

Navy Band Southeast Provides Musical Support for Multiple Flag-Level Ceremonies

By Musician 3rd Class Diane Potts



MU1 Stout performs at the retirement ceremony for RADM Guillory.

Navy Band Southeast's (NBSE) ceremonial band and brass quintet performed at three flag-level change of command ceremonies and one flag-level retirement ceremony, Aug. 5-8.

As the majority of military ceremonies in Navy Region Southeast are retirements and change of command ceremonies at the Cmdr. and Capt. level, the high profile ceremonies made it a very unique weekend for the region's band members.

The high-profile assignments began Aug. 5 when NBSE's ceremonial band provided musical support for Fourth Fleet's change of command and the retirement ceremony for Rear Adm. Victor Guillory at Naval Station Mayport.

Immediately following, NBSE traveled to support a change of command ceremony for Submarine Group Ten at Submarine Base Kings Bay. The guest speakers for the ceremonies were Commander Fleet Forces Adm. John Harvey, Jr., and Gen. Douglas Fraser (U.S. Air Force)

of Southern Command. NBSE's popular music group "Pride" and jazz combo "VIP" provided music for the reception.

NBSE's brass quintet "Windward Brass" then went to Tampa, Fla., Aug. 8, to provide musical support for U.S. Special Operations Command's (SOCOM) change of command ceremony. Adm. William McRaven took command, the second SEAL to do so in its history. McRaven is well-known for his role in planning and executing the mission that killed Osama bin Laden earlier this year.

"We will honor the fallen by showing the world our unyielding determination...to protect our country," stated guest speaker Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, referencing the 30 U.S. special forces members who lost their lives in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan two days prior. "From this tragedy, we draw even greater inspiration to carry the fight."

"I feel honored to have performed for the members of SOCOM," Musician 3rd Class Nathan Helvey said. "It was a privilege to help make the event special for those in attendance."