

Army Reserve band recognized for musical excellence

Story by Staff Sgt. Neil Simmons
366th MPAD

LAWRENCE, Kan. – Balancing life between civilian and military obligations can be challenging for Army Reserve Soldiers. With a limited number of training days, it would seem near impossible to compete with the level of proficiency maintained by active-duty units, but the Army Reserve's 312th Army Band did more than that. They surpassed them.

The John Philip Sousa foundation awarded the 312th Army Band with the 2005 Colonel George



Photo by Staff Sgt. Neil Simmons

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Claggett, commander and conductor of the 312th Army Band, is presented a citation for musical excellence by Brig. Gen. George R. Harris, deputy commanding general of the 89th RRC.

S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands here May 14. Presented by Brig. Gen. George R. Harris, deputy commanding general of the 89th Regional Readiness Command, the international award recognizes those military concert bands who

demonstrate significantly high standards in musical excellence under the current conductor.

This was the first year the band competed for the citation, and they are the first Army Reserve band to receive it.

"This band has always come up with winners," said Harris.

Receiving the award for the 312th was their commander and conductor, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Claggett, who traveled here from Fort Bliss, Texas, where he is mobilized.

"Usually, the first time, you find out what it takes to win," said Claggett. "We got it the first time."

In a testament to the bands excellence, the Soldiers of the 312th who had chosen to reenlist in the 312th so far this year lined up in front of the formation. Included among these were Claggett's twin daughters, Sgt. Melisaa L. Claggett and Sgt. Melanie A. Claggett, both of whom were reenlisted by their father the same day.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Neil Simmons

Soldiers of the 312th Army Band stand at parade rest in formation during the presentation of the Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands May 14.