

RC Bands Named 2005 Howard Citation of Musical Excellence Recipients

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The 312th Army Band (USAR) and the 147th Army Band (South Dakota National Guard) have been named as 2005 recipients of The Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands. This prestigious international award recognizing military concert bands is administered by The John Philip Sousa Foundation.

The purpose for awarding the citation is to identify and recognize active duty and reserve military concert bands that have demonstrated particularly significant high standards of musical excellence in concert performances under the current conductor. The bandmasters recognized in the 2005 citations are CW3 Robert Claggett (312th Army Band) and CW2 Terry Beckler (147th Army Band).

Military bands must meet eligibility criteria in order to be considered for this award. The band must be an active duty or reserve military concert band, must perform standard concert band literature, and possess instrumentation that is suitable for the literature performed. Furthermore, bands are eligible for an additional award after a new director assumes leadership or after three years since a previous award under the same director. Along with military concert bands from the US Armed Forces, all foreign military concert bands are eligible.

The selection committee normally meets twice annually to evaluate application materials. The evaluation meetings are held in conjunction with the Texas Bandmasters Convention in San Antonio and the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. Submission deadlines are 1 July and 1 December, respectively. The selection committee is comprised of active and retired conductors of the Premier and Special bands of the US Armed Forces.

If selected, the award citation is sent to the bandmaster's commanding officer or other appropriate official for presentation. If not selected, committee suggestions will be communicated directly to the band director for use in program strengthening for a future consideration.

The 312th Army Band is the first Army Reserve unit ever to receive this honor. The 147th Army Band is only the second Army National Guard unit to receive this award. The 43d Army Band, Nebraska National Guard has garnered the Howard Citation three separate times, the first of which was awarded in 1991.

For more information regarding The Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands, and to view the list of past recipients and conductors, please visit:

<http://www.loyno.edu/sousafoundation/allProjects/howardaward.htm>