

**\*\* 451<sup>st</sup> ARMY BAND \*\***  
Fort Snelling, Minnesota USA

The 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band is comprised of select musicians from the Upper Midwest. The members come from many walks of life with diverse professional careers such as education, medicine, administration, finance, sales, marketing, and computer engineering. They all share a love of music and pride in serving their country as Soldiers in the United States Army Reserve.

The 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band is stationed at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. The 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band is part of the 88th Regional Support Command (RSC) headquartered at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. The 88th RSC provides base operations support to more than 50,000 Soldiers assigned to Army Reserve Units in 19 states. The Commanding General for the 88<sup>th</sup> RSC is Major General Glenn J. Lesniak.

The 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band has proudly performed for American and International dignitaries and for countless citizens across the country. The 451<sup>st</sup> has the reputation of being one of the top organizations in the military band program.

In July 2008, the 451<sup>st</sup> performed in Germany while attached to the 33rd Army Band and Chorus - Europe stationed at Schwetzingen, Germany. During this time the 451<sup>st</sup> provided musical support for military and civilian events near the Heidelberg area. In April 2008, the 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band performed at Arlington National Cemetery and at the United States Capitol Building in Washington DC for ceremonies celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States Army Reserve.

During May and June 2004, the 451<sup>st</sup> performed in Rome, Italy at ceremonies commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World War II Liberation of Italy. The 451<sup>st</sup> performance at the United States Embassy in Rome was attended by President George Bush and many local dignitaries, as well as World War II Veterans from the United States, Canada, and Italy.

The 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band was selected by the Chief of the Army Reserve to represent the United States Army Reserve at ceremonies

commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Allied Landings in Normandy, France, and at ceremonies in Paris. The 451<sup>st</sup> was the only Army Reserve Band selected for this prestigious assignment.

The 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band was privileged to perform with the Central Band of the Royal Swedish Army while they were touring the United States. While in Europe, the 451<sup>st</sup> has also performed joint concerts with military bands from Germany and France.

The 451<sup>st</sup> has provided musical support for annual conventions of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States (ROA) in Las Vegas, Nevada; St. Paul, Minnesota; Des Moines, Iowa; Chicago, Illinois, and for the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers in Washington DC.

The 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band has also performed at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York; at Fort Richardson and Fort Wainwright, Alaska; at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; at Fort Sheridan, Illinois; and in 2006 at Fort Carson, Colorado and surrounding area.

As a United States Army Reserve Unit, the 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band meets for 48 four-hour training periods and serves two weeks of active duty each year. These training periods are used for musical ensemble rehearsal, training in military subjects, and promoting and maintaining the morale and esprit of the troops by performing at military functions and ceremonies. The 451<sup>st</sup> also promotes the United States Army Reserve by performing concerts for civic events and parades throughout the United States.

The Commander and Bandmaster of the 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band is Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Eckhoff. CW3 Daniel Eckhoff has served in the military as a musician for 27 years. He enlisted for 4 years of active service in the Marine Corps, and was stationed with the 3rd Marine Air Wing Band, El Toro, CA. Prior to assuming his current position as Band Commander, CW3 Eckhoff enlisted in the Army Reserve to serve in the 451st Army Band as a trumpeter and later as Drum Major. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and works as an accounting systems programmer and consultant in the business community. He

is also active in several other performing groups in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Twin Cities area.

The senior enlisted member of the 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band is First Sergeant Cheryl Wason. 1SG Wason enlisted in the Army in 1974 and has been an active member of the 451st for 32 years. She served on active duty for 3 years in the Women's Army Corps Band and the 298th Army Band in Berlin, Germany. Her military education includes the Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course and the First Sergeant Course. She has served in positions as saxophone player, Drum Major, Operations NCO, Library Specialist, Mobilization NCO, Announcer and Platoon Sergeant. Her highest award is the Meritorious Service Medal. 1SG Wason received her Bachelor of Arts and Science Degrees in German and European History and holds a Master's Degree in German from the University of California, Santa Barbara. 1SG Wason has been teaching German in the public schools for 25 years.