

Program Notes

U.S. Navy Music Program

What's Inside

Da Capo	2
In the Spotlight	3
Fiscal's Corner	4
Captain's Comments	4
Materiel's Corner	5
Sound Bytes	6
From the Enlisted Detailing Shop	7
Navy Band Here Assails High C's	7
Medal Recipients	8
New Parents	8
Congratulations	9
Fleet Reserve/Retirements	9
Bandmaster's Post Grad Education ...	10
From the Deputy	13
FYI	13
Sailors of the Quarter/of the Year	14

Upcoming Events

21-24 April

*All-Eastern Band &
Instrumental Clinic
School of Music*

9-12 May

Navy Band Newport
Technical-Assistance Visit

16-18 August

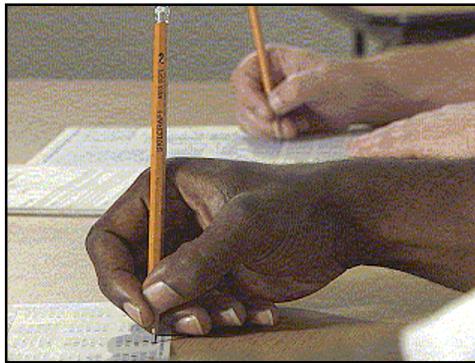
Navy Band Fleet Support Unit
Technical-Assistance Visit

Advancement Exams – *The Myths and Facts*

MUCM Art Brockmeier

Greetings from the Naval Advancement Center in Pensacola – The cradle of Naval Aviation and birthplace of advancement examinations!

For many Sailors throughout the Fleet, exam season brings on tremendous anxiety and excess stomach acids. For others, it's an opportunity to excel. If you fall in the first mentioned category, please read on. If you think you know all there is to know about the advancement system, please read on.



Before taking on the job as exam writer for the MU rating I felt confident I knew most there was to know concerning the entire advancement system. I had talked to former exam writers MUCM Brown, MUCM Carvalho, MUCS Stewart, MUCM Johnson and MUCS Hudson, taken more exams than I care to remember, and pieced together anything else I could find to get a clear picture of the system. It was not until I sat in the exam writer's chair that I found the facts and myths surrounding the advancement system. Now, with the blessing of the Commanding Officer of Naval Education and Training and Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC), I am able to bring you the real facts.

The Purpose of the Exam

The purpose of the advancement examination is to rank qualified candidates on the basis of technical and military knowledge at the next higher pay grade. All candidates who take the exam are already qualified to advance to the next higher pay grade: performance standards have been proven by PARs, service in pay grade requirements have been met, and your CO has recommended you based on your performance.

Exam Facts

Exams do NOT qualify a Sailor for advancement, which is why they're different from those you took in high school or in "A" school. They are designed to distinguish the highest qualified from among all qualified candidates. Scores represent your performance in relation to everyone else in your rate who took the same exam at the same time that you did. The exam measures your performance relative to the average performance, whatever the average performance happens to be.

In the history of the exam, *no one* (MU or any other rating) has ever answered all 150 questions correctly.

continued on page 12

Da Capo



“Since last speaking, we’ve attended the Mid-West Band & Orchestra Clinic and the Texas Music Educators’ Association Conference (TMEA) - sat the FY00 LDO/CWO In-service Procurement Board - attended the National Association of Music Merchants Show (NAMM) - and conducted a biennial Tech-Assist Site Visit on board Navy Band Jacksonville.

This year’s Mid-West and TMEA conventions marked the first use of the Program’s new booth and brochure, *Navy Musician*. If you haven’t had a chance to see the new booth yet, take it from me, it is impressive; new photos, graphics, and a multi-media slide show with voice-over narration. The office did a super job designing this, and both the brochure and booth are already generating numerous leads from applicants across the country. I’d be remiss if I didn’t say a special thanks to two renown artists and former Navy Musicians, **Robert Jager** [*Director of Composition & Theory, Tennessee Technological University*] and **Mike Vax** [*Yamaha Performing Artist and former lead trumpet player with the Stan Kenton Orchestra*] who generously and eagerly lent their support to our latest brochure. Their endorsements have generated more

positive exposure for Navy Music than we ever imagined. “*Thanks gentlemen for all you’ve done, and continue to do, for Navy Music.... It’s greatly appreciated!*”

Now, onto the latest news from the Head-shed:

Bandmaster Assignments

LTJG David Hodge from *United States Navy Band* to *Fleet Bandmaster, U.S. Seventh Fleet* in April - *LT Lorelei Conrad* from *Seventh Fleet* to *Training Officer, School of Music* in May - *LT Isaac Daniel* from *Navy Band Mid-South* to *Director, Navy Band Jacksonville* in December - *LT George Thompson* from *Navy Band Jacksonville* to *Executive Officer, School of Music* in January - and lastly, *LCDR Mark Hammond* will relieve me this Summer as *Head of the Navy Music Program (NPC-64)* and I will relieve *CDR Thomas Metcalf* as *CO, School of Music* when he retires 1 Sep 99 after 33 years of active Naval service. The FY-99 *Post-graduate Education Program Selectee* will be announced in next quarter’s edition of *Program Notes*.

LDO Selections

Congratulations go out once again to *ENS(Sel) Ben Lewis* (CINCSOUTH Band) and *ENS(Sel) Joseph Dolsak* (*Atlantic Fleet Band*) on their selection and new duties as *Director, Navy Band Mid-South* (1 Oct 99) and *Music Program Liaison Officer, Chinfo* (1 Nov 99), respectively.

Senior Enlisted Assignments

MUCS Robert Roy has Fleeted-up on board *Navy Band Great Lakes* to serve as Acting Senior Enlisted Advisor upon the transfer of *MUCM Tommy Loyola*. *MUCM Loyola* is attending the Navy’s Senior Enlisted Academy enroute to new duties as Command Master Chief, *School of Music*.

That’s it for now. Keep up the

good work, keep making great music, and keep striving for the best. Until next time, my best to each and everyone of you.”

LCDR M. E. Mitchell, USN
Head, Navy Music Program



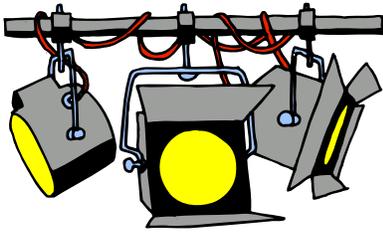
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MU1 J. L. PARKER, USN



In the Spotlight



MU2 Sterling Strickler
Navy Band Newport

“I don’t have to look for extra work to do – it knows exactly where to find me!”

“I don’t have to look for extra work to do – it knows exactly where to find me!” says Petty Officer Second Class Sterling Strickler. An accomplished musician and early-graduate from the School of Music as an Electric Bass Instrumentalist, Petty Officer Strickler now holds three primary NECs: Bassoon – Tuba – and Electric Bass. Incredible! Just in case that’s not enough, he’s also building a repertoire of 18th and 19th century piano literature for solo gigs! Here’s what he’s accomplished since enlisting in 1993: In early 1994, Navy Band Newport found themselves facing an imminent shortage in 3811s. So, having just recently reported aboard, Petty Officer Strickler **took it upon himself to learn how to**

play tuba (and play it very well!). Next, he **went to work on the band’s decrepit staging - he welded (!) and fabricated new and additional sections and, essentially, re-built the whole thing.** Sometime afterwards, the band’s grand piano needed extensive, and expensive, repair. You guessed it! Petty Officer Strickler **disassembled the grand piano, read-up on the repair nuances, and fixed it!** No....he did NOT know how to repair the piano when he started (“do not try this at home!”). He’s **developed and built several mechanical improvements for the German bassoon key system**, and he’s also **devoted time to being a piano-tuner for the band** when funding

wasn’t available. He’s also **earned a perfect score (300) on the last two PRTs.** In addition to his primary duties performing on electric and upright bass with the *Northeastern Navy Showband*, he’s also currently serving as the band’s *Public Affairs Petty Officer, Fiscal Assistant, and Stage Manager* for all special-events and Navy Band Newport’s outdoor Summer concert series.

So what does Petty Officer Strickler do in his “spare time?!” Here’s a brief listing:

- Volunteer math tutor for the residents of Newport and Portsmouth, Rhode Island
- Volunteer with local Cub Scout troops
- Volunteer with the on base “Navy Choristers”
- Completed approximately 24 Navy correspondence courses (we suspect a little “encouragement” from his Father, retired Chief Machinist Mate Strickler, had a little something to do with this one!)
- Restored a 1984 BMW
- Restored a 1912 *Steinway* piano (which is currently residing in his NAVSTA Newport barracks room!)
- Built four electric basses.

Navy Music salutes Petty Officer Strickler and congratulates him on his impressive accomplishments. Originally from Kenai, Alaska, Petty Officer Strickler holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from Washington University and a Masters Degree in Bassoon Performance from Valparaiso University. He is single, intends to make the Navy a career, and currently resides in Newport, Rhode Island.

Fiscal Manager's Corner

MUC John Warren

As most of you know, the Navy has recently changed contracts for the IMPAC Purchase Card and also from American Express to Nations Bank Travel Card. These contracts were awarded due to the fact these vendors promised a paperless on-line system of payment and monitoring by 1 Dec 98. IMPAC'S *CITIDIRECT* and Nation Banks *EAGLS* on-line systems are still not operational. We are months into both contracts and paper is still the only method of paying the IMPAC bills. The only report seen for the Nations Bank Travel Card is the travel member's bill – we are still not receiving reports on card usage at the APC or Assistant Director level. While waiting for the *CITIDIRECT* on-line system, DFAS has improved the paper payment system by providing a

fax number that scans the payment packages directly into their financial system. Simply fax your signed prompt pay and IMPAC account summary to (843) 746-6039. This has already reduced payment-processing time in half. For the Nations Bank Travel Program, we hope to start receiving reports on card usage at the APC and Assistant Director level soon. I recently ordered Nations Bank instruction binders for all Assistant Directors. If you haven't received one give me a call. Main points to remember as always – TAD only and pay promptly. I will forward progress reports to all Bandmasters, Assistant Directors, and Fiscal Personnel as we move closer to both on-line systems.

Captain's Comments

March 4, 1999 Reprinted from the "Bluejacket" (NSA Mid-South)
CAPT Ann E. Rondeau, USN

[Da Capo note - This is must reading for every Sailor! How many times have we talked about this very subject? As musical-ambassadors, you ARE the Navy to all who see you. Accept this role with pride, wear your uniform with pride, and never for a moment think you're "not noticed."]

I have a confession to make. When recently returning from a TAD trip, I did not wear my uniform. As faithful readers of this column are aware, I have freely exhorted on the importance of wearing the uniform, especially when traveling TAD.

On my return trip, I had consciously decided not to wear my uniform. Having packed light, I had worn the single uniform I had packed for nearly three days and it was looking fairly tired. I needed a haircut and, well—all in all—I thought better of wearing it for concern about not doing the uniform honor.

This is the funny thing—I felt the difference. In civilian clothes, while always polite, I do not seek out lots

of conversation while traveling. When in uniform, however, I tend to be a bit more openly courteous, recognizing that in uniform I am more than a traveler. As a result, traveling is often a more interactive experience while I am in uniform. Here are a few recent personal experiences from traveling in uniform:

—While awaiting a flight, I was approached by a wide-eyed girl and her mother, both obviously new citizens in our country, asking about women in the military, and, "Do you think my daughter could someday go to the Naval Academy...?" For a few minutes there was an opportunity to be a role model and a recruiter, all in one.

—Awaiting a flight at Charlotte, N.C., a man came up to me and engaged in conversation, telling me of his granddaughter who is an active duty Seabee in Iceland and his pride as a former Navy man." For a few minutes, an American citizen who himself served was able to tell of his pride in his quite successful Sailor

granddaughter.

—While awaiting a fight at Memphis International Airport, I happened upon a new seaman recruit who was on his way from Great Lakes, Ill., to Yokosuka, Japan and scared. We got to talking about what to expect and about his anxieties. By the time I left him he was smiling and more reassured. For a few minutes, I was able to support a new Sailor—and perhaps one of his first memories in our Navy will be of a captain who let him talk about why he joined the Navy and about his professional dreams.

—While eating lunch in the very nice hotel restaurant where I was staying in Nashville, the head chef came up to me to let me know he served in the Navy years ago as a cook on a flagship (during the Korean Conflict). He expressed how pleased he was to let me know that he thereafter attended one of the finest culinary schools in America and became a prize-winning chef. He wanted to know all about Sailors today and about the state of our Navy. For a few minutes this man was able to proudly tell me of his heritage and I was able to tell him about his legacy and of the Sailor of today.

continued on page 11

From the Editor

As I'm sure you've noticed, we've made the move to COLOR! Going from black and white to a color format is a big move, and required quite a rework of the newsletter. What you see before you is a work in progress – moving to color was not as easy as you may think. Deciding on a consistent color scheme, color correcting photos, re-working logos, new graphics, and making judicious use of spot color all take a lot more time than the simplicity of black and white. As time progresses, you may see subtle changes in the newsletter – a color tweak here, a reworked logo there, or even entirely new graphics.

For those who are curious, Program Notes is printed totally in house on our own equipment. The newsletter is laid out in *Adobe Pagemaker 6.5*, and printed on a *Tektronix 780 Graphics* color laser printer. Graphics are edited and color corrected in *Adobe Photoshop* and *Adobe Illustrator*. Over 150 copies of each issue are printed and mailed to all Navy Bands, Navy Recruiting Command, and all Navy Recruiting Districts. Copies are also read by MCPON, Commander Navy Personnel Command, and heads of the other military music programs.

With your help, *Program Notes* is growing into more than a simple program newsletter and into a professional publication read Navy wide. As always, what you liked, what you didn't, errors/omissions, or any ideas on making *Program Notes* a better publication can be emailed or faxed to me at:

**Email via the BBS or at
p64f@persnet.navy.mil
Fax: DSN 882-2614 or
Commercial 901-874-2614**

MUI James Parker

Materiel Manager's Corner

MUCS Rick Cox

I attended this year's NAMM Show in Los Angeles, along with two of our technical-specialists from Fleet Support. As usual, the show was both educational and informative (fun too!). We saw just about every bit of musical gear available in the marketplace, both mature and cutting edge technologies. You'll see some of these items come on-line over the next year or two. Sooner for some things, later for others. For instance, the latest PA gear revolves around two things: Active Speaker Systems and Digital Mixers. Truthfully, our program is in such great shape in the PA department that new PA gear is not high on our priority list. But, we could use a few small, super high quality PA systems so we'll buy a few of the new Mackie EFX twelve channel mixers and the active speakers to go with them. On the flip side, even though digital mixers are probably in everyone's future, it will be a while before we need them. Other items you'll see will be a greater variety of trumpets available, both Yamaha 6310Z Horns and the popular Bachs. Also, we've purchased more Edwards Trombones and Selmer E Flat Baritones to replace our aging bari fleet. So, as you can see, we're concentrating more on instruments right now rather than PA gear and computers (although there is at least one new printer in your band's future).

Are you interested in sound reinforcement? Well, the folks at Fleet Support are busy applying their expertise to the development of the new Sound Reinforcement Technician Course. This course will be offered to interested personnel who are recommended by their Bandmaster and have demonstrated an aptitude in sound-reinforcement and an ability behind a mixing board. As before, this training will cover technical knowledge and practical application (i.e., mixing a live ensemble). We'll be publishing specific application guidance soon but, if you're interested, be sure to speak with your Bandmaster and Assistant Director to let them know.

As always I appreciate your calls regarding new equipment possibilities and it's always great to talk to the Fleet. Your comments are not only desired and encouraged - they're vital. So, if you have suggestions, please call.

*“Our bands make Sailors proud to be IN the Navy
– and all Americans proud OF our Navy...”*

**Rear Admiral J. B. Hinkle, U.S. Navy
Assistant Commander, Navy Personnel
Command (NPC-6)**

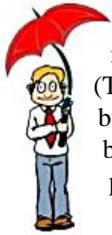
Sound Bytes

MU1 James Parker

Y2K – Are We Safe?



I've received a number of calls concerning the Year 2000 "Millennium Bug", or Y2K for short. There seems to be a lot of confusion about what the "Bug" actually is, and how or if it will affect us. Contrary to some reports, our society will not fall into chaos January 1, 2000. You'll still get paid, your car will still start, and Navy bands will still be entertaining millions. But let's start at the beginning.



Long, long ago, when computing was in its infancy (circa late 1950's early 60's), memory was very precious. In order to conserve as much of it as possible, programmers used only 2 digits to designate the year, and in some cases only 1! (There was probably a year 1970 or 1980 bug as well). The practice continued, and became commonplace. To compound the problem, the chip that keeps the correct date and time in our PC's (called the BIOS) also used this method to designate the year. The problem arises when the date rolls over to 2000 – or to the computer or software, '00.

It doesn't think it's the year 2000, but the year 1900. The computer may reset itself to the original date the BIOS was created, set the clock for January 1, 1900, or simply crash. Incorrect results could occur whenever computer systems, software, or microchips perform arithmetic operations, comparisons or data field sorting involving years later than 1999. You can imagine the problems with regard to bill calculations, dividends, and timers, to name a few.

How This Affects Your Band's Systems

[Note: The systems I discuss here are ONLY those provided by NPC-64.

If you have acquired other systems from your OPCOM, DRMO, etc., I have no way of knowing if they are Y2K compliant.]

All of our Gateway Pentium computers are Y2K compliant, but if you have any of the old Zenith 486s, or Everex/Unisys 386s, they are not. Tests on the 486s indicate that although the date will not advance properly to the year 2000 (it will revert to Jan 1, 1900), it can be reset manually. If your band is using any of the 486 or 386 systems, just make sure they are not processing date specific data. Most of these should be headed for that big silicon graveyard in the sky as we replace them with new Pentium systems. The Marble Pentium system should be tested using software NPC-64 will provide. If it is not Y2K compliant, please contact me as soon as possible.

Although the hardware side of our Pentium computers is Y2K compliant, the software may need to be upgraded, or "patched." You should have received a CD by the time you read this that includes Service Release Packs for *MS Office '97*, *Windows '95*, and *Windows '98*. The CD also has the latest Norton and McAfee virus scan programs, ADP reference material in PDF format, and all current music texts (Harmony, Ear Training, and Basic Music books) in PDF format. In case you want (or need) to test any of the systems for Y2K compliance, there is also a test program included that should work on any machine, 386- Pentium II.



Epson Stylus Color 1520

ADP Equipment in the Pipeline

We are in the process of upgrading all of our music software. Within the next couple of months, you will be receiving upgrades to *Finale*, *Encore*, and *Band in the Box*. In addition, you'll be getting an additional site license to install your *Finale* on another machine.

Also, each band will be receiving a new printer. The *Epson Stylus Color 1520* is a wide format inkjet printer, capable of 1440x720 dpi color printing on paper sizes up to 17"x22". This will be perfect for printing concert band or stage band scores at a size that won't strain your eyes, and puts more than 3 measures on a page. We realize we are short on printers, and plan on purchasing more as our budget allows. In the meantime, we encourage the use of printer sharing devices to make the most of what we do have.



Kodak DC260

Digital cameras – yes, we are going to purchase one for each band. Problem is, the one we picked (*Nikon Coolpix 900s*) is sold completely out. Nikon isn't even manufacturing any more because it has been replaced by a new model that is yet to appear, and unfortunately, out of our price range. Because the technology changes so fast, we want to be sure to buy something that will meet our needs for a few years, and meet our quality standards. The current front runner is the *Kodak DC260*.

If you have any suggestions or questions on ADP equipment, please drop me a line or give me a call!



From the Enlisted Detailing Shop

MUCM Larry McIntyre

Manning

Numbers can be deceiving! Our current manning level, which is somewhere around the mid 90% range, is impressive compared to other ratings Navy wide. However, when your rating is 100% NEC driven (like MUs), that can spell trouble... Most of you have felt the impact of continuing shortfalls in 3812 (Guitar), 3815 (Electric Bass), 3809 (Trombone), and 3806 (Trumpet). Our pipeline in these NECs also continues to fall. I'm sharing this information because my previous articles may have colored this manning "picture" a bit brighter than reality. I want to assure you that we, our NPC-64 staff and our MU recruiters on the street, are doing everything possible to improve this shortfall.

Orders

"When can I expect to see my orders?" remains the number one question asked when negotiating for Permanent Change of Station Orders (PCS). Prior to our move to Millington, this answer was an easy one for me to predict. As of late, this has become more difficult. Why? Some of the other agencies which contribute to you receiving your orders are either not in my building or not even on this base. In Washington, I could "walk" your orders through. Here, I must rely on e-mail, fax, or phone calls to these other agencies to accomplish that task. Even a simple order modification can take a bit longer due to this move. Normally, I can provide verbal notification of impending PCS orders six months prior to your detachment

date, and have orders in hand by four months prior to detachment. I expect this situation to improve during the remainder of the current fiscal year.

Career Opportunities

In the next issue of *Program Notes* we will announce those Musicians who have successfully screened for recruiter duty. We are receiving a good number of nominations. There are still a few "choice" NRDs left, so if you're interested, contact me! We will accept nominations until 31 Mar 99. Nominations may be submitted via phone call or NAVPERS 1306/7.

We are now accepting requests for the January 2000 Ceremonial Conductor/Drum Major and Unit Leader courses. Submit requests on a NAVPERS 1306/7 to Commander, Navy Personnel Command (NPC-64) via the Bandmaster. Note: Bandmaster's written endorsement, in addition to signature, is required on all applications. For further information please refer to NPC-64 Memo 1514 Ser 64/0624 dtd 15 Aug 97. As always, keep your duty preference up to date, and give me a call or e-mail if you're a year out from PRD.

Navy Band Here Assails High C's

By Tom Bailey Jr. ©1998, *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, TN. Used with permission.

Uncle Sam recruited them more for their talents with musical instruments than with the instruments of war.

The 35-member Navy Band Memphis sets sail at 7 tonight with a free holiday performance, called "A Musical Celebration of the Season," at Naval Support Activity Mid-South.

The audience should float on a sea of warm, familiar melodies and the beautifully husky voice of the band's vocalist, Petty Officer 3C Rachel Olderman.

Many may not realize that playing music is not collateral duty for Navy Band members. They are full-

time, professional musicians who had to audition for the Navy and who perform about 350 times a year.



But they're also sailors who went through recruit training and

who exercise together three times a week to meet Navy standards for physical fitness.

Many also may not realize the luck of the Mid-South in having the band headquarters in Memphis.

The downsized Navy has only about a dozen bands left. Navy Band Memphis serves an 11-state region from eastern Colorado to southern Illinois.

At a rehearsal for the show earlier this week, Lt. Isaac Daniel, band director, entered the studio at 1 o'clock sharp to start work.

continued on page 12

Our Recent Medal Recipients

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal



MUCM Scott Davenport

Navy Band Newport

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal



MU2 Dave Hoffman

MU2 Alex Gowland

MU2(SW) Curtis Sines

MU2 Sergio Dacol

MU2 Antonios Vatousios

MU3 Roger Starcher

MU3 Jeremy Thompson

MU2 Billy Overton

MU3 Melissa Koff

Navy Band Jacksonville

PACIFIC Fleet Band

PACIFIC Fleet Band

Naval Academy Band

Navy Band Newport

ATLANTIC Fleet Band

ATLANTIC Fleet Band

Navy Band New Orleans

ATLANTIC Fleet Band

Armed Forces Service Medal



MU2 David Johnson

MU2 Harold Mahannah

MU3 Lynn Jordon

MU3 Kevin Morris

SIXTH Fleet Band

SIXTH Fleet Band

SIXTH Fleet Band

SIXTH Fleet Band

Our New Parents And Newborns

Jerry Jiro Lotz, born 20 December 1998 to MU2 Scott and wife Rumiko Lotz

Jennifer Carol McCarthy, born 29 December 1998 to MU2 Joe and wife Paula McCarthy

Connor Alexander Peters, born 11 January 1999 to MU3 Steven and wife Suzanne Peters

John Andrew Gerhard, born 19 January 1999 to MU1 Carl and wife Mary Gerhard

Alana Clayton, born 6 February 1999 to MU2 Gary and wife Eleanor Clayton

Donovan Jordan Bethel, born 11 February 1999 to MU3 Dan and wife Sarah Bethel

Oscar James Evans, born 18 February 1999 to MU1 Terry and wife Kristina Evans

Emily Stevens, born 12 March 1999 to MU2 Ryan and wife Melinda Stevens

Congratulations!

To Our Newest Bandmasters



ENS(Sel) Benjamin Lewis CINCOSOUTH Band

ENS(Sel) Joseph Dolsak ATLANTIC Fleet Band

To Our Newest Master Chiefs



Fleet-MU

MUCM Art Brockmeier NETPDTC (Exam Ctr)
 MUCM Larry McIntyre NAVPERSCOM (NPC-64)

Special-Band MU

MUCM Gretchen Ellrod U.S. Navy Band
 MUCM William Krantz U.S. Navy Band
 MUCM Diana Ogilvie U.S. Navy Band
 MUCM Jon Youngdahl U.S. Navy Band

Transfers to the Fleet Reserve and Retired List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Command</u>
MUC Ben Singleton	9905	Navy Band New Orleans
MUCS David Falardeau	9906	Navy Band Great Lakes
MU2 Mark Sleister	9906	ATLANTIC Fleet Band

To each of these Sailors we wish you "*Fair Winds and Following Seas,*" along with the appreciation of the entire Navy Music Program...

TAPS

MUC Henry A. "Hank" Lachenmayer, USN (Ret.) died of cancer on 9 January 1999 at his home in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Chief Lachenmayer was 79. A Pearl Harbor survivor, he was a member of the unit band aboard *USS Pennsylvania* and was topside for Morning Colors during the attack. A trombone and violin instrumentalist, he enlisted in 1938 and served on board *USS Honolulu, Wisconsin,* and *Bennington* in addition to completing tours of shore duty on board NAS Pensacola, School of Music, and BUPERS. He retired in July 1960 after 22 years of active Naval service.

Bandmaster's Post Graduate Education

A Student's Perspective

LT Mel Kessler, USN

[Ed. note - Lieutenant Mel Kessler is the FY98 Bandmasters' Post Graduate Education Program Selectee. LT Kessler is attending Florida State University where he will earn a Masters Degree in Conducting. The other universities currently approved for Bandmasters are Northwestern and New England Conservatory.]

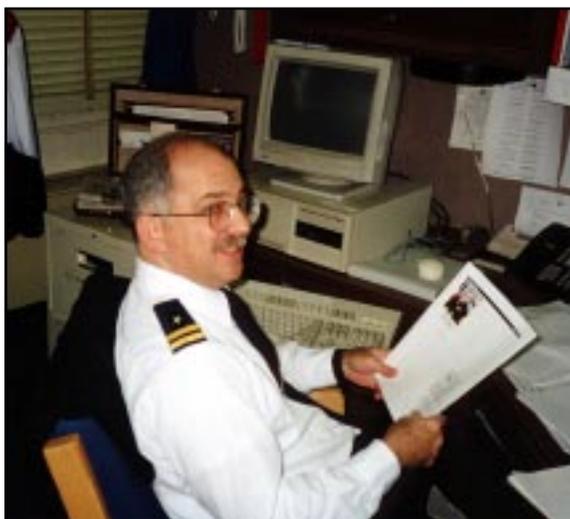
Hello Shipmates. Having just completed one semester at FSU, I wanted to share a little of my experience and pass on some information you may find useful if you decide to apply for the *Postgraduate Degree Program*.

Florida State is a wonderful school, and the faculty and staff have been terrific. The semester began in August with four diagnostic exams: Lower Level Theory, Upper Level Theory, Counterpoint, and Music History. For completion of the degree, remedial course work is **required** for any exams not passed. If remediation were necessary, it would be at your expense - not the Navy's! *New England Conservatory* and *Northwestern University* have the same requirement, as do most universities.

As for me, FSU accepted six applied credits from *George Mason University*, which eliminated the requirement for trumpet lessons. Actually, I wish I could have transferred classroom credits and taken the trumpet lessons! Florida State has very high academic standards (classroom) and I have done more "scholarly" writing than I ever thought one person was capable of doing in five months! For administrative purposes I am attached to the ROTC Unit of Florida A&M. I only have to stop

by once every couple of weeks to show my face and check on mail. They are also terrific people, and the Chief has been very helpful.

All of the ensembles at FSU are fantastic, and the students have to audition for membership - first for a particular ensemble and then for chairs in the ensemble. This first semester I conducted the *Florida Winds* (grad chamber ensemble) in three



LT Mel Kessler

concerts. Dr. Croft (Director of Bands) was wonderful and gave me ample podium time. The least amount of time I had for any one rehearsal was 30 minutes. For all others, I had 45 minutes to an hour. I also covered two complete rehearsals for him while he was out of town. One was the Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*, complete with strings and soloist. On Fridays in Conducting Class, we all have podium time every other week to conduct a grade 3-4 piece of music. We make up the ensemble with a few unwilling *undergrads* pulled from practice rooms and the lounge. We verbally critique each other with, Dr. Croft

giving the last critique. This is where all the *words of wisdom* spill forth (all his little secrets are shared).

During this semester, I did my chamber recital complete with biographical and analytical program notes: Beethoven's "*Octet in E-flat*" - Stravinsky's "*Octet*" - Fisher Tull's "*Nonet*" - and Jean Francaix's "*L'heure du Berger*." The semester ended with the *Prism Concerts* and *Tri-State Festival*. Tri-State is a high school honor band (four bands) weekend that takes place on campus. The Prism Concerts (four) are held in conjunction with this and they showcase groups from the School of Music and are all open to the public. The 1,400-seat auditorium was sold-out in three days! Dr. Croft asked me to conduct one of the small groups for this series and, since this was a fundraiser for FSU's band program, it was the only time I didn't conduct in uniform.

I will be conducting the Wind Orchestra during this next semester (the graduate wind ensemble). For one of the concerts, I will conduct a major work and I also have to write a treatise (a complete analysis) of the work. I have three examples on my desk. They are bound and each are 3/4 to 11/2 inches thick! At the end of the semester, I will appear before a committee for a one-hour interview to defend my treatise and to answer any questions they feel are pertinent for their determination in awarding me a degree.

If you're considering applying for the Bandmaster postgraduate program, here are some suggestions you might find helpful. Keep in mind, the Bandmaster program is an *accel-*

erated course of study. You will be enrolled in a program that is usually geared for 18 - 24 months; however, you will be doing the same curriculum in a 12-month or less period. This means it's a lot of work in a short period of time, so you can't afford to need remediation and you definitely don't need to be taking any additional courses (you don't have the time!). To ease your course load, you may want to take two 3-credit courses to transfer as electives. I suggest music history or theory. To help pass the diagnostics, get a hold of whatever theory book is being used by the institution you choose, and work through it cover to cover. And lastly, get a copy of either *History of Music* by Hugh M. Miller or *An Outline History of Western Music* by Milo Wold. Both of these books are excellent, condensed overviews of music history and will greatly help you pass any institution's music history diagnostic (I wish I had done this myself!).

There's also been some time for fun too. Dr. Croft invited me and my family to attend an FSU football game as guests of the *Marching Chiefs*. We went to the FSU vs. Clemson game and sat in the front row of the end zone - directly in front of the Chiefs. I never imagined how loud 420 musicians could be. And the decibel level went up 100 notches when they played the fight-song. "Live," big time football is really incredible!

To sum up, I've been up later hours studying than I would like AND writing more papers than I care to. But, this is a great school and I am learning so much that it's incredible (I'm learning that I know very little!). Sure, the accelerated curriculum is tough, but I am grateful for the opportunity and wouldn't trade it for anything.

I may have shared more than you would like to know, but so much has happened in five short months that I am not sure I comprehend it all. If any of you have questions, contact me at mpk3125@garnet.acns.fsu.edu. I would welcome hearing from you. If you're interested in FSU, be sure to visit their web site at www.fsu.edu. And, if you're really curious, Dr. Deal (Dean) posts all bibliography class info and assignments on the Internet (by the way, it's a required class). Here's the URL: http://otto.cmr.fsu.edu/~deal_j (DO NOT put a *www* in front of the URL). That's about it. I hope this helps. My final piece of advice is, it's never too early to start planning your future. So, "*get a head start!*"

Navy Music Salutes

Black History Month

February

Captain's Comments

Continued from page 4

—During another flight I sat next to a man who told me of losing one of his sons in Vietnam. For a few minutes I was able to listen to this man tell of his son and of his own service during World War II.

Returning home in "mufti" (civilian clothes) on my most recent TAD, a senior officer in our Navy was sitting behind me on the aircraft, heading to Memphis to make a connection with another flight. He was traveling in uniform. Next to him was a chatty woman who regaled this officer about the concerns she had about Y2K, the military and other matters. The officer patiently and knowledgeably spoke to all of her concerns. Upon disembarking the aircraft I heard her thank him for making her feel more secure and happier as an American citizen. For those two hours, while I am certain not always enjoying the details of the conversation, that officer served his country, that citizen and our Navy in a very special way.

Traveling in uniform is important, especially when on government business and time. If we do not proudly wear our oath and our commitment, if we do not proudly wear our legacy and our heritage, how can we expect taxpayers and American citizens to symbolically wear it for us with their support? Commitment assumes meaning we stand-up for our decision to serve by wearing our uniform.' Benjamin Constant once stated that "The army is the people in uniform." In the "peacetime years" between World War I and World War II, President Calvin Coolidge said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten."

In these peacetime years, with fewer Americans having the direct experience of military service, let us stand up and stand out for what the nation ultimately requires in defense of its' own liberty - sacrifice, duty, honor, courage and commitment.

Next time, I intend to pack one more uniform.

Have a Great Navy Day.

Advancement Exams – The Myths and Facts
Continued from cover

Exams are prepared a minimum of 12 months prior to their test dates. This lead-time is required for editing, printing proofs, cross checks and verifications, ordering, printing and distribution. Exams are comprised of 150 questions: 135 in-rate topics and 15 on military requirement topics. All questions must be supported by occupational standards and a reference. All occupational standards are covered over a period of exam cycles. References of future exams are listed in the new exam specific bibliographies. Future bibs combine references for the current and late exams into a single list.

Exam writers take rating exams the same time as the Fleet. As part of the verification process, exam writers are required to take their exams at the same time as their Shipmates. This is just another step in the process to insure questions are current. Remember that exam writers have not seen their exams in over a year. (I thought my years of taking exams were over when I put on the khaki uniform. Now I take 7 exams per year that I haven't seen for at least a year - they're still brain benders!)

POPULAR EXAM MYTHS

A standard score of 80 means you "ACED" the exam.

Not so. You may have only answered 110 of 150 questions correctly. All raw scores are converted to standard scores. If a score of 70 was the average raw score for the exam, that score becomes a score of 50 when converted to a standard score. Standard scores range from 20 to 80, 50 being the center of the range. A standard score of 80 means you had the top, or equal to the top, score for your rating.

70 exam questions are thrown out because they are either too hard or too easy. The remaining 80 questions become the bases for scoring.

Not so. All questions remain valid unless there is a specific reason for deletion. It may be that a question had more than 1 correct answer. Maybe the question wasn't clear enough and even the "high scorers" had a problem answering that specific question.

After exams are given a process called "random verification" takes place. Questions with poor statistical ratings are sent to the individual exam writers to verify their validity. At this time the writer has the option of deleting questions or modifying the answer key to make them correct.

The Advancement Center should create study guides and practice exams to help Sailors score higher on exams.

Not a good idea! Advancement exams are based on a norm-referenced system, also known as "grading on the curve." As scores rise, the curve distorts to the high end of the scale. When this occurs, the exam writer must write harder questions to bring scores down and the curve within statistical parameters. I think you'll all agree that MU questions are already difficult enough.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me via email or a phone call. If your question would apply to the Fleet, it, along with the answer, will be published in the next issue of *Program Notes*.

Email: mucs-art.brockmeier@smtp.cnet.navy.mil

[Ed. Note: Once Master Chief Brockmeier's email account is updated, you'll need to use *mucm vice mucs*]

Phone: (DSN) 922-1349 (Comm) 850-452-1349

Navy Band Here Assails High C's
Continued from page 7

The room was jammed with black speakers and amplifiers, black and gray wires, and, of course, the musicians with their instruments large and small.

The enlisted sailors range in rank from seaman to master chief petty officer. Daniel is the only officer. For rehearsal, three different uniforms were being worn by the group: winter working blue, dungarees and khakis.

Daniel stepped to the front. "All right, good afternoon!" he said.

After receiving a brief report on musicians who had an excused absence, Daniel lifted the baton.

"Let's try this Christmas sing-along again," he said, referring to a medley.

"Take those slurs off," he said during *Jingle Bells*.

"Give me the third beat of the second measure of 37," he instructed while perfecting *The First Noel*.

"Start on beat one..."

"One more time..."

"That worked!"

The lead in to *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* proved the most difficult part of the rehearsal. After they had tried it twice, Daniel said, "That's not going to work. Obviously I'm doing something wrong."

They tried it several more times.

"In order for that to work, we've got to get a darker sound," Daniel told the trombonist.

"Ok, let's try the whole thing from the top."

The 70-minute concert will be a mix of the beautifully reverent (Olderman's singing of *Ave Maria*) to the humorously homespun (Master Chief Petty Officer Chuck Clark picking his banjo and singing *Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer*).

The primary mission of Navy Band Memphis is to provide patriotic music for Navy ceremonies. But it also plays for civilian functions to

continued on page 15

From the Deputy

LTJG Richard Bailey

New Secondary ("Minor") Instrument Performance Standards

Big changes in performance standards are afoot in our program. For those of you who are required to play an instrument in addition to your major (saxophone, clarinet, flute, oboe, bassoon, euphonium), the old performance standard of a 2.5 performance level has changed. This change was affected as a result of the Naval Training Requirements Review (NTRR) conducted at the School of Music last Spring (1998) and is now being phased in throughout the fleet as well.

2.70 for Secondary NECs

School of Music students who are required to play a secondary instrument must now achieve a minimum F-2 audition score of 2.7 in order to graduate. The substance of this change is contained in the Chief of Naval Personnel letter (Ser 64/0508) of 20 October 1998, and came into effect with its distribution.

- Those members approved for enlistment/assignment to MU "A" School *prior* to the distribution of this letter must meet the old standard (2.5 F-2 audition on minor instrument) for graduation.
- Those who were approved for enlistment/assignment to MU "A" School *after* its distribution fall under the new standard.
- Those members in the Fleet who hold required secondary NECs are subject to the phasing plan explained below.

Phasing plan

- MUs who were approved for enlistment/assignment to MU "A" School *prior* to publication of the new standard must achieve a 2.70 score or better on their secondary instrument during their first enlistment in order to qualify for reenlistment.
- Designated MUs who have not earned a secondary instrument grade of at least 2.70 must achieve a 2.70 during their current enlistment. Those who fail to achieve the new standard are not eligible for reenlistment under that NEC (a member must meet *all* requirements of the NEC to be eligible for reenlistment - *Bupers Manual*). Members in this category must be re-auditioned on their secondary instrument prior to reenlistment. **Note:** *Waiver requests for those needing additional time due to an impending EAOS will be considered on a case basis. In most instances, these requests will be approved in order to give all members adequate time to meet these new requirements.*

Designation of Secondary Instrument

The final change concerning minor instruments is that applicants auditioning for primary NEC 3805 (saxophone) no longer have the "option" of choosing between flute or clarinet for their minor. As stated in the newest version of the *Recruiting Manual* (Ch 3N), the required secondary instrument is determined by Commander, Navy Personnel Command (NPC-64) based on current and projected Fleet manning levels. This will solve some of the difficulties we've all experienced with having a saxophone section full of flute minors, while we don't have enough clarinet players to cover the parts, or vice versa.

These changes will provide our bands with a more balanced and musical cadre of musicians, enabling us to do the job in a more professional manner.

FYI

Physical Readiness Program Interim Change

Mandatory separation processing due to consecutive PRT or body fat failures is suspended. This moratorium will remain in place during CY99 and follow on guidance will be forthcoming. For more information see NAVADMIN 012/99.

Uniform Regulation Change

Effective immediately, the CNO has approved soft shoulder boards and metal devices for wear by Chief Petty Officers. CPOs may optionally wear cap devices on blue windbreakers, khaki windbreakers, black dress jackets and all weather coats until 1 October 2000 at which time devices become mandatory. Soft shoulder boards may be worn optionally on the service dress blue white shirt and black v-neck sweater until 1 October 2000 at which time they become mandatory.

Interim Change to the Performance and Evaluation Counseling System

Due to recent changes announced by NAVADMIN 050/99, closeout evals are now only required for frocking/promotion to E7. However, under no circumstances shall a reporting period exceed 15 months. In this regard, submit reports as appropriate.

All members who have an approved resignation/Fleet Reserve/retirement request shall be placed in a separate sub-category. For more information see NAVADMIN 050/99.

continued on page 15

Our Sailors of the Year for 1998

MU2 Gerald Granata
 MU1 Patrick Sweeten
 MU2 Chris Griffin
 MU1 Michael Urbaszewski
 MU3 Lori Rademacher
 MU1 Robert Stibbe

MU1 Jim Fox
 MU2 Sterling Strickler
 MU3 Vincent Eury
 MU1 John Cline
 MU1 Marie Beam
 MU3 Charity Barron
 MU1 Robert Bowman
 MU3 Eric Ordway
 MU1 Robert Wrenn

Navy Band Great Lakes
 Navy Band Jacksonville/Navy Region Southeast Staff
 Navy Band Jacksonville/Navy Region Southeast Staff
 PACIFIC Fleet Band
 PACIFIC Fleet Band
 Naval Academy Band/U.S. Naval Academy/
 Annapolis Area Complex
 Navy Band Mid-South
 Navy Band Newport
 Navy Band Newport
 ATLANTIC Fleet Band
 Navy Band Seattle
 Navy Band Seattle
 Navy Band New Orleans
 Navy Band New Orleans
 SEVENTH Fleet Band

Our Sailors of the Quarter

NAME

MU2 Walter Stiles
 MU1 Tommy Osborne
 MU2 Chris Griffin
 MU3 Timothy Stanley
 MU1 Arthur Wuertz
 MU3 Paul Roberts
 MU2 Kari Hauge
 MU2 Thomas Weller
 MU3 Daniel Taylor
 MU1 Terry Evans
 MU3 David Tulloch
 MU1 Robert Bowman
 MU1 Robert Wrenn
 MU3 Shana Higginbotham

4th Quarter 98

Navy Band Newport
 Navy Band Jacksonville
 Navy Band Jacksonville
 Navy Band Newport
 PACIFIC Fleet Band
 PACIFIC Fleet Band
 Naval Academy Band
 ATLANTIC Fleet Band
 ATLANTIC Fleet Band
 Navy Band Seattle
 Navy Band Seattle
 Navy Band New Orleans
 SEVENTH Fleet Band
 SEVENTH Fleet Band

NAME

MU2 Jim Ramsey
 MU3 Jennifer Damsky
 MU2 Brian Ioerger
 MUSN Nicholas Ezzo
 MU1 James Parker
 MU1 Adam Vincent
 MU3 Brent Adler

1st Quarter 99

Navy Band Great Lakes
 Navy Band Great Lakes
 PACIFIC Fleet Band
 PACIFIC Fleet Band
 NAVPERSCOM NPC-6
 Navy Band Mid-South
 Navy Band Mid-South

Other Awards & Achievements

MUC Bob Falter's Recruiting Station was named "Small Station of the Quarter" for 4th Quarter '98
 MU2 Byron Barnes completed his M.B.A. Degree from the University of Hawaii

"All of us must become better informed. It is necessary for us to learn from others' mistakes. You will not live long enough to make them all yourself..."

ADM Hyman G. Rickover, USN
 (1900-1986)

FYI*Continued from page 13***Fitrep/Eval References**

Have any of you ever wondered if you had all the changes to the new FITREP/EVAL instruction? Now is your chance to check your references. Listed below are all of the NAVADMINs (and one NAVOP) that apply to BUPERSINST 1610.10. These are all the references that modify the instruction since its inception.

- NAVOP 043/95
- NAVADMIN 049/97
- NAVADMIN 175/98
- NAVADMIN 239/98
- NAVADMIN 276/98
- NAVADMIN 050/99

Suggested Reading...

CDR Michael Burch-Pesses, USN (Ret.), Director of Bands at Pacific University, had an excellent article published recently in *"The Instrumentalist."* You can read his article, "Seven Effective Habits for Better Rehearsals," in the February issue. "...*Congratulations Commander!*"

New Command Titles...

Effective 1 April, Navy Band Seattle becomes *Navy Band Northwest* and, not to be outdone, Navy Band San Diego will become *Navy Band Southwest*. These changes are due to the recent regionalization of their respective commands from COMNAVBASE Seattle & San Diego to *Commander, Navy Region Northwest & Southwest*.

Program Notes

Submissions

**Deadline for Articles,
Awards, Retirements, and
New Parents:
June 15**

Navy Band Here Assails High C's*Continued from page 12*

give the Navy a presence in the community and to help with recruiting.

The band never charges for its performances, but it also does not entertain for fund-raisers or in any other setting that could be construed as an endorsement by the Navy.

Within the band are several subgroups, including Sternwheel Drive, a jazz ensemble; Atlantis, an eight-piece group that plays contemporary music, and a brass quintet.

For the drummer, Petty Officer 1C Duncan Hudson, the Navy offers much more stability than life as a civilian musician. Hudson, 36, of Memphis, was a college student and part-time musician when he entered the Navy 16 years ago.

"(Civilian) musician jobs are not steady at all," Hudson said. "And (the Navy job) is a steady paycheck."

He estimated that on average the Navy Band members make \$30,000 a year.

"For musicians, that's pretty good," Hudson said.

Olderman, the vocalist, sang some during her off-duty hours with rock bands while stationed in Europe. At the time, she was a hospital corpsman.

She recalled being inspired after hearing a Navy band perform at a Navy birthday ball in Italy a few years ago.

"I thought it was pretty neat," the 24-year old Houston native said.

She auditioned for the music corps and changed her Navy career.

"It's opened up my mind and eyes to a lot of different music," she said.

Although tonight's concert in the 1,000 seat theater of the Pat Thompson Recreation Center is free, tickets are required. About 750 of the tickets were claimed by midweek. To reserve any remaining tickets, call 874-5784.

Navy Music Salutes

Women's History

Month

March



Important Dates In Navy History

January – March

- 1 January - U.S. Navy SEALs created (1962).
- 13 January - First *Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Navy* appointed (1967).
 - Fire on *Enterprise* kills 28 (1969).
- January - *Navy Band New Orleans* established on board Naval Support Activity New Orleans (1971).
- 16 January - Operation Desert Storm begins. *U.S. Seventh Fleet Band* embarked in *Blue Ridge*, Flagship for Commander, Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, Seventh Fleet (1991).
- 19 January - *Louisville* becomes first submarine to launch a cruise missile in combat (1991).
- 20 January - First school for Naval Air Training established; Pensacola (1914).
- January - *U.S. Navy Band* welcomes home the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran (1981).
- 21 January - *Nautilus*, first atomic-powered submarine launched (1954).
- 3 February - Navy Supply Corps established (1795).
- February - John Philip Sousa guest conducts the *U.S. Navy Band* in a performance commemorating the bicentennial of George Washington's birth. This was John Philip Sousa's last performance with a major band (1932).
- 4 February - Captain John Paul Jones takes command of *Bon Homme Richard* (1779).
- 17 February - First contingent of SeaBees to deploy from U.S. arrive Bora Bora (1942).
- 25 February - *Ranger*, first true aircraft carrier commissioned (1933).
- March - *Atlantic Fleet Band*, under the direction of Bandmaster MUC J. H. Fultz, deploys to Pottsdam in support of President Truman and the Pottsdam Conference (1945).
- 2 March - Civil Engineer Corps established (1867).
- 3 March - Office of *Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)* established (1915).
- 4 March - *United States Navy Band* established by an Act of Congress (1925).
- 9 March - First engagement between iron-clad warships: *USS Monitor* vs *CSS Virginia* (1862)
- 10 March - One of Navy's early *schools of music* established on board Naval Training Station Newport (1917).
- 31 March - Commodore Perry signs historic U.S. Treaty with Japan (1854).