

PRESS PACKAGE

MARINE FORCES RESERVE BAND



MARINES

1775

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U.S. MARINE FORCES RESERVE BAND



MFR BAND

ABOUT US

Since November 10, 1775, Marine Bands have supported communities and demonstrated the highest qualities musical excellence and patriotism. Marine Forces Reserve Band has continued this legacy since it's establishment on October 1, 1978.

The Band is comprised of 51 active duty Marines stationed aboard the Marine Corps Support Facility in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Band supports the Marine Forces Reserve Major Subordinate Commands, Marine Corps Recruiting and national community relation programs.

The Marine Forces Reserve Band travels throughout the United States, performing for millions of people at more than 300 events annually. Previously supported events/locations including Super Bowl XLVII (New Orleans, Louisiana), Arrowhead Stadium (Kansas City, Missouri), Fleet Week New York (New York City, New York), Pro Football Hall of Fame Parade and Enshrinement Ceremony (Canton, Ohio), Country Music Awards Festival (Nashville, Tennessee), Texas State Fair (Dallas, Texas), Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (Houston, Texas), and Fiesta Days Celebration (San Antonio, Texas). The Band has also performed abroad in Brazil, Canada, Italy, and Switzerland.

The Marine Forces Reserve Band is located in the historic and culturally rich city of New Orleans where we perform year-round at local events including Carnival and Mardi Gras parades. We take every opportunity to share the spirit of the Big Easy with our audiences.

"Laissez les bon temps rouler!" (Let the Good times Roll!) and "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful).



MFR BAND

MISSION

Marine Forces Reserve Band supports Marine Forces Reserve by providing a professional quality product at military and civilian events, and training as a security platoon for our combat mission.



STAFF



OFFICER IN CHARGE

CAPTAIN

ALEX J. PANOS

Captain Alex Panos currently serves as the Officer in Charge for Marine Forces Reserve Band. Captain Panos is directly responsible for all personnel and commitments assigned to MFR Band.

Captain Panos enlisted into the Marine Corps in September of 2006 as a Bass Trombone Instrumentalist after graduating with honors from San Diego State University with a Bachelor's degree in music.

Captain Panos has served at the following Marine Units.

- **MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.**
- **1ST MARINE DIVISION BAND, CAMP PENDLETON, CA (TWO TOURS)**
- **NAVAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC, LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA**
- **3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING BAND, MIRAMAR, CALIFORNIA**
- **MARINE FORCES RESERVE BAND, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Captain Alex Panos has made notable contributions and achievements as a leader in Fleet Marine Bands. As a Bass Trombone Instrumentalist, Captain Panos performed countless events and selected for the 2017 Marine Corps Musician of the Year and Marine Corps All Star Jazz Band. Captain Panos has led as a Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor and deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Captain Panos has also served as a Small Ensemble Leader and Trombone Instructor at the Naval School of Music, Virginia. Upon selection to warrant officer, Captain Panos led Marine Band San Diego and 3d Marine Aircraft Wing Band as Officer in Charge directing high-profile events including the Tournament of Roses Parade and Hollywood Christmas Parade.

Captain Panos's awards include Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2nd award), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4th Award), Navy Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal (3rd Award), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment, and ISAF NATO Medal.



STAFF



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WARRANT OFFICER AARON K. CARPENTER

Warrant Officer Aaron K. Carpenter currently serves as the Assistant Director for Marine Forces Reserve Band. Warrant Officer Carpenter assists in directing and all band operations.

Warrant Officer Aaron K. Carpenter enlisted into the Marine Corps in October of 2012 as a Trumpet Instrumentalist after earning a Bachelor's Degree (cum laude) in Music Education from Northwestern State University in May 2006.

Warrant Officer Carpenter has served at the following Marine Units.

- **2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING BAND, CHERRY POINT, NORTH CAROLINA**
- **MARINE FORCES PACIFIC BAND, KANEHOE BAY, HAWAII**
- **NAVAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC, LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA**
- **QUANTICO MARINE CORPS BAND, QUANTICO, VIRGINIA**
- **1ST MARINE CORPS DISTRICT**

Warrant Officer Aaron K. Carpenter has made notable contributions and achievements as a leader in Fleet Marine Bands. Warrant Officer Carpenter served as a Trumpet Instrumentalist, sound reinforcement chief and assistant Enlisted Conductor in the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Band. Warrant Officer Carpenter was the Marine Forces Pacific Band's Martial Arts Instructor, brass quintet non-commissioned officer, assistant Enlisted Conductor, supply non-commissioned officer, and purchasing staff non-commissioned officer. Warrant Officer Carpenter reported to the Unit Leader course at the Naval School of Music in Virginia where he also received the billet of Enlisted Conductor. Warrant Officer Carpenter then served as the Enlisted Conductor of the Quantico Marine Corps Band and later reported to 1st Marine Corps District as a Musician Placement Director for the Marine Corps Music Program. Warrant Officer Carpenter was selected as a Warrant Officer and attended the Warrant Officer Basic Course at The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia.

Warrant Officer Carpenter's personal awards include: Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (third award), Armed Forces Service Medal, and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (third award).



STAFF



ENLISTED BANDLEADER & STAFF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE

**MASTER SERGEANT
MATTHEW R. PHAGAN**

In March of 2025, MSgt. Phagan assumed his current role as the Enlisted Bandleader / Staff Non-commissioned Officer In Charge of the Marine Forces Reserve Band in New Orleans, LA.

MSgt. Matthew Phagan is a native of Daleville, Alabama. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in September of 2002 and attended Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

MSgt. Phagan has served at the following Marine Units.

- **2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING BAND, CHERRY POINT, NORTH CAROLINA**
- **MARINE FORCES PACIFIC BAND, KANEHOE, HAWAII**
- **ALBANY MARINE BAND, ALBANY, GEORGIA**
- **2D MARINE DIVISION BAND, CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA**
- **MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**
- **6TH MARINE CORPS RECRUITING DISTRICT**
- **NAVAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC, LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA**
- **MARINE BAND PARRIS ISLAND, PARRIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA**
- **MARINE FORCES RESERVE BAND, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Master Sergeant Phagan is essential to the coordination of commitments assigned to Marine Forces Reserve Band. He has performed numerous events as Euphonium Instrumentalist and served as Section Leader, Enlisted Conductor, Martial Arts Instructor, and NCOIC for multiple logistical areas. MSgt. Phagan deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Kokopo, Papua New Guinea. MSgt. Phagan attended the Advanced Musicians Course, Unit Leaders Course, and Sound Reinforcement Course. MSgt. Phagan also served as Head of Instrumental Division, Euphonium Instructor, Operations Chief, Formal Schools Manager, and Curriculum Developer at the Naval School of Music.

MSgt. Phagan's awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4th Award, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (3rd Award), Good Conduct Medal (6th award), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Marine Corps Recruiting Ribbon, and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

STAFF

MFR BAND LEADERSHIP



INTRUMENT REPAIR TECHNICIAN

MASTER SERGEANT MATTHEW L. KOSCHESKI

MSgt. Koscheski serves as the Instrument Repair Technician and responsible for monetary funding, travel, supply and instrument maintenance of MFR Band.



DRUM MAJOR

STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER MILLER

SSgt. Miller serves as Drum Major at MFR Band and leads the Band on marching ceremonies and parades. SSgt. Miller also supervises transportation and administration.



ENLISTED CONDUCTOR

STAFF SERGEANT DANIEL PAXTON

SSgt. Paxton leads MFR Band as the Enlisted Conductor and responsible for music literature, library, commitment logistics and coordination with ensembles and sponsors.



PRODUCTION MANAGER

GUNNERY SERGEANT TED MCELWEE

GySgt. McElwee serves as Production Manager for MFR Band and responsible for audio visual productions, networking, staging, marketing and communication.



ENSEMBLES

CEREMONIAL BAND

The Ceremonial Band for MFR Band supports parades and ceremonies where a Military Marching Band is required to provide patriotic support. The Ceremonial Band is the most appropriate ensemble to kick off exhibitions or sporting events with the “Star Spangled Banner”. For Parades, it is customary for MFR Band to be positioned at the front of all parades along with the Color Guard.

“Marines lead from the Front!”



MARINES

ENSEMBLES



CONCERT BAND

The MFR Concert Band provides the outstanding dignity and class for community events with a sitting and captive audience. The concert band most commonly supports Independence Day Celebrations, Armed Forces Appreciation events, and Christmas Concerts. Venues typically require audience seating of more than 300 people and require a stage with adequate lighting, sound, visibility, access to AC power, loading entrance and parking. The concert band is best for events requiring music like the National Anthem, Sousa Marches like the “Stars and Stripes Forever”, the Armed Forces Medley and other patriotic music literature.



MARINES

ENSEMBLES

SMALL ENSEMBLES

BRASS/WOODWIND QUINTET CEREMONIES & RETIREMENTS

The Brass and Woodwind quintets are small chamber groups consisting of five to seven musicians. These ensembles are utilized at smaller venues where an event requires pre-serenade music, the National Anthem and Service Songs.



BUGLERS

FUNERALS / MEMORIALS

MFR Band can provide a single bugler for Funerals and Memorial services requiring the performance of "Taps" to honor our fallen.

**MARINES**

ENSEMBLES

SMALL ENSEMBLES



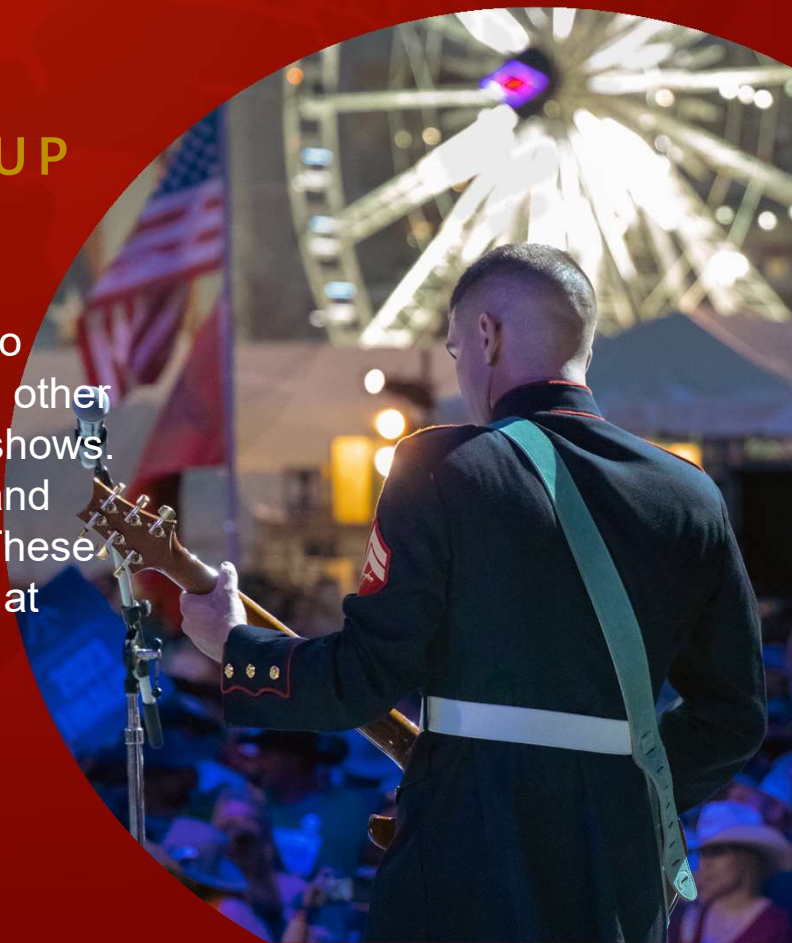
BRASS BAND COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION OUTREACH

The MFR Brass Band is an energetic ensemble that performs upbeat jazz and contemporary music. This group performs a 30-45 min show at schools and public events. The group is lively and encourages audience participation and dancing.

POPULAR MUSIC GROUP **JAZZ COMBO**

FESTIVALS AND RECEPTIONS

The Popular Music Group and Combo perform country, jazz, latin, funk, and other popular styles of music for 1-2 hour shows. Access to adequate staging, sound and lighting reinforcement are required. These Marines are a definite crowd pleaser at Festivals and dinner receptions.



MARINES

SPONSOR

PLANNING

TRANSPORTATION

All transportation costs must be provided by the sponsor at no cost to the government. MFR Band requires a 60 Passenger Bus with underside storage, a twelve passenger van with storage, and a 16-26 foot loading truck. Sponsor must provide drivers for the reserved bus and loading truck.

MEALS AND LODGING

All meals and lodging costs for 50-60 Marines must be provided by the sponsor at no cost to the government. MFR Band personnel require lodging in safe and secure locations and less than one hour from performance site. Lodging should accommodate 2-3 Marines per room with adequate hygiene facilities. Lodging must have a secure area for instruments and gear with security surveillance. Sponsor will plan three meals a day for the Marine personnel.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

Sponsor will ensure community attendance for MFR Band performances. Venues with limited seating should be filled to at least 50% capacity. Sponsor must work with local authorities to provide security for shows as well as follow safety guidelines for capacity restrictions.

ADVERTISING

Sponsors can work with schools, military recruiters, and community leaders to promote shows. MFR Band will provide flyers and other promotional templates for sponsors to use for advertising.

VENUE

Sponsor will reserve a venue with appropriate staging, seating, lighting and sound reinforcement. Stages should be at least 40 feet wide and 32 feet deep with no less than eight accessible AV power outlets. Venue must have at least 50 armless chairs for musicians and seating/standing area for attendees. Venue should have basic lighting for musicians to read music and be seen by audience. Sound reinforcement should have two main speakers with microphones for narrator and vocalist. MFR Band may provide extra lighting and sound reinforcement as needed.



MARINES

CONTACT

MARINE FORCES RESERVE BAND

For additional information or questions about MFR Band, please contact us by phone, email or social media.

ADDRESS

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PHONE

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MFR.Band@usmc.mil

WEBSITE

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MARINES