



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Contact:**

Air National Guard Band of the Central States  
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Greetings! **The Air National Guard Band of the Central States**, based in St. Louis Missouri, will be performing a music concert in your area. This release gives you a brief overview of whom we are and what we do.

The Air National Guard Band of the Central States has proudly represented the Missouri Air National Guard for more than 50 years. The Band, established in 1947 is attached to the 131<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing located at Lambert International Airport in St. Louis, Missouri. We are available to perform for events within our AOR (Area of Responsibility), which includes Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota and can travel any time of year. The group comprised of traditional guardsman, drills once a month and has two weeks of annual active duty training a year.

Our mission is to develop and maintain a positive relationship with the local community, to augment local recruiting efforts, and to provide appropriate music for military functions within its assigned area. Under the command of Captain John Arata, the 35-member unit has an annual audience of more than 300,000 people and consists of a concert band, jazz ensemble, jazz/rock combo, brass quintet and a marching band.

The Concert Band performs a variety of music ranging from patriotic pieces, Broadway show tunes, marches and standard band literature. Big band music and contemporary jazz standards are the Jazz Band's forte and the Brass Quintet features an ensemble perfect for ceremonies as well as pre-event social music. Our Jazz/Rock Combo, Sidewinder, appeals to every crowd that enjoys an electric, contemporary sound.

The Band's performances include both military and civic support throughout the United States including Alaska and Hawaii. They have performed in Utah at the Mormon Tabernacle and toured Ecuador, South America. A highlight for the group was a July 4th celebration at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. The Jazz Band has sponsored local Jazz Festivals for area High Schools and colleges. They have also been featured at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. Sidewinder recently deployed to the Middle East and Chile, South America.

Please review the dates to confirm when **The Air National Guard Band of the Central States** is performing in your area. As a PR contact and sponsor of this event, we ask that you make this Press Release available to your local newspapers, radio and television stations.