

RECOMMENDED WARRANT OFFICER SELECTION CRITERIA

MOS 5502: BAND OFFICER

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1. DUTIES: Band Officers functions as a special staff officer to the Commanding General by providing information and recommendations on use, current capabilities, and standing procedures and policies that govern the operations of a band. The Band Officer is responsible for the unit level control of the band. Musical missions are carefully monitored by the command to ensure maximum benefit for the Marine Corps, proper employment of the band within its mission capabilities, and to preclude degradation of those capabilities. The Band Officer is the sole advisor on how the band is to be used. Band Officers organize a program of musical performance that best supports the needs of the parent command and the Marine Corps. As such, they must have a broad range of capabilities that include supervising all of the performance elements that comprise a Marine Corps Band: Concert Band, Ceremonial Band, Jazz Ensemble/Show Band, and Jazz Combo. They must also be familiar with numerous small ensembles such as: Dixieland Band, Brass Band, Brass Quintet, Woodwind Quintet, and Sax Quartet to name a few. Band Officers must “possess” and “demonstrate” an acute ability to conduct the Concert Band and the Ceremonial Band. As the bottom line to being the unqualified musical leader and a representative of the Marine Corps in a musical setting, this ability cannot be underscored enough. Additionally, the band’s secondary mission is to provide security during combat operations. As such, the Band Officer must have seasoned leadership capability to lead their Marines under a variety of conditions, and to possess the judgment necessary to accomplish any mission assigned.

2. REQUIREMENTS: Applicants being considered for selection to Warrant Officer in MOS 5502 must have successfully completed the Senior Musicians Course (SMC) at the Naval School of Music, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, VA. Additionally, applicants must have several years of observed success as a conductor of both concert bands and ceremonial bands that include: 1) training and rehearsal preparation of these bands, 2) conducting the concert band in a performance setting, and 3) conducting the ceremonial band at military ceremonies that include a) Change of Command, b) Relief and Appointment, and c) Retirement ceremonies.

3. DESIRED SCHOOLS: In addition to the required Senior Musician Course, applicants should have also successfully completed the Unit Leaders Course at the Naval School of Music. Other courses available include the Sound Reinforcement Course and Audition Training Course assist in rounding out an applicant’s background. Civilian education leading to a Bachelor’s Degree in Music or Music Education with an emphasis in instrumental conducting is also highly desirable.

4. DESIRED PAST ASSIGNMENTS: Served in Marine Corps bands as Enlisted Conductor, Drum Major, or Small Ensemble Leader, or in any one of these positions in an acting or assistant capacity. Assignments to a variety of bands between the FMF, Recruit Depots, and Base bands are an added plus. Due to the technical expertise required, applicants serving on the Instructor Staff of the Naval School of Music should be considered on par with a B-Billet.