass Quintet is a smaller, ceremonially-focused ensemble that adds a spirit of dignity to any event. For community relations events, the Brass Quintet excels at performing challenging classical and orchestral repertoire. They also commonly provide music for solemn occasions such as memorial services, military ceremonies, and various official functions. If the venue or organization calls for a smaller ensemble, the Brass Quintet is commonly utilized to provide musical support. They have performed at events overseas and conducted masterclasses at various high schools and music institutions.

Captain Eric Kyne

BAND OFFICER, 1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND



Captain Eric Kyne currently serves as director of the 1st Marine Division Band. In this capacity he serves as the officer in charge and principal conductor. He manages, administers, and coordinates musical performances, develops budgets and annual operation plans, directs internal operations, and training, and supervises the employment of a Marine Corps fleet band.

Capt. Kyne enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2003 and completed Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina and Marine Combat

Training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He completed the Basic Music Course in 2004 at the Armed Forces School of Music in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Capt. Kyne served as a saxophone instrumentalist in the following fleet Marine bands: 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band (2004-2008); 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band (2008-2010); Quantico Marine Band (2014-2015); and the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band (2017-2019). As do all fleet Marine musicians, Capt. Kyne served in a variety of music, collateral duty, and leadership roles, to include platoon leadership.

Capt. Kyne deployed in support of two phases of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2005 and 2007), and he served as a recruiter with Recruiting Station Springfield, and a musician technical assistant with 1st Marine Corps District (2015-2017). He was also a member of the Marine Corps Jazz Orchestra (2011-2018).

Capt. Kyne was appointed a warrant officer and graduated from The Basic School in 2019 and served as director of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve Band (2019-2022).

Capt. Kyne attended the Unit Leader Course (2010) and the Senior Musician Course (2011), and he is a graduate of the Basic Recruiter Course (2015). Capt. Kyne was the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Musician of the Year (2018) and a recipient of the Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands (2022). His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3rd award), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd award).



Master Gunnery Sergeant Devon Van

ENLISTED BAND LEADER, 1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND

Master Gunnery Sergeant Devon Van currently serves as enlisted bandleader with the 1st Marine Division Band. In this capacity he is the senior enlisted advisor and Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (SNCOIC) of the band. He serves as the band's primary point-of-contact for inquiries and requests for band performances and advises the director in developing the musical proficiency of the band and in planning and supervising all training, operations, and administrative duties within the band.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Van enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1995 and completed Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California and Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, California. He completed the Basic Music Course in 1996 at the Armed Forces School of Music in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Van served as a tuba instrumentalist in the following fleet Marine bands: Paris Island Marine Band (1996-1998); III Marine Expeditionary Force Band (1998-1999); Albany Marine Band (2003-2005); and the 1st Marine Division Band (2006-2008). Master Gunnery Sgt. Van served as the drum major in the following fleet Marine bands: Paris Island Marine Band (2008-2011); Marine Band San Diego (2011-2015); and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band (2018-2019). As do all fleet Marine musicians, Master Gunnery Sgt. Van served in a variety of music, collateral duty, and leadership roles, to include platoon leadership.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Van deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2007). From 2015-2018, he served as a recruiter with Recruiting Station St. Louis.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Van was promoted to Master Gunnery Sgt. in 2023 and served as the enlisted bandleader of the following fleet Marine bands: 1st Marine Division Band (2019-2022) and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band (2022-2024).

Master Gunnery Sgt. Van attended the Unit Leader Course (2005) and is a graduate of the E8 Western Regional Seminar (2020). His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3rd Award) and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4th Award).



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sean Salazar

OPERATIONS OFFICER, 1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Salazar currently serves as assistant director and operations officer of the 1st Marine Division Band. In this capacity he leads the band in performance and serves as the band's operations officer responsible for matters pertaining to training, plans, and operations. He coordinates and directs the preparation and employment of the band and oversees the daily scheduling and logistics.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Salazar holds an Artist Diploma in Music from Osceola County School for the Arts and studied jazz studies, clarinet, and saxophone performance under Dr. Keith Koons, Dr. Sullivan, J., Bruce Thompson, Russ Weaver, Bill Henley and Miguel Alvarado.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Salazar enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2011 and completed Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina and Marine Combat Training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He completed the Basic Music Course in 2012 at the Naval School of Music in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Salazar served as a clarinet instrumentalist in the following fleet Marine bands: III Marine Expeditionary Force Band (2012-2015), and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band (2015-2017). Warrant Officer Salazar served as an enlisted conductor in the following fleet Marine band: 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band (2017). As do all fleet Marine musicians, Warrant Officer Salazar served in a variety of music, collateral duty, and leadership roles, to include platoon leadership.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Salazar served as an instructor at the Naval School of Music (2018-2022). From 2022-2025, he served as a musician technical assistant with 8th Marine Corps District. Warrant Officer Salazar is a formal schools instructor, Marine Corps martial arts instructor, and a force fitness instructor.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Salazar was appointed a warrant officer and graduated from The Basic School in 2025.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Salazar attended the Unit Leader Course (2018), Sound Reinforcement Course (2012), Advanced Musician Course (2024) and is a graduate of Career School 2020. Warrant Officer Salazar was the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Musician of the Year (2019) and the recipient of the Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands (2012 and 2017). His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4th award), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Gunnery Sergeant Craig Palmer

DRUM MAJOR, 1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND

Gunnery Sergeant Palmer currently serves as the drum major of the 1st Marine Division Band. In this capacity he directs, trains, and manages the musical performance of the ceremonial band while on the march and instructs band personnel in drill specific to Marine bands. Gunnery Sgt. Palmer also manages the band's administration and operations sections.

Gunnery Sgt. Palmer enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2009 and completed Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina and Marine

Combat Training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He completed the Basic Music Course in 2010 at the Armed Forces School of Music in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Gunnery Sgt. Palmer served as a saxophone instrumentalist in the following Fleet Marine Bands: Parris Island Marine Band (2010-2012); 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band (2013-2015); 2nd Marine Division Band (2018-2020); and Marine Band San Diego (2021-2022). As do all fleet Marine musicians, Gunnery Sgt. Palmer served in a variety of music, collateral duty, and leadership roles, to include platoon leadership.

From 2015-2018, Gunnery Sgt. Palmer served as a recruiter with Recruiting Station Louisville.

Gunnery Sgt. Palmer was promoted to his current rank in 2024 and served as a drum major of the following fleet Marine band: Marine Band San Diego (2022-2024).

Gunnery Sgt. Palmer attended the Unit Leader Course (2021), Advanced Musician Course (2023) and is a graduate of the Advanced Course (2025). His awards include the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2nd award), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4th award).

Gunnery Sergeant Michael Barnett

ENLISTED CONDUCTOR, 1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND



GySgt Barnett currently serves as the enlisted conductor of the 1st Marine Division Band. In this capacity he assists the director in the musical development of the band and directs, trains, and manages the musical performances of the full band. Gunnery Sgt. Barnett supervises the management and development of the band's various small ensembles and manages the music library and historical records of the band.

Gunnery Sgt. Barnett holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from California State University Fresno.

Gunnery Sgt. Barnett attended the Sound Reinforcement Course (2017), Unit Leader Course (2020), Advanced Musician Course (2024) and is a graduate of Career School (2022). His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2nd Award), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd Award).

Gunnery Sgt. Barnett enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2011 and completed Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California and Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, California. He completed the Basic Music Course in 2012 at the Naval School of Music in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Gunnery Sgt. Barnett served as a tuba instrumentalist in the following fleet Marine bands: III Marine Expeditionary Force Band (2012-2014; 2020-2023); 1st Marine Division Band (2014-2017); the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band (2017-2019); and the Parris Island Marine Band (2024-2026). As do all fleet Marine musicians, Gunnery Sgt. Barnett served in a variety of music, collateral duty, and leadership roles, to include platoon leadership.

Master Sergeant Matthew Duncan

INSTRUMENT REPAIR TECHNICIAN, 1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND



Master Sergeant Matthew Duncan currently serves as the instrument repair technician of the 1st Marine Division Band. In this capacity he inspects, maintains, and repairs musical equipment. Master Sgt. Duncan also manages the band's supply, safety, and fiscal sections.

Master Sgt. Duncan holds an Associates and Bachelors in General Studies from American Military University. He also holds a 50-ton U.S. Coast Guard captain's license.

Master Sgt. Duncan enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2005 and completed Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina and Marine Combat Training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He completed the Basic Music Course in 2005 at the Armed Forces School of Music in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Master Sgt. Duncan served as a tuba instrumentalist in the following fleet Marine bands: 2nd Marine Division Band (2005-2010); U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band (2010-2016); and the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band (2016-2019). As do all fleet Marine musicians, Master Sgt. Duncan served in a variety of music, collateral duty, and leadership roles, to include platoon leadership.

Master Sgt. Duncan deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2007, 2009). Master Sgt. Duncan is a Marine Corps martial arts instructor and a Marine Corps instructor of water survival.

Master Sgt. Duncan was promoted to his current rank in 2026 and attended the band instrument repair program at Minnesota State College Southeast in Red Wing, Minnesota, earning an Associate's degree in 2019. He served as the instrument repair technician of the following fleet Marine bands: 1st Marine Division Band (2020-2024) and the Naval School of Music (2024-2026).

Master Sgt. Duncan's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Naval and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3rd Award).

Master Sergeant David Birkby

PRODUCTION MANAGER, 1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND



Master Sergeant David M. Birkby currently serves as the production manager of the 1st Marine Division Band. In this capacity he is the chief sound engineer and the band's marketing and communication lead.

Master Sgt. Birkby enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2001 and completed Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina and Marine Combat Training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He completed the Basic Music Course in

2002 at the Armed Forces School of Music in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Master Sgt. Birkby holds a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Music Production and Engineering from Berklee College of Music.

Master Sgt. Birkby served as a French horn instrumentalist in the following fleet Marine bands: U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band (2003-2005); Albany Marine Band (2006-2009); 1st Marine Division Band (2009-2011); 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band (2013-2016); and the 2nd Marine Division Band (2017-2019). He served as the small ensemble leader in the following fleet Marine bands: 2nd Marine Division Band (2018-2019); and the Quantico Marine Band (2019-2022). As do all fleet Marine musicians, Master Sgt. Birkby served in a variety of music, collateral duty, and leadership roles, to include platoon leadership.

Master Sgt. Birkby deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (2012).

Master Sgt. Birkby was promoted to his current rank in 2024 and served as the Production Manager of the following fleet Marine Bands: U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band (2022-2026).

Master Sgt. Birkby attended the Unit Leader Course (2013), Sound Reinforcement Course (2016), Senior Musician Course (2016) and is a graduate of the Advanced School Seminar (2023). His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2nd award), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd award).

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 Second Spot (Air Time)

The 1st Marine Division Band, from Camp Pendleton, California, will be in (City/Town) on (Day, Date) at (Location). This patriotic program, sponsored by (Sponsor), is free and open to the public and will begin at (Time).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

30 Second Spot (Air Time)

From Camp Pendleton, California, the 1st Marine Division Band will present a memorable (Afternoon/Evening) of musical entertainment in (City/Town) on (Date). The 50 member ensemble promises an exciting, versatile concert that the entire family will enjoy. Their program will include selections from the band's varied repertoire, such as familiar marches, traditional classics, and patriotic favorites. This concert is free and open to the public. The performance will take place at (Location) on (Day, Date) and is set to begin at (Time). For more information, please contact (Sponsor) at (Sponsor Phone Number).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

60 Second Spot (Air Time)

The 1st Marine Division Band tour from Camp Pendleton, California will present a memorable (Afternoon/Evening) of musical entertainment in (City/Town) on (Date).

Consisting of approximately 50 Marine musicians, the 1st Marine Division Band is a highly trained and versatile musical organization. The band is capable of performing in many different settings ranging from its primary mission as a ceremonial unit to other ensembles such as Wind Ensemble, Brass Band, Popular Music Group, and Brass Quintet. The band performs at over 400 commitments each year, continuing the long-standing tradition of excellence characteristic of the 1st Marine Division.

The band promises an exciting program that everyone will enjoy. Selections will include familiar marches, traditional classics, and patriotic favorites. This concert, sponsored by (Sponsor), is free and open to the public. The performance will take place at (Location) on (Day, Date) and is set to begin at (Time). For more information, please contact (Sponsor) at (Sponsor Phone Number).

STANDARD PARADE NARRATION

(To be read as the band passes the reviewing stand)

The 1st Marine Division Band, based at Camp Pendleton, California, consists of 50 Marine musicians. The primary mission of the 1st Marine Division Band is to provide musical support for military ceremonies, community relations events, and recruiting and retention programs. The band's musicians remain versatile in order to accommodate a wide variety of musical missions for both military and civilian communities.

In addition to the Ceremonial Band that you see today, the 1st Marine Division Band consists of a Wind Ensemble, Brass Band, Popular Music Group, and Brass Quintet. These ensembles perform at over 300 events a year. Highlights include: the annual Tournament of Roses Parade, San Francisco Fleet Week, and professional sporting events.

Keeping true to the motto, "Every Marine a Rifleman," the band is ready to lay down their instruments and serve in their combat role as the 1st Marine Division's Security Platoon. Marines from the 1st Marine Division Band were forward deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 1st Marine Division Band, under the direction of Captain Eric Kyne, is led on the march by the Drum Major, Gunnery Sergeant Craig Palmer.

Suggested Contacts

Past performances have provided the band with information that will help boost community support of your event. We recommend consideration of the following individuals and organizations:

- Marine Corps Musical Technical Assistant (MTA)
MTA's are the placement directors and the auditioning authority for new musicians entering the Marine Corps. They are all members of Marine Bands who are on loan to the recruiting service, and are well versed in the logistics necessary to support a Marine Band performance in your area. They work closely with local middle school, high school, and college music programs and are a good source of information concerning performance sites and different groups who may wish to attend those performances. Local recruiters will have information on contacting the MTA in your region or go to <http://www.ala.usmc.mil/band/links/nmta.asp>.
- Local Marine Corps Recruiter
Recruiters are well connected with former service members who may offer assistance. Check your local listings or call 1-800-MARINES.
- VFW, American Legion, Marine Corps League, Eagles, Elks
Organizations such as these have been extremely supportive to the sponsor in providing advertisement, meals, social gatherings, and transportation for our Marines.
- High School and College Band Directors
Music Educators can promote awareness and attendance of performances and encourage civic participation in your event.
- Music Stores
Local vendors are often enthusiastic about promotion of the fine arts. A coordinated effort between the sponsor and their local businesses is not only beneficial for them, but also for you, as a tool to encourage community leaders, educators, professional musicians, and students to attend and network.
- Hotels and Restaurants
Many businesses will cooperate by offering discounts to a sponsor dedicated to bringing a Marine Band to their community. Donation of meals, hotel rooms, and transportation can significantly reduce the sponsor's financial burden.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or are in need of further information,
please feel free to contact the band at (760) 725-4004

ADDRESS:

*1st Marine Division Band 33 C Street Box 555381
Camp Pendleton, CA 92028*

OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

[1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND](#)

OFFICIAL EMAIL:

1stMARDIV_Band@usmc.mil

OFFICIAL PHOTOS:

[Download](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA:

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